



London N. Breed, Mayor  
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

**Date:** May 5, 2021

**To:** Recreation and Park Commission  
Capital Committee

**Through:** Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager  
Toks Ajike, Director, Capital & Planning Division

**From:** Toni Moran, Capital & Planning Division

**Subject:** Twin Peak Trails Priority Conservation Grant and Associated Grant Agreement

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### **Agenda Wording**

Discussion and possible action to 1) adopt a resolution approving the application to the State Coastal Conservancy and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for \$500,000 in Priority Conservation Area Grant funds for the Twin Peaks Trail Improvement Project (“the Project”); 2) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Recreation and Park Department to accept and expend the Grant Funds for purposes of the Project; and 3) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Recreation and Park Department to enter into an agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy to operate and maintain the park improvements for a period of 20-year commencing upon execution of grant agreement.

### **Strategic Plan**

The Twin Peaks Trail Project supports the following objective in the Strategic Plan:

- Strategy 1: Inspire Public Space
  - Objective 1.2: Strengthen the quality of existing Parks & Facilities
- Strategy 3: Inspire Investment
  - Objective 3.1: Increase public investment to better align with infrastructure needs and service expectation.

### **Background**

The Priority Conservation Area (PCA) Grant Program provides funding to acquire, enhance or improve designated regionally significant open space and regional trail systems that are being pressured by urban development and other factors. The grant is administered by the State Coastal Conservancy and Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

The Department staff evaluated all the capital projects within our Priority Conservation Areas and determined that the Twin Peaks Trail Improvement Project was a good fit for this program

because the project is within a regional trail system that is heavily impacted by the urban environment. The Project has completed the public process, project design, and environmental review allowing it to be completed with the grant performance period. The project is supported by a diverse group of stakeholders and the community at large.

Twin Peaks Trail system aligns with the Bay Area Ridge Trail near the peaks allowing Ridge Trail hikers to experience the City's natural ecology and spectacular 360-degree views of the City and the surrounding bay. The Twin Peaks 20-acre open space has a rich and diverse array of plants and animals include the federally protected endangered Mission Blue Butterfly. These natural resources make Twin Peaks one of the most visited site in San Francisco; however, the high visitation has led to the deterioration of the spine trail that traverses the peaks and the creation of many informal trails that threaten the area's sensitive habitat.

To address these deficiencies and others found throughout our trails, the Department initiated the Urban Trails Program as part of the 2008 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Park Bond. This program supported the construction of the new trail segment that links Portola Boulevard to the existing Twin Peaks trail system and the creation of the award winning "Creeks-to-Peaks" Trail that now links Twin Peak to Glen Canyon.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council (BARTC) has been a partner with the Recreation and Park Department for several years, supporting the planning work that was funded by a previous PCA planning grant. This previous planning effort and the interagency collaboration that it supported resulted in closing a portion of the roadway to vehicles and opening it to hikers and bicyclists. It also resulted in the addition of three new crosswalks. The restoration of the two trail segments supported by the new PCA grant will help to complete Rec and Park's Creeks-to-Peaks Trail and will represent significant improvements for our Bay Area Ridge Trail users who are now using our alternate route for hikes up and over the south (Noe) peak of Twin Peaks.

The PCA Grant and matching funds will be used to complete two additional trail segments that will complete the last leg of the Creek-to-Peaks Trail. The scope of work includes the reconstruction of the southern (Noe) Peak spine trail and the construction of a trail segment to the south of the Noe Peak that will connect the Noe Peak and the recently improved trail from Portola Drive up to this point. These two heavily used trails were created over 20-years ago in partnership with the San Francisco Conservation Corps. The trail steps have deteriorated in condition and park users have also started using a much wider swatch of the Noe Peak, which has significantly encroached into planted areas.

In 2016, a major volunteer project hosted by the San Francisco Natural Resources Division (NRD) with Volunteer for Outdoor California (V-O-Cal) decommissioned the social trails and created the base for a new switchback trail alignment that provides a better connection to the Noe Peak and by way of a new pedestrian crosswalk, connects to the lower portion of the Creeks to Peaks Trail. The addition of new box steps to the trail segments was not included as part of the contractor-completed Twin Peaks Trails Improvement Phase 1 Project due to funding shortage.

The completion of improvements to these two trail segments will represent a significant improvement to the park user experience and will benefit plants and wildlife as well.

## **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Recreation and Park Commission 1) adopt a resolution approving the application to the State Coastal Conservancy and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for \$500,000 in Priority Conservation Area Grant Funds for the Twin Peaks Trail Improvement Project (“the Project”); 2) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Recreation and Park Department to accept and expend the Grant Funds for purposes of the Project; and 3) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Recreation and Park Department to enter into an agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy to operate and maintain the park improvements for a period of 20-year commencing upon execution of grant.

## **Supported By**

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council  
Walk SF  
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition  
California Native Plant Society  
SF Urban Riders  
Department of Environment – Biodiversity

## **Opposed By**

## **Attachments**

Resolution