

Monterey Bay Area Stewardship Authority AB 1548

Presentation to:
County of Monterey
Legislative Subcommittee
February 9, 2026



Introductions & Presentation for Today

- Who we are:
 - Juan Altamirano, Director of Government Affairs, Trust for Public Land
 - Moises Moreno-Rivera, Government Affairs – Climate Resilience, Trust for Public Land
 - Donna Meyers, Conservation Collaborative, consultant to Trust for Public Land
- History of Engagement and Road to AB 1548

The start: Durable Funding Work Group - 2024

Trust for Public Land and partners climate resilience planning leads to the convening of the Durable Funding Working Group in 2024

Recognition that funds for acquisition were more sustainable, but stewardship funds were very difficult to identify a sustainable model for

California's 30 x 30 commitment requires investment in stewardship while holding conservation lands

Monterey Bay Natural and Working Land Climate Mitigation and Resilience Study – Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties – AMBAG authored

Conclusion: Let's Build a Model for Addressing Long Term Stewardship & Conservation Investment

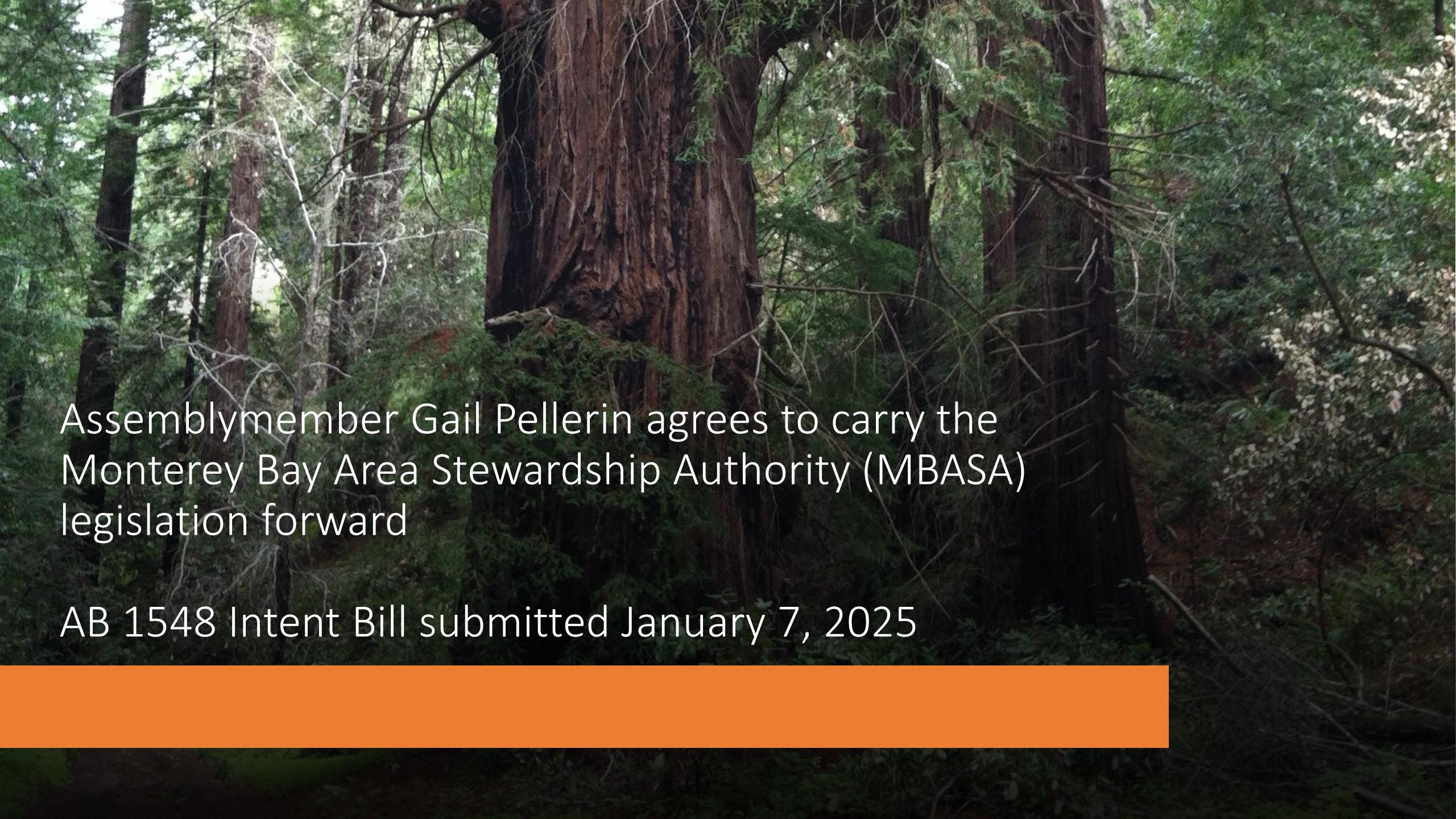
- Assists with accomplishing local priority projects and smooths the peaks and valleys of state and federal funding
- Demonstrates to the state that the three counties are a proactive collective and working on conservation issues together – positioning for future direct line-item bond investments
- Convening regular outreach, identifying priorities, & learning each county's needs
- Acknowledge this tool will take a while to build and start working for the region
- Intent is for additive benefit not duplication of roles or competing for funding

Our Model: San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

- Legislatively created in 2008 (AB 2958) by California Legislature – part of Government Code
- To serve as a regional mechanism to generate and address threats to San Francisco Bay and to secure opportunities for the improvement of the bay and its shoreline, natural areas, and recreational facilities
- 9 counties with a governing board representing all jurisdictions
- Prior to going to the ballot, the SF Bay Restoration Authority, because of its regional governance and specific geography of focus, received \$105 million in direct funding from Prop's 68 and 4 and \$50 million from US EPA for projects.
- In 2016 the voters of the 9 counties passed Measure AA - the San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure.
- Measure AA generates approximately \$25 million in grant funding annually for *“projects the protect and restore San Francisco Bay including restoring fish and wildlife habitat, flood risk reduction, stewardship of conservation lands, and access improvements”*.

Work to Date

- Conservation Practitioners Work Group began meeting in May 2025. The Working Group included 27 organizations from the 3-county area
- Hosted presentations from Save the Bay about the SF Restoration Authority process and lessons learned
- Created a Legislation Drafting Committee of the Working Group which drafted all sections of the legislation for the larger Conservation Practitioners Work Group sign off
- Convened an all-day workshop in September 2025 to review legislation language and confirm purpose and priorities of the Authority
- Conducted field trips in all 3 counties; final meeting in January 2026 – all systems go!

A photograph of a dense redwood forest. The foreground is filled with the dark trunks and branches of tall redwood trees, their bark textured and weathered. The ground is covered in a thick layer of green moss and small green plants, creating a lush, dark carpet. The background is filled with more trees, their trunks receding into the distance, creating a sense of depth and scale.

Assemblymember Gail Pellerin agrees to carry the
Monterey Bay Area Stewardship Authority (MBASA)
legislation forward

AB 1548 Intent Bill submitted January 7, 2025



Currently conducting briefings and presentations for local government, NGOs, park district, and RCD boards

County administrative leadership convened for language review and discussion through early February

Substantiative language will be made public in February with opportunity for engagement, including amendments through early August 2026.



Questions and Discussion

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