# Welcome!





# Agenda for Today

9:00 - 9:10 Welcome & Introductions

9:10 - 9:15 Objectives & Outcomes

9:15 - 9:25 District Overview

9:25 -11:00 Breakout & Input Sessions

11:00 - 11:30 Group Report Outs & Discussion

11:30 -11:40 Next Steps

11:40 – 12:00 Gallery Walk/Adjourn

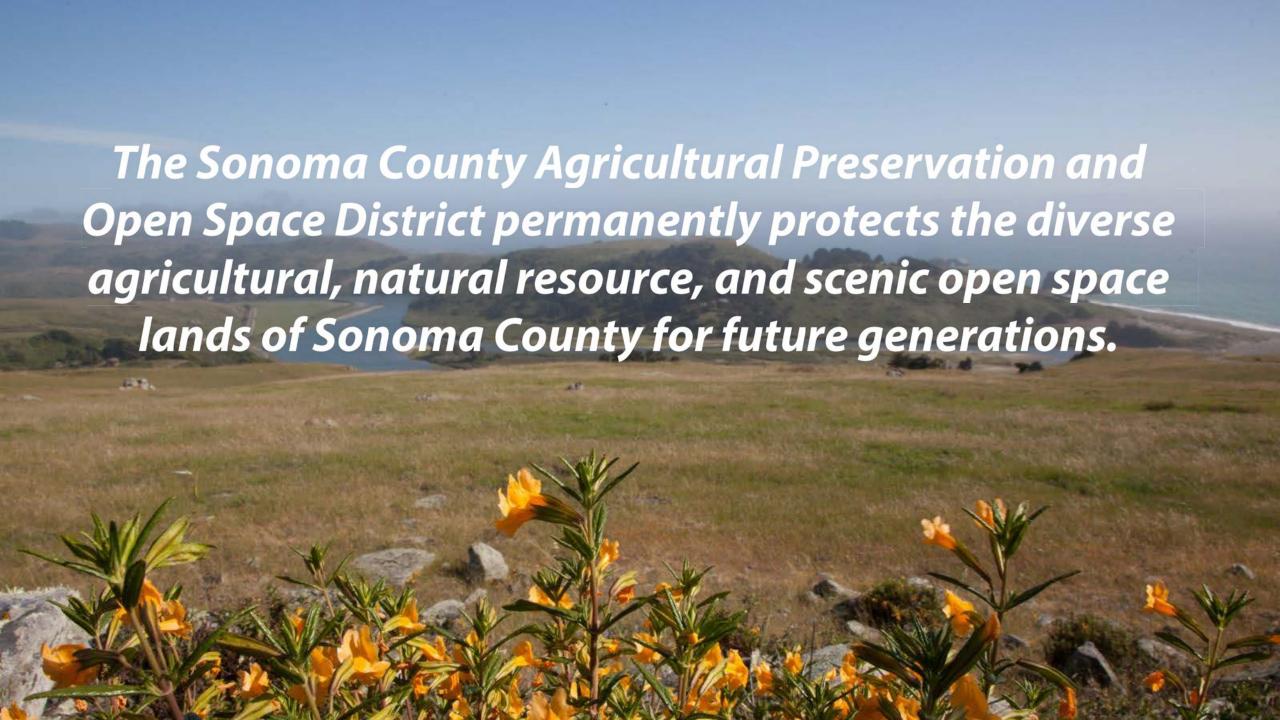


# **District Overview & Planning Process**

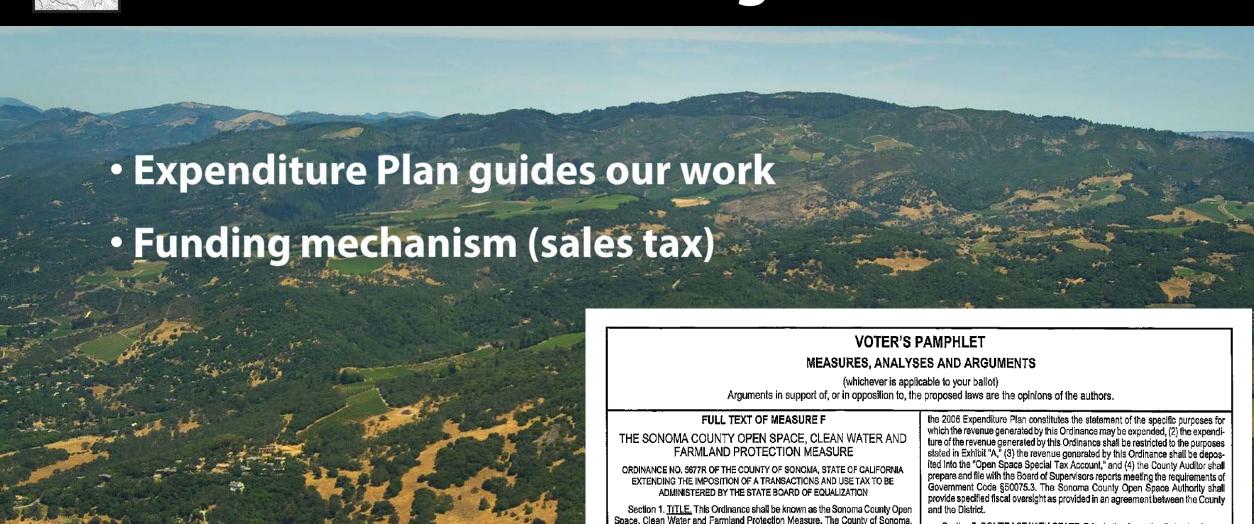












Section 1. <u>TITLE</u>. This Ordinance shall be known as the Sonoma County Open Space, Clean Water and Farmland Protection Measure. The County of Sonoma, hereinafter shall be called "County." This Ordinance shall be applicable in the incorporated and unincorporated territory of the County.

### Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE; OPERATIONAL DATES; ADMINISTRATION.

A.This Ordinance shall become effective upon its approval by a two-thirds majority of the electors voting on the measure.

B. This Ordinance shall become operative on April 1, 2011; provided, however, that the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space 2006 ExSection 5. <u>CONTRACT WITH STATE</u>. Prior to the Operative Date, the County shall contract with the State Board of Equalization to perform all functions incident to the administration and operation of this transactions and use tax Ordinance; provided, that if the County shall not have contracted with the State Board of Equalization prior to the Operative Date, it shall nevertheless so contract and in such a case the operative date shall be the first day of the first calendar quarter following the execution of such a contract.

Section 6. TRANSACTIONS TAX RATE, For the privilege of setting tangible personal property at retail, a tax is hereby imposed upon all retailers in the incorpo-



### **Expenditure Plan:**

The purpose of this expenditure plan is to implement the Sonoma County General Plan and the general plans of the County's incorporated cities by preserving agricultural land use and open space. This purpose will be accomplished primarily through the purchase of development rights from willing sellers.....



### **Expenditure Plan:**

4. Biotic habitat areas, riparian corridors, and other areas of biotic significance include freshwater and tidal marshes, wetlands, special status species locations, woodlands and forests, wildlife habitat corridors and lands along creeks and streams critical to protecting fisheries and water quality. These sensitive natural areas require protection, restoration, and resource management, and include the Petaluma River, Laguna de Santa Rosa, Russian River, Sonoma Creek and San Pablo Baylands.



# How We Work | Conservation Easements



106,000 Acres

**231** 

Easements





# How We Work | Fee Lands

- Future parks and preserves
- Small scale agriculture
- Greenbelts
- Cost of fee vs. easements



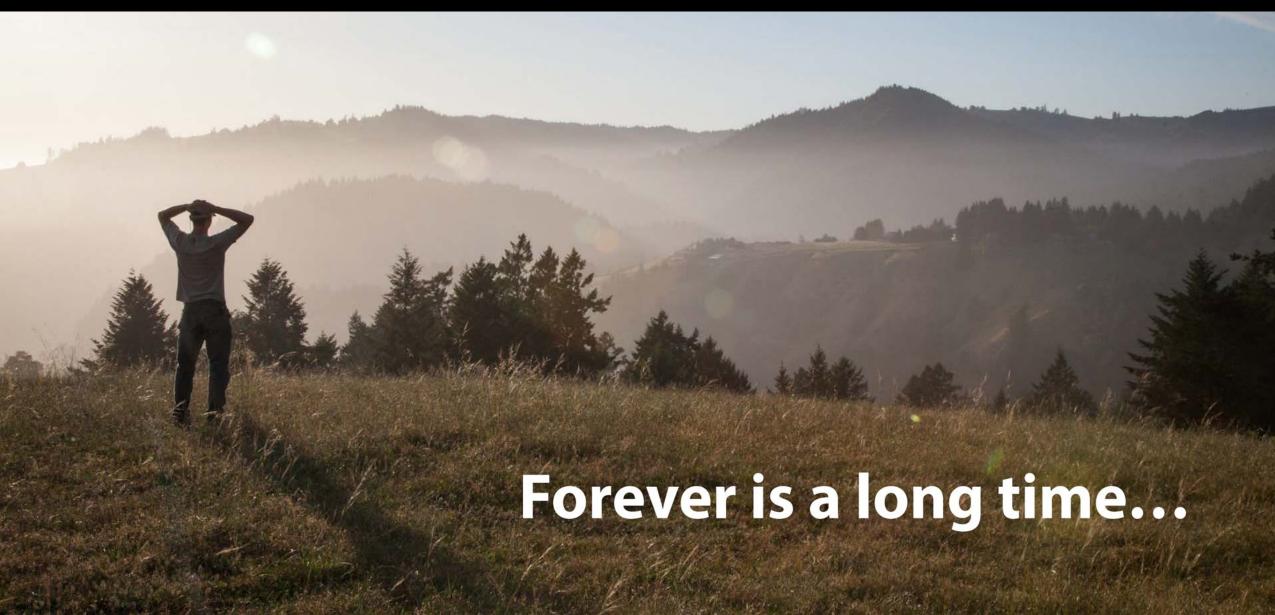


21
Fee properties

**5,200**Acres



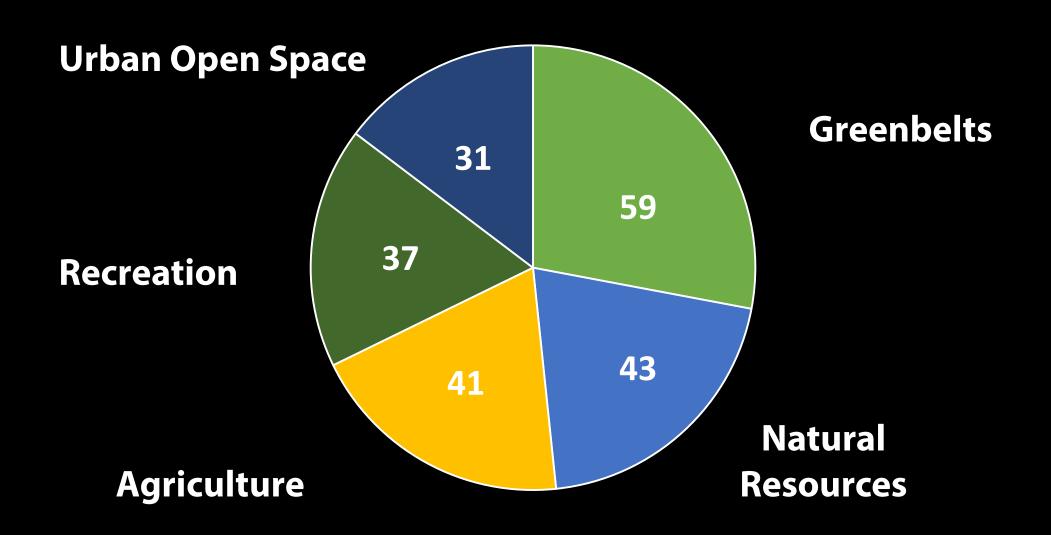
# How We Work | Perpetuity



# 111,200 Acres Protected Forever Over 10% of Sonoma County!



### Number of projects by primary acquisition category



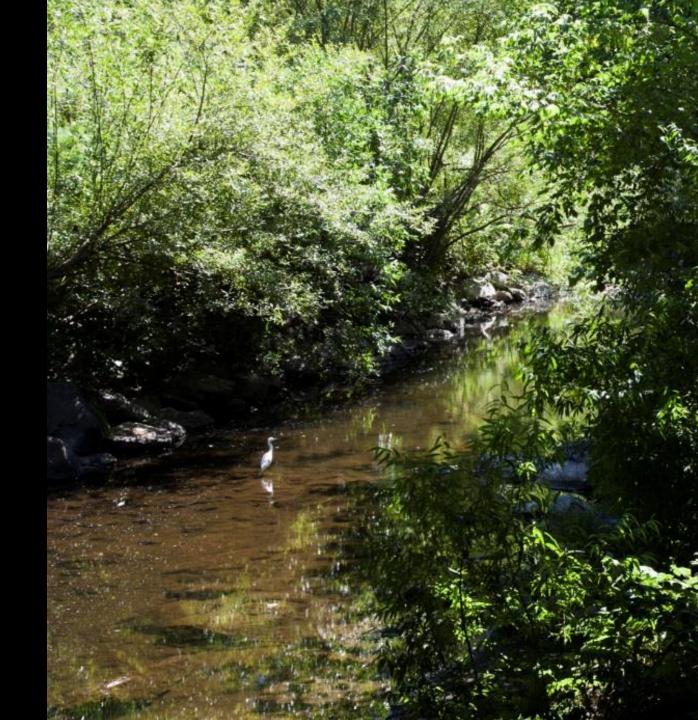


**52** 

Number of projects accepted into the Matching Grant Program

426

Number of acres Matching
Grant Program
has opened to the public





# 18,658

Acres of protected groundwater basins or natural recharge areas



2,797 Acres of wetlands



Miles of salmon streams





# 58,853 Acres native oak woodland & forest





# 5,832

Acres habitat for threatened and endangered plants & animals



**Howlett Forest** 



**Petaluma Marsh** 



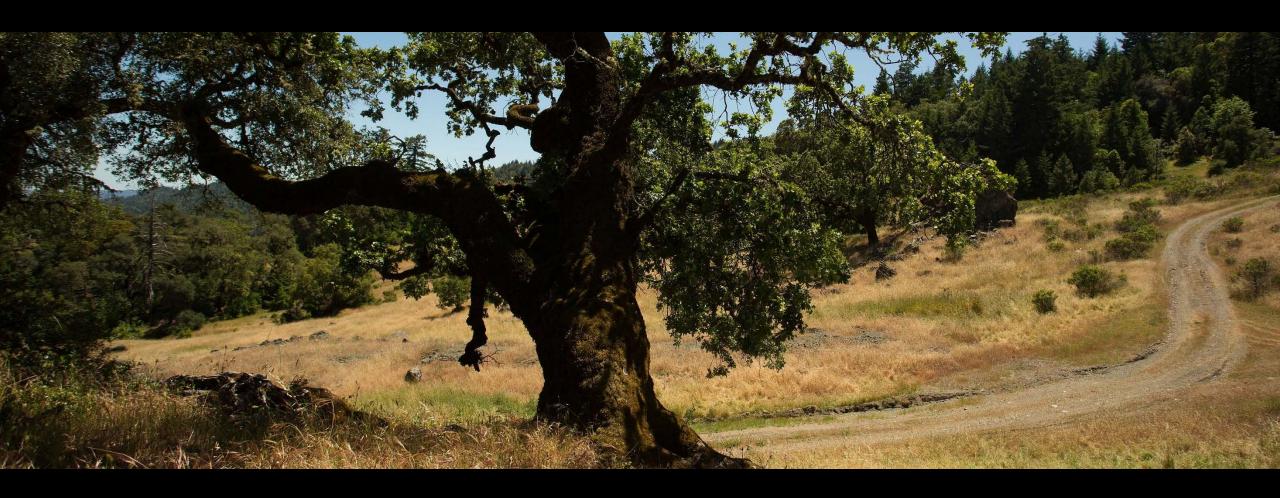
**Wright Preservation Bank** 



**Pitkin Marsh** 



**Coopers Grove** 



**Buckeye Forest** 



Laguna de Santa Rosa



Van Hoosear Wildflower Preserve

# Multiple Benefits | Natural Resources





Building on a foundation of success.



# Vital Lands Initiative | Plan Overview





# Vital Lands Initiative | Plan Overview





May 16 | GREENBELTS/SCENIC | Steele Lane Community Center May 17 | AGRICULTURE | Steele Lane Community Center May 23 | NATURAL RESOURCES | Finley Center May 25 | RECREATION & EDUCATION | Finley Center



#### **Today Breakout sessions**

- 5-7 people per table
- Three sessions (+/- 30 min each)
  - Short context sharing
  - Discussion prompts
  - Facilitator to take notes
- Mix-up groups + new context and questions
- Questions about breakout sessions?



# **Breakout session 1 of 3 | Context**

The District is proposing several sub-goals under the theme of "natural resources" including:

- ✓ Habitats that promote long term wildlife health and support a diversity of native plant species in Sonoma County
- ✓ Special status, rare, or unique species and habitats
- ✓ Functional aquatic ecosystems
- ✓ Water quality, water supply



## Breakout session 1 of 3 | Questions

- 1. Where are the most important areas to protect for natural resources to thrive?
- 2. With regard to natural resources, what are the highest priorities for conservation investment? Why?
- 3. What types of habitats or landscapes are so critical or rare that protecting them in their entirety should be a priority?





#### **Breakout session 2 of 3 | Context**

Given the District's expenditure plan, we believe the threats that we can potentially affect include development, subdivision, and conversion to higher intensity uses.



#### **Breakout session 2 of 3 Questions**

- 1. What are the top 3-5 threats to natural resources and their ability to thrive in Sonoma County?
- 2. What are the most important things the District can do to address these threats, given our expenditure plan?





## **Breakout session 3 of 3 | Context**

The District has a broad mission that includes natural resource, agricultural productivity, scenic lands, greenbelt and recreation goals (recall the District expenditure plan)

Matching Grants Program (MGP) as a tool for urban open space



# **Breakout session 3 of 3 Questions**

- 1. What are the opportunities for the District to support a multi-beneficial approach in areas where there are natural resource conservation priorities on lands that support other uses, such as recreation and agriculture? How might important natural resources be protected while still allowing for some of these uses?
- What examples come to mind of successful multi-benefit projects? Why were they successful?
- 3. What are some new tools or strategies that the District should consider in trying to achieve this multi-benefit approach?
- 4. What do you think our urban open space program can do to support the natural resources goal and its associated sub-goals?







# Next Steps | Planning Process

- Staff to develop draft objectives, strategies and threats
- Work with experts to revise
- Bring back to this group and public in late summer
- Stay in touch
  - Sign up at exit table or on website (sonomaopenspace.org)
  - Call or email us anytime
- Thank you!



# **Gallery Walk**



- Informal review input at each table
- Discuss with table host and attendees
- Add to + refine input at each table

