About Plan Bay Area PDAs and PCAs in Marin County

Plan BayArea 2040

Locally Adopted Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs)

Located north of San Francisco and south of Sonoma County, Marin County is recognized for its natural and agricultural landscapes, which support local farming and ranching, tourism, recreation, wildlife habitat, and water supply. More than 50 percent of the county is protected open space and the Marin Agricultural Land Trust and the Marin County Department of Parks and Open Space have worked for decades to protect and preserve the county's iconic landscapes. Plan Bay Area will support continued protection of the many Priority Conservation Areas in Marin County.

For decades, Marin County has managed growth through city-centered growth policies and focused development along the urbanized U.S. Route 101 Highway corridor. Golden Gate Transit bus service offers connections throughout the county and to surrounding areas. Ferry terminals in Sausalito, Tiburon, and Larkspur also connect residents to jobs in San Francisco. In late 2016, service will commence for the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) rail connection by linking San Rafael to Santa Rosa. Eventually, the service will link the Larkspur ferry terminal to Cloverdale. Below are highlights of the two locally adopted PDAs in Marin County.

A Map of Marin County PDAs and PCAs



1 San Rafael Transit Center

This PDA is the heart of downtown San Rafael and provides residential, commercial and mixed use neighborhoods, as well as numerous public facilities. The area is served by both local and regional bus service. SMART service is also on its way. This area provides a healthy economic center, a wonderful place to live, and a flourishing social, cultural, recreational and entertainment center, among many others uses.

2 Unincorporated Marin County

The Unincorporated Marin County PDA includes Marin City and is within a half mile of US Highway 101. This highly urbanized and commercial PDA is transforming into a mixed-use, sustainable area with connections to transportation hubs and recreational opportunities. When complete, this area will provide a mix of housing, offer a range of jobs, focus intensive developments in nodes, enhance existing commercial and industrial areas, and expand workforce housing.