

A stylized landscape illustration. The top half features a light grey sky with dark grey, rounded mountain peaks. Below the mountains, a dark green area represents a valley or forest, with a winding white line representing a river or path. The bottom half of the image is a solid light grey background. The text 'Celebrate & Conserve' is centered in the middle of the image, and 'FRIENDS OF THE PETALUMA RIVER' is written in large, bold, dark green letters at the bottom. A small blue plus sign is located to the right of the word 'Conserve'.

Celebrate &  
Conserve

+

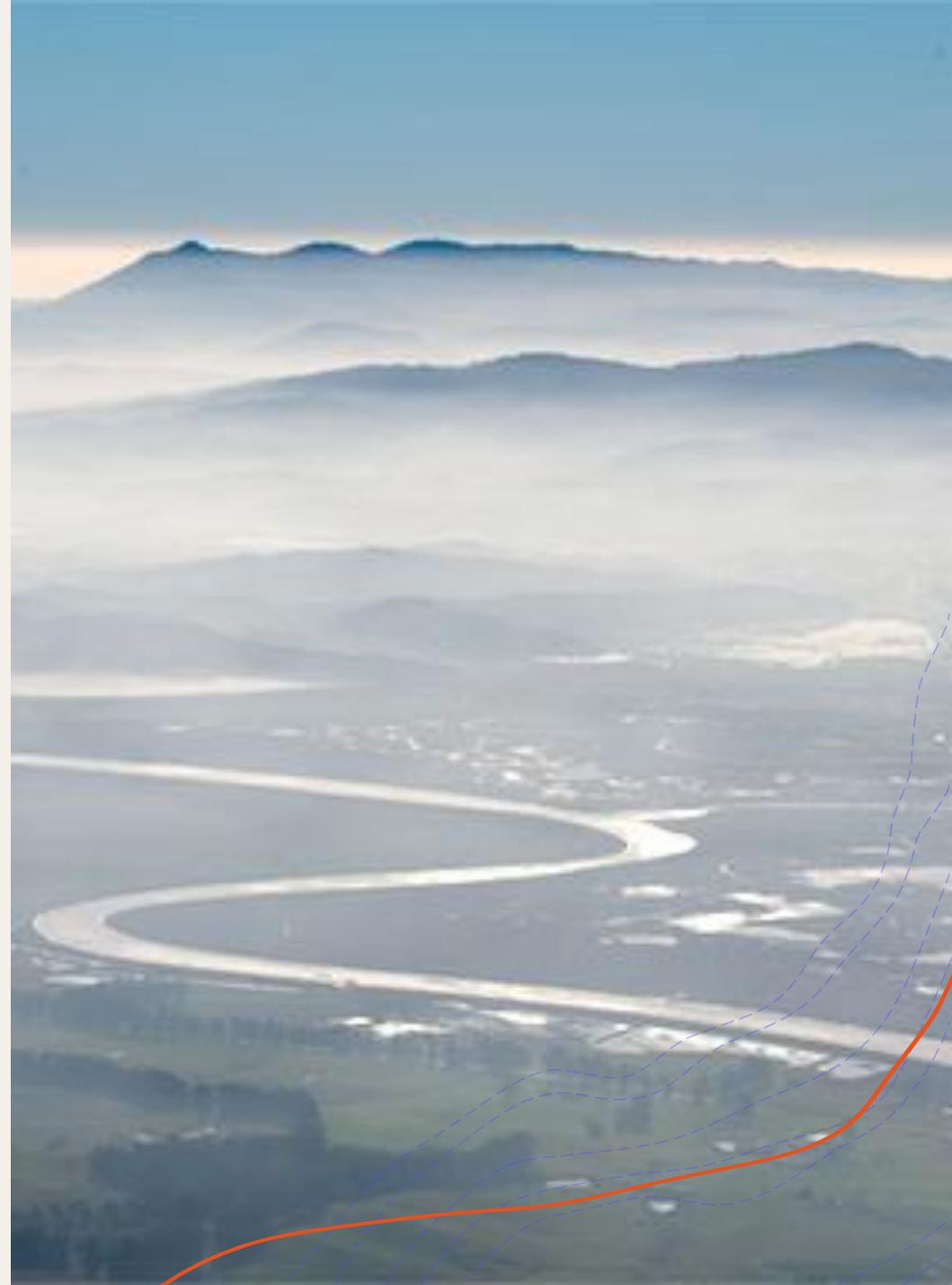
**FRIENDS OF THE  
PETALUMA RIVER**

# Mission and Goals

*To celebrate the Petaluma Watershed through education and stewardship*

**Goals:**

- 1. To nurture sustainable stewardship in the Petaluma Watershed*
- 2. To protect the Petaluma River and its wetlands from harm*
- 3. To foster a River Heritage Center as a community resource on the Petaluma Watershed*
- 4. To promote access to the Petaluma River and Marsh for all to experience the beauty of this place for themselves*
- 5. To Inspire a love of the Petaluma River Watershed*



# Connecting Youth with the Petaluma River

- + Green Heron Nature Camp serving over 300 youth
- + Watershed Classroom program getting kids out of the classroom to learn about their environment through hands-on, place-based curriculum
- + Nature Immersion & After School Programs



# Steamer Landing Park



- *An open space park in the heart of downtown Petaluma*
- *A place for River connection*
- *A hub for programming*
- *A place for gathering and celebration*

# River Cleanups

- + Removing approx. 10,000 lbs. of trash from waterways annually
- + Volunteer events draw 200 – 350 people
- + Smaller events target hot spots for trash in creeks
- + Empowering the community to care for their environment





# Access

- + Offering free boating for all – every Sunday!
- + Scholarships for underserved youth to experience the River
- + Partnerships to connect the all communities to the River

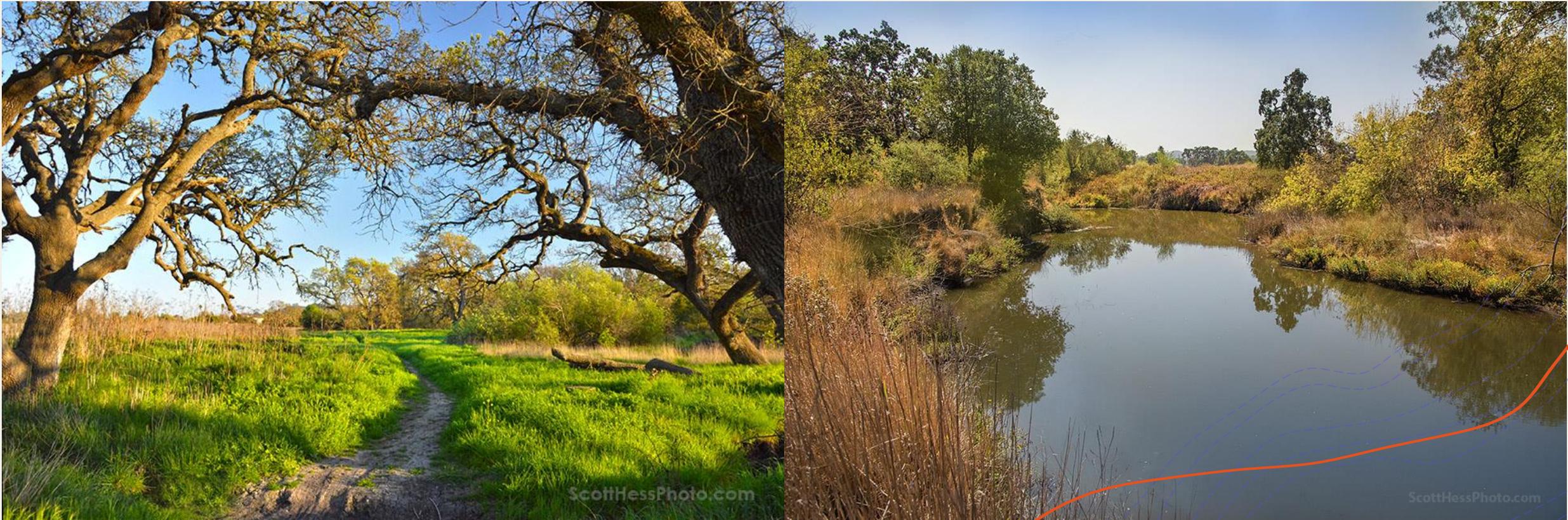


# Celebration

- Creating community around the Petaluma River
- Connecting the public to the River through celebration and joy
- Creating accessibility, inspiring stewardship

# Petaluma River Greenway

- + Protecting our floodplain
- + Building climate resilience
- + Preserving biodiversity





# Petaluma River Parkway Parcel Map

## Multi-use Trails

- Existing
- - - Proposed

## Parcels in the Project Area

### Acquisition Strategy

- Essential Acquisition (11 parcels, 136 acres)
- Essential Use Agreement or Lot Split (3 parcels)
- Important, Not Essential (3 parcels, 21 acres)

### Other Parcels

- Sonoma Water (5 parcels, 8 acres)
- Developed (18 parcels, 33 acres)
- Planned Development (1 parcel, 4 acres)

City Limits

Parcels are labeled with index numbers that correspond to records in the accompanying spreadsheet.



0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 Miles



# PETALUMA RIVER GREENWAY CONCEPT MAP

*The River's Legacy*

The upper reach of the Petaluma River from Lynch Creek Trail to Corona Road is one of the last remaining unprotected open space within the City of Petaluma. This open space is connected to several public recreation facilities and commercial centers, is important to the City's resilience to climate change, and is an area of outstanding beauty and biological richness. A greenway here would make Petaluma even more of a destination city for outdoor activities accessible to all, and leave a legacy for generations to enjoy.




-  Trailhead - Petaluma River Trail
-  Potential Park Site
-  Existing Petaluma River Trail
-  Potential Petaluma River Trail
-  Annual Grassland
-  Riparian Woodland & Oak Savannah

# Top Conservation Values

Quality of Life for Residents - **16,000 people** live within ¼-mile from an off-street bike path that leads to the Greenway.

Public Access and Education - Complete the planned Petaluma River Trail

Climate Change Resilience for People - Cooling effect where Extreme Heat Days are **expected to double**  
Avoid flood risks from **expected 3.5' of Sea Level Rise**

Climate Change Resilience for Nature Ensure lower and upper river habitat connectivity through town for dozens of aquatic and terrestrial animal (**27 species recorded** since 2016)

Climate Change Mitigation Avoided GHG soil carbon emissions / Sequestration through riparian forest restoration

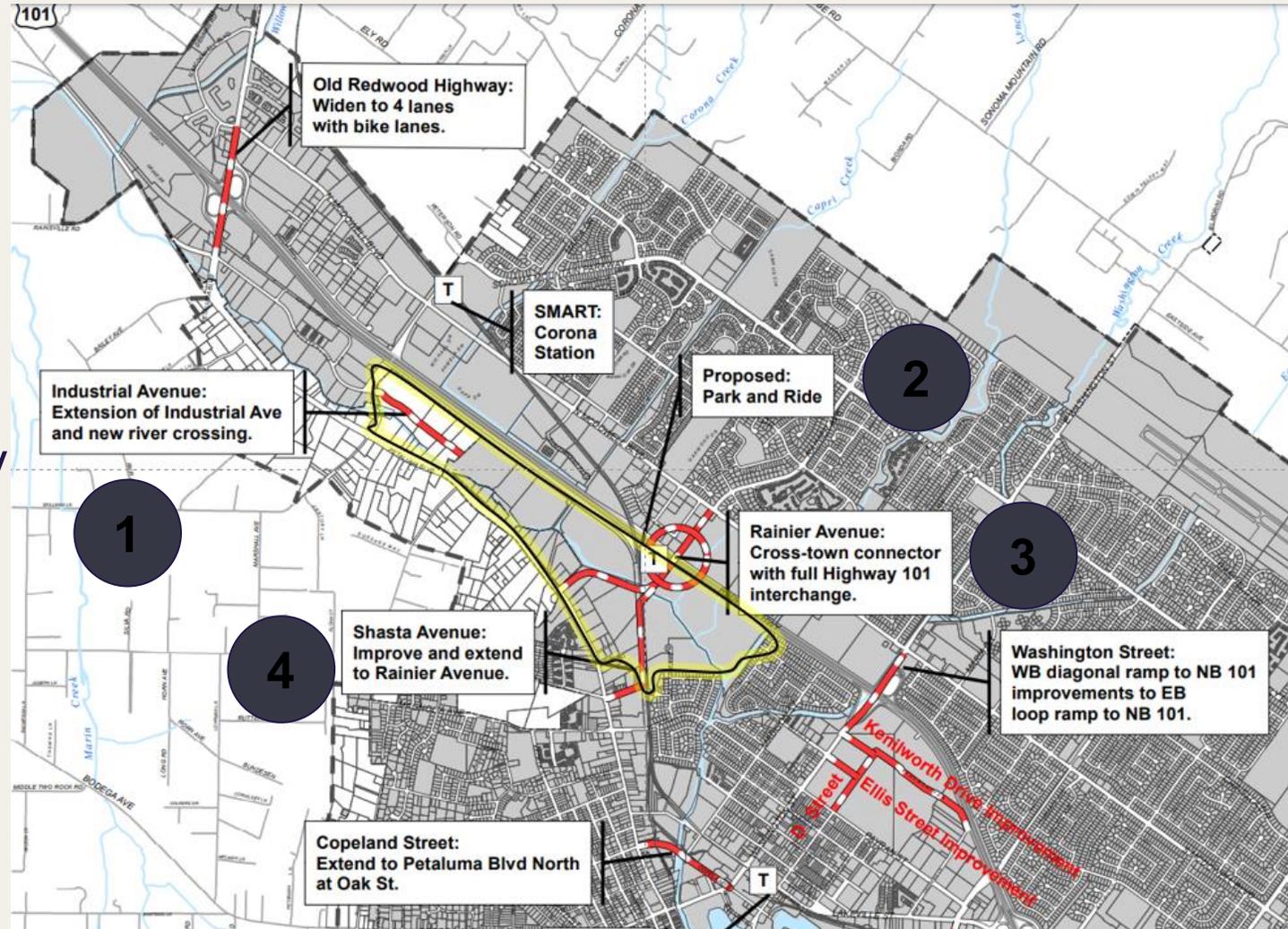
Protection from Stormwater Flooding Let nature absorb flood waters / **35%** within 100-year floodplain

Water Quality Protection **100%** of the Greenway area is within a State-designated “hydrogeologically vulnerable area”

# Top Opportunities and Constraints

## Zoning and Development Plans

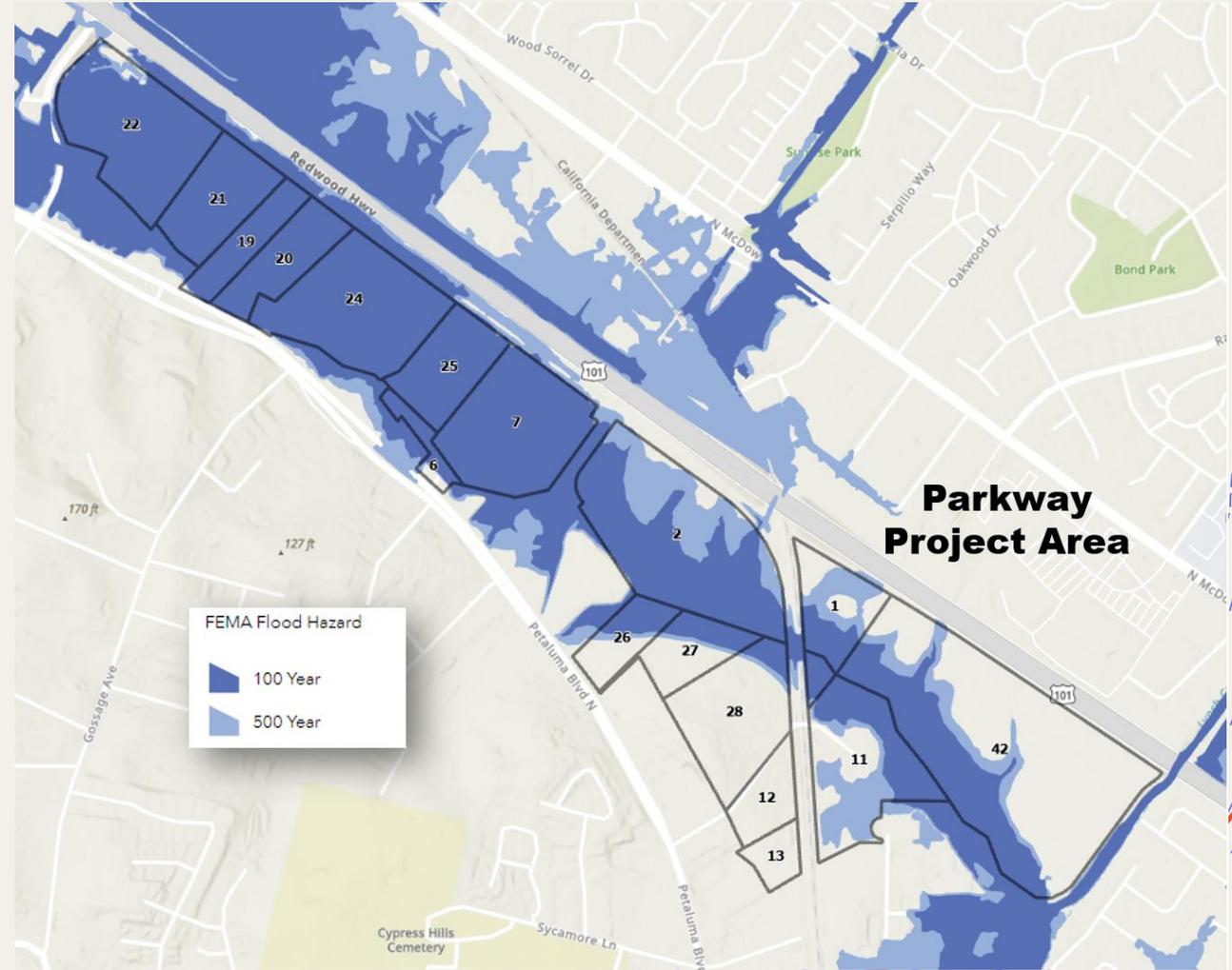
- All parcels zoned for development
  - 7 parcels → R5 Medium Density Residential (8-18 units/acre)
  - 5 parcels → C2 Community Commercial (shopping)
  - 4 parcels → BP Business Park (office parks)
- 4 significant transportation improvements are planned



# Top Opportunities and Constraints

## Hazards

- **Flooding**
  - 5 out of 17 parcels are 100% within flood zone
  - **12 of 17 parcels** are at least 50% within flood zone
- **Earthquake/Liquefaction**
  - Shaking hazard class: **Severe Shaking**
  - Liquefaction hazard: **Moderate to Very High**



# Top Funding Opportunities

State Natural Resources Agency

- State Coastal Conservancy
- Wildlife Conservation Board Sustainable Groundwater Management Program
- Urban Flood Protection
- Urban Greening
- Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation
- 30x30 Initiative – “Pathways” plan finalized in April 2022.
  - Climate resilience
  - Equitable Access
  - Habitat
  - \$382M in Governor’s 22/23 budget



# Partners

## City of Petaluma

"How do we ensure the River acts as the lifeblood of the community?" Peggy Flynn, City Manager

"Everything we're talking about today is in line with what we've been hearing, what we're driving toward." --Heather Hines, Lead City Planning

## Sonoma Water

Zone 2A Flood Protection - \$40k for parcel study

## Sonoma Land Trust

Providing guidance and planning support  
Lead project partner for acquisition

## Local Leaders

Mayor Kevin McDonnell  
Councilmembers  
Supervisor Rabbitt  
Senator McGuire  
Congressman Huffman

## Community Organizations and Agencies

Cool Cities Petaluma  
Petaluma River Park  
Sonoma Resource Conservation District  
Sonoma County Open Space & Agricultural  
Preservation District

# Next Steps

- + Community Visioning
  - + Planning and process for engaging community
  - + Equitable access
- + Landowner Outreach and Pre-Acquisition
  - + Provide funds for property negotiations including appraisals and phase I and II studies
- + Planning Phase
  - + Conduct analysis of current ecology including habitat conditions and potentials
  - + Conduct restoration and park planning
- + Expand Existing River Access and Enhancement Plan as it Applies to the Upper River
  - + Analysis of the potential to restore habitat, retain water, reduce flood risks, mitigate climate change and provide
    - + a new hiking/biking route to the north end of Petaluma.
  - + Add the historical ecology information.
  - + Develop preliminary designs for trails and restoration



# Fundraising Snapshot

## Confirmed

Sonoma Water - \$40,000 - Restoration planning and analysis

Sonoma Land Trust - \$100,000 - Technical support for acquisition and grant writing

## Applied / In Process

State Coastal Conservancy - \$800,000 - Applied - Restoration and park planning, community engagement

Wildlife Conservation Board - \$2-5 million - Pre-application in progress - Acquisition of 3 Parcels

## Current Gap

\$70,000 - Needed for pre-acquisition tasks

\$20 million - \$25 million - Needed for total acquisition

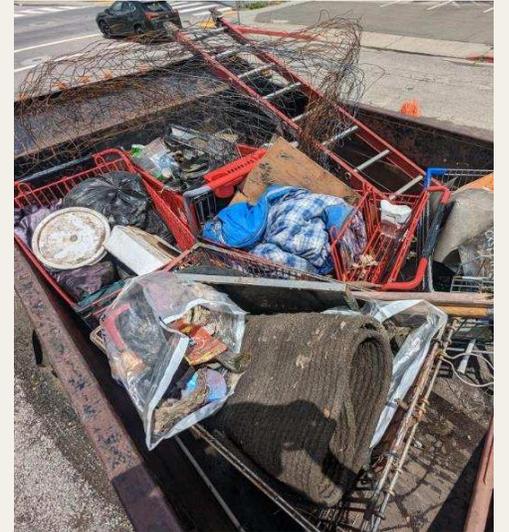


# Pollution Prevention

Petaluma Watershed Protection by  
Friends of the Petaluma River

# Community River Cleanups

- + Over 400 volunteers
- + Removed over 12,000 lbs. of trash from the River and its tributaries in 2023
- + Partnerships with schools, civic groups, businesses and churches
- + 19 locations in the upper watershed cleared of trash





# Spring & Fall Community Cleanups

- + 8,500 lbs. of trash removed
- + 15 creek locations cleaned
- + September 23 – Coastal Cleanup Day/ Fall Petaluma River Cleanup
- + May 6 – Spring Petaluma River Cleanup
- + Community engagement

# CLEANUPS OF INDIVIDUAL CREEKS

- + Upper River 6.8.202
- + Amy's Kitchen





Upper River Cleanup 8.7.23

Traditional Medicinals



# Petaluma Marina

Miyoko's Creamery

8.29.23