



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-26-28  
Meeting 26-08  
March 11, 2026

## SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA ITEM 1

### AGENDA ITEM

Legislative Position Recommendations

**GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:** *den*

Approve the recommended list of legislative positions for the 2026 state legislative session.

### SUMMARY

Each year, the state legislature introduces over a thousand new bills for consideration. Legislative consultants and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) staff have reviewed these bills and identified specific legislation (Attachment 1) that merit action. **Important Note:** Most bills will change over the course of the legislative session. The legislative process is fluid and often moves fast. Based upon the guiding documents of Board Policy 1.11 (Attachment 2) and the Board of Directors (Board)-adopted Legislative Program (Attachment 3), the General Manager and staff will pursue an appropriate position for each bill to ensure that District interests are promoted and protected.

### DISCUSSION

The 2026 Legislative Program, which the Board approved on January 14, 2026, guides District priorities on legislative proposals affecting the District, its mission, and annual strategic goals. Throughout the session, staff fields time-sensitive requests from partners and monitors evolving pieces of legislation based on Board Policy 1.11 and the approved Legislative Program, using the bill disposition process described in Attachment 4 to assess and determine appropriate actions. Legislation deemed a priority by the Board pursuant to Board Policy 1.11 are tracked and, when appropriate, either supported or opposed. The General Manager keeps the Board notified of actions taken via separate memo (Attachment 5 - Example Memo). Please refer to the Recommended Legislative Positions (Attachment 1) for an overview of the current list of bills identified for District priority action in the second year of the 2025-26 legislative session, along with position definitions.

February 20, 2026 was the submittal deadline for new bills by state assemblymembers and senators (see Attachment 6 - Legislative Calendar). District legislative consultants Environmental and Energy Consulting (EEC) reviewed every bill submitted (1,798 for the 2026 session) to determine whether it had the potential to affect District interests, recommending an initial position and priority.

Based on the list of identified legislation, department managers assisted with a review of all the potential bills of interest and provided their recommended position and priority for each. Approximately 85 bills are currently tracked, though only bills that may initiate action by the

District at this time, i.e., those recommended as priority 1 or 2, are presented. Three bills are recommended as priority 1 and 10 bills as priority 2. As the legislative session progresses, each bill may change (sometimes substantially), which warrants further consideration concurrent with Board Policy 1.11.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**PRIOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW**

On January 14, 2026, the full Board adopted the 2026 Legislative Program ([R-26-03](#), [minutes](#)).

On November 4, 2025, LFPAC reviewed and provided input on the draft 2026 Legislative Program and took action to forward the item to the full Board of Directors for approval ([R-25-136](#), draft minutes - Attachment 7). Director Holman provided additions to the motion to include clarifying language on the landscape of statewide significance and regarding the “SB 131 CEQA exemption fix,” as well as the General Manager’s suggestion of including the CEQA streamlining and statutory exemptions language to the program that was presented to the full Board.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

**CEQA COMPLIANCE**

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

**NEXT STEPS**

Based on the Board-adopted 2026 Legislative Program and the bills identified as “priority 1” by the Board at this meeting, staff and the Board President are tentatively scheduled to meet with the District’s state legislative delegation later in March to communicate District interests. Priority 2 bills will have position letters sent to their respective authors and policy committee chairs as appropriate.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1 – District Legislative Tracking Matrix
- Attachment 2 – Board Policy 1.11 - Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy
- Attachment 3 – District Legislative Program for 2026 – Adopted
- Attachment 4 – District Bill Disposition Process
- Attachment 5 – Example of GM Legislative Memo to the Board
- Attachment 6 – State Legislative Calendar – 2026
- Attachment 7 – LFPAC Draft Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2025

Responsible Department Head:  
Lori Low, Public Affairs Manager

Prepared by/contact person:  
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Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Legislative Positions Recommendations						
Measure	Issue Area	Author	Topic	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
<a href="#">AB 2045</a>	Funding	Connolly, D	Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act.	Proposes to make the Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act permanent by removing its upcoming January 1, 2027, expiration date. The bill streamlines the approval process for environmental projects, allowing the Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue master permits that replace multiple, complex regulatory approvals.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 2188</a>	Governance	Pellerin, D	Regional park and open-space districts: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.	Existing law outlines how regional park and open-space districts are formed and managed. Currently, the general manager is limited to committing the district to contracts of up to \$53,000 for labor and services. This amount can increase by 2% per year with annual Board approval. The bill resets the baseline authority amount, taking into consideration inflation since the amount was first set (AB 495, 2015), and the large number of contracts that are required to accomplish Measure AA projects and other capital projects, by specifically allowing the general manager of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to enter into contracts of up to \$150,000 for labor and services, pursuant to a Board policy. At its discretion, the Board would retain the authorization to approve a lower amount, with \$150,000 being the cap. This bill recognizes the specific needs of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District through a special statute.	Sponsor	1
<a href="#">SB 1250</a>	Stewardship	Cortese, D	State highway system: wildlife connectivity.	Bill aims to enhance road safety and ecological connectivity by integrating wildlife infrastructure, such as overpasses and fencing, into state highway planning and maintenance. The bill mandates that Caltrans and the Department of Fish and Wildlife manage a "connectivity inventory" to identify hazardous spots, while ensuring public accountability through regular updates on funded projects.	Recommend Support	1
<a href="#">SB 949</a>	Stewardship	Becker, D	Environmental protection: Natural Resources Agency: landscape of statewide significance: Santa Cruz Mountains.	Bill designates the Santa Cruz Mountains as a "landscape of statewide significance," requiring the Natural Resources Agency to prioritize the region's environmental protection and climate resilience. The bill aims to recognize the area as a single significant ecosystem that spans across San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties that supports rare and sensitive wildlife habitats, is essential for watershed health and water quality, and for nature connections and public recreation.	Sponsor	1

Measure	Issue Area	Author	Topic	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
<a href="#">AB 1699</a>	Wildfire	Rogers, D	Good Fire Act: Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program: burn bosses: California Environmental Quality Act.	This bill, called the "The Good Fire Act," simplifies regulations for controlled burns to boost wildfire prevention by streamlining burn boss certification, reducing paperwork, and extending liability coverage. The legislation also exempts certain prescribed and cultural burns from lengthy California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reviews.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 1891</a>	Wildfire	Connolly, D	Forestry: Beneficial Fire Capacity Program.	This bill, called the Beneficial Fire Capacity Act, proposes a new CAL FIRE program to reduce wildfire risks by funding controlled, prescribed, and cultural burns. The bill prioritizes funding for Native American tribes and aims to build a trained, local workforce to manage land health and reduce hazardous vegetation.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 1893</a>	Wildfire	Gallagher, R	Wildfire prevention: local assistance grant program: eligible activities.	This bill expands the Wildfire Prevention Local Assistance Grant Program to include funding for helicopter-accessible water infrastructure, such as mobile rigid dip tanks, in high-fire-hazard areas. This proposed legislation allows local governments to invest in immediate water sources for firefighting helicopters to improve response times and better protect communities.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">SB 973</a>	Wildfire	Becker, D	Wildfire County Coordinator Program.	This bill proposes making the existing Wildfire County Coordinator Program a permanent fixture to improve local wildfire preparation, mitigation, and recovery efforts. The program facilitates the hiring of dedicated coordinators to bridge local initiatives with state resources, focusing on home hardening, defensible space, and grant acquisition.	Recommend support	2

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Board Policy Manual

<p><b>Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy</b></p>	<p><b>Policy 1.11</b> <b>Chapter 1 – Administration and Government</b></p>
<p>Effective Date: 4/13/16</p>	<p>Revised Date: N/A</p>
<p>Prior Versions: N/A</p>	

**Purpose**

To establish a policy governing positions on local and state ballot measures/propositions and state and federal legislative advocacy. It is intended to cover all matters before the Legislature and the voters.

**Definitions**

For the purposes of the *Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy* policy, the following terms and definitions shall be used:

*Measure* – may be included on a municipal, county, or district ballot and includes ordinances, initiatives, referenda, advisory measures, issuance or refunding of bonds, city or county charter amendments, or any other measure or proposition a legislative body may submit to the voters within the body’s jurisdiction.

*Ballot Proposition* – can be a referendum or an initiative measure that is submitted to the electorate for a direct decision or direct vote. Propositions may be placed on the ballot by the California State Legislature or by a qualifying petition signed by registered voters.

*Initiative* – power of the electors to propose legislation, and to adopt or reject them. Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the legislative body by means of a petition.

*Referendum* – applies to the process for repealing newly enacted legislation. Within specified time limits, the electors may file a petition protesting the adoption of that legislation.

*Local Legislation* – typically ordinances, which are the laws of a city, charter, or district, often having the force of law, but only within the local jurisdiction.

*State or Federal Legislation* – bills or proposed legislation under consideration by the legislature at the state or federal level.

## Policy

1. Positions on Matters Before the Voters
  - a. From time to time the Board of Directors may be asked or may desire to take a position on local or state measures. The Board may consider taking a position on the measure/proposition if the measure/proposition:
    - i. Would directly impact the District's finances, responsibilities, legal authority, or operations; AND
    - ii. Is in line with or inconsistent with the District's mission and/or commitment to preserve open space within its boundaries and sphere of influence.

The Board, by majority vote, may direct the General Manager to research the measure/proposition and return to the Board at a future meeting with information and a General Manager recommendation. At that time, the Board may vote to take a position on a measure/proposition.
  - b. Measures/propositions determined to not impact District business may nonetheless be analyzed by the General Manager when directed by a majority vote of the Board, of which the analysis report would include possible alternatives for Board action, but no position recommendation.
  
2. Local, State, and Federal Legislative Advocacy
  - a. The Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) receives periodic updates regarding the District's legislative program. When LFPAC determines that proposed legislation may affect District business, it may direct the General Manager to prepare a recommendation for consideration by the full Board or where there is not adequate time to convene the full Board, may direct the General Manager to take action to support or oppose the legislation without full Board approval. In such cases, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose legislation at or before the next Board meeting.
  - b. When time is so short that neither the full Board nor LFPAC can be convened to consider positions to support or oppose local, state or federal legislation, the General Manager is authorized to take a position on behalf of the District if the legislation:
    - i. Is related to the District's mission; AND
    - ii. Would directly impact the District's business, such as project delivery, operations, finances, legal authority, or other District responsibilities; AND
    - iii. The position being taken is consistent/inconsistent with existing District policy, past action, or District Strategic Plan; OR
    - iv. The legislation carries other considerations that make it contrary to the District's interests.

In such instances, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose the legislation at or before the next Board meeting.
  - c. Full Board action is required regarding legislation that is not clearly within the criteria listed above under Section 2.b. or guided by direction previously given by LFPAC.

3. Full Board action is required to support or oppose any type of grassroots advocacy action, such as social, political, or economic movements, that are not legislation.
4. Board members representing the District in their official capacity on regional or other bodies may, at his or her discretion, take actions based on the principles above consistent with previously approved Board positions and policies.
5. This policy is not intended to limit the prerogative of individual Board members from expressing their individual support for or opposition to any local ballot measure, State proposition, State or Federal legislation, or grassroots advocacy actions. However, in doing so, the member should clearly state they are speaking for themselves, and not in an official capacity on behalf of the Board or the District. Individual Board Members who take a position in support or opposition to ballot measure or legislation for which the Board has not previously taken a position are encouraged as a professional courtesy to include the language *for identification purposes only* parenthetically following their signature referencing their position on the Board.

# Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Legislative Program 2026

**Adopted:** January 14, 2026



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## Introduction

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (District) Mission:

*To acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.*

As part of the Coastside Protection Area Service Plan, a Coastside mission was adopted in 2004:

*To acquire and preserve in perpetuity open space land and agricultural land of regional significance, protect and restore the natural environment, preserve rural character, encourage viable agricultural use of land resources, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.*

To further these missions, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) annually reviews opportunities and challenges and establishes legislative priorities and policy statements to guide its advocacy activities at the regional, state and federal levels.

## Advocacy of the District's Interests

While this document attempts to cover a wide variety of legislative issues that may impact the District, it is not comprehensive, complete or final. Throughout the state and federal legislative sessions, the District will review and act on various proposed policies and state or federal budget items. In instances where time is so short that neither the full Board, nor LFPAC, can be convened to consider a particular legislative position, the General Manager will take action and report back to the Board through Board Policy 1.11 utilizing appropriate due diligence and consideration of public sensitivity, which may include consultation with the Board President.

Per Section 2.0 of Board Policy 1.11, legislative advocacy is considered in the following manner:

### Section 2.0: Local, State, and Federal Legislative Advocacy

- a. The Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) receives periodic updates throughout the year regarding the District's legislative program. When LFPAC determines that proposed legislation may affect District business, it may direct the General Manager to prepare a recommendation for consideration by the full Board or may direct the General Manager to take action to support or oppose the legislation without full Board approval when there is not adequate time to convene the full Board. In such cases, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose legislation at or before the next Board meeting.
- b. When time is so short that neither the full Board nor LFPAC can be convened to consider positions to support or oppose local, state or federal legislation, the General Manager is authorized to take a position on behalf of the District if the legislation:
  - i. Is related to the District's mission; AND

- ii. Would directly impact the District's business, such as project delivery, operations, finances, legal authority, or other District responsibilities; AND
- iii. The position being taken is consistent/inconsistent with existing District policy, past action, or the District's annual Strategic Plan [https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/Attachment\\_2\\_FY24\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_Goals\\_and\\_Objectives.pdf](https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/Attachment_2_FY24_Strategic_Plan_Goals_and_Objectives.pdf); OR
- iv. The legislation carries other considerations that make it contrary to the District's interests.

In such instances, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose the legislation at or before the next Board meeting.

- c. Full Board action is required regarding legislation that is not clearly within the criteria listed above under Section 2.b. or guided by direction previously given by LFPAC.

All legislation on which the District takes a position will be closely tracked by the General Manager's Office (GMO) and reported to the Board of Directors. Public Affairs staff will be responsible for reporting similar information to key departments. Contracted state and federal legislative consultants will represent District interests based upon the policies contained in this Legislative Program. In addition to District position letters, Board members and District staff may be asked to testify before or meet with relevant legislators or members of the executive branch to discuss issues requiring heightened advocacy. If this is the case, District staff must first notify and/or confirm approval from the GMO to ensure that positions taken are consistent with the Board-approved Legislative Program.

## State Legislative Priorities

The following are the legislative priorities for the District during the 2026 State Legislative Session. Annual priority-setting considers a combination of issues that relate directly to important District-led projects or initiatives, opportunities to support or oppose state legislative initiatives sponsored by others that affect the District’s mission, and any issues that are identified by the Board as particularly significant. Funding measures are the most common of these priorities and are generally tied to the creation of new funding sources or the processes that prescribe the allocation of existing funding sources. The 2026 legislative priorities are listed and grouped below, consistent with the Board’s annual Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives (See Appendix A) to provide a clear connection to agency priorities:

### Goal 1: Promote, establish, and implement a regional environmental protection vision with partners

- **Santa Cruz Mountains Landscape of Statewide Significance:** Work with District partners and members of the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network to define, promote and permanently recognize the Santa Cruz Mountains as a “landscape of statewide significance” based on its biodiversity and importance in contributing to regional climate resilience. This recognition would highlight the region’s significance for future statewide and federal funding to restore habitats and protect sensitive species and expand the number and assortment of partnership opportunities for this work.
- **Environmentally Sensitive Vegetation Management (ESVM):** Promote implementation of statutorily defined ESVM standards under SB 653 (Cortese, 2025) into new and existing vegetation management funding sources to better maintain ecological health and strengthen biodiversity while mitigating wildfire risk.

### Goal 2: Protect the positive environmental values of open space and agricultural lands

- **CEQA Streamlining and Statutory Exemptions:** Work with District partners and Proposition 4 (2024) funders to find ways to maximize the CEQA streamlining opportunities for public park agencies afforded by the passage of budget trailer bill [SB 131 \(Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, 2025\)](#) to expedite the completion of beneficial land management actions, as well as restore statutory protections for natural and working lands that existed prior to the passage of this bill
- **Self-Permitting for Local Permits:** Support efforts by the District and its partners enabled under PRC 5500 to streamline and/or establish exemptions for local permitting processes to expedite the completion of District projects, including Measure-AA funded projects.

- **Sustainable Patterns of Development:** Encourage state agencies that regulate community growth plans to focus new development in ways that prevent an increase in wildland fire hazards, protect landscape-scale ecosystems and their ability to adapt to climate change. Promote policies that encourage patterns of growth that do not further encroach into wildland and wildfire hazard areas.

### Goal 3: Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision

- **Equitable Public Access:** Enhance funding resources that support expanding access to open space and nature opportunities and a sense of belonging and inclusion for under-resourced communities and individuals with disabilities.
- **Multimodal and Public Access Infrastructure:** Prioritize multi-benefit active transportation modes that safely connect people with parks, open space and trails and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Expand funding and resources for strategies that address parking and traffic congestion issues, manage visitation, increase greener modes of transportation, improve accessibility for users with limited mobility and provide new transit connections to communities, including expanding transit-to-trails programs, shuttle and ride hail programs.

### Goal 4: Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission

- **General Manager Purchasing Authority:** Seek to increase the GM's signature authority to reflect the increased cost of goods and services since its last increase with the passage of AB 495 (Gordon, 2015).

## Legislative Policy Positions

The ability of the District to deliver its mission and remain a sustainable organization can be impacted by legislation proposed at the local, state or federal level. To this end, proactive policy positions taken by the District on a variety of relevant issue areas help to ensure consistency in advocacy. District policy positions are grouped by Board-approved strategic plan goals. The District supports policy that:

### Goal 1: Promote, establish, and implement a regional environmental protection vision with partners:

1. Promotes and enhances the ability to acquire open space and agricultural lands consistent with District policies and goals, as well as supports land protection and biodiversity goals set forth by Executive Order N-82-20, 2020. This order elevates the role of natural and working lands and the advancement of biodiversity conservation in

the fight against climate change as an administration priority. It also commits California to the goal of conserving 30 percent of statewide lands and coastal waters by 2030.

2. Protects public open space and associated property rights, interests and easements.
3. Enhances or funds regional collaboration and coordination of conservation efforts.
4. Promotes urban infill and urban growth boundaries to prevent sprawl and the further encroachment of development in the wildland-urban interface, riparian areas, working lands and open space buffer areas.
5. Ensures that the zoning of permanently protected lands supports activities that further the District's mission (preservation, natural resource protection, public access and education, agriculture).
6. Expands and restores protected open space lands to enhance biodiversity, climate change resilience, and scenic, rural character.
7. Promotes the use of green infrastructure and natural solutions in promoting climate resiliency and combating the effects of climate change.

## Goal 2: Protect the positive environmental values of open space and agricultural lands:

1. Ensures reasonable setback requirements that allow minimum defensible space clearances on private property to prevent catastrophic fires that damage habitats and pose a high public safety hazard.
2. Furthers implementation of state greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, such as Senate Bill 32 (Pavley, 2016), the Global Warming Solutions Act that establishes a GHG emissions target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, and Assembly Bill 1279 (2022), that establishes a target to reach statewide net carbon neutrality no later than 2045. Maintains an emphasis on emissions reduction and nature-based sequestration over capture and storage technologies.
3. Furthers the implementation of Assembly Bill 1757 (Garcia, 2022), which recognizes the importance of natural and working lands for the purpose of carbon sequestration and storage and requires the California Natural Resources Agency to establish a range of targets for natural carbon sequestration for 2030, 2038, and 2045.
4. Supports effective and comprehensive measures that respond to sea level rise and other effects of climate change and enhance ecological and community-wide climate resilience.
5. Encourages and enhances/streamlines the integration of safe pedestrian and wildlife crossings into transportation infrastructure planning and construction projects; promotes the protection, installation, and maintenance of such infrastructure.

6. Promotes advance mitigation programs to enhance wildlife corridor networks.
7. Connects habitats that support a diverse array of native plants and animals.
8. Encourages the control of invasive plant populations..
9. Eliminates the use of first- and second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides.
10. Supports increased knowledge, management and ultimately the eradication of Sudden Oak Death disease.
11. Provides permit exemptions and streamlining for natural resources protection and restoration projects and minor trail reroutes and small trail improvements that avoid sensitive resource areas, resolve erosion and sedimentation issues and improve the health of the watershed.
12. Supports maintaining state and federal lists of endangered species justified through conclusive biological evidence.
13. Helps efforts to protect, conserve, restore and enhance the natural resources of the District, its coast, and connecting waters for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations.
14. Engages Native American communities in cultural and land management practices to restore and protect natural and cultural resources and enhance landscape resilience; supports existing and future Native American-led conservation and climate resilience initiatives.
15. Protects and restores watersheds, water quality, natural water courses, wetlands and hydrologic processes consistent with the District's Resource Management Policies.
16. Promotes expedited removal of select trees and brush by public agencies for fire protection, public safety and enhanced climate resilience, while protecting rare and endangered species and avoiding the spread of invasive species.
17. Removes barriers to carrying out prescribed fires and cultural burns as a natural component of a healthy ecosystem, such as prohibitive liability standards.
18. Supports working farms and ranches on public open space land, including farm labor housing and other critical agricultural infrastructure, that aid in furthering conservation and climate resilience goals.
19. Incentivizes agricultural operations to invest in energy-efficient and water-efficient irrigation technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and water use.
20. Provides economic support for agricultural infrastructure maintenance and improvements.

21. Protects natural lands from the destruction caused by illegal marijuana grows, prohibits marijuana cultivation on public lands, and restores damaged habitats.
22. Supports efforts to create and make available more complete sets of data for managing natural and working lands.
23. Promotes access to and use of peer-reviewed data and modeling of climate change impacts to California's natural and working landscapes for prioritizing landscape resilience work.

### Goal 3: Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision

1. Expands awareness and access to open space programs and activities for under-resourced communities, non-English speaking residents, and people with disabilities about the natural resources and benefits of open space and increases public appreciation for the environment; supports measures for addressing language, physical and transportation barriers.
2. Promotes volunteer involvement and engagement of diverse communities in ongoing conservation, restoration, enhancement and interpretation of the District's natural and cultural resources.
3. Engages children and parents in the enjoyment and appreciation of outdoor open spaces to inspire the next generation of conservation champions.
4. Funds and enables programs that hire youth to work in parks and open space and encourages them to consider careers in conservation.
5. Keeps preserves safe, clean, accessible and inviting for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.
6. Protects cultural resources located on natural open space and working lands.
7. Helps fund and streamline emergency repairs to District infrastructure, including trails and public access amenities.
8. Supports federal, state and regional programs that provide local mobility/multi-modal transportation alternatives for all residents.
9. Facilitates linkages between preserve trails and regional trails and ultimately to the places where people live and work.
10. Improves local transportation and promotes cleaner transportation options to enable better connectivity between communities and open space preserves.

11. Limits public use of drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) consistent with Board policies, ordinances or District permitting to preserve the tranquility of outdoor experiences, prevent disruptions and impacts to the natural resources and minimize wildfire risk.
12. Supports advances in broadband and telecommunications technology that provide cell phone reception and internet access in open space.
13. Supports electric vehicle charging infrastructure that facilitates the Governor's Executive Order N-79-20, which directs agencies to require that, by 2035, all new cars and passenger trucks sold in California be zero-emission vehicles. In addition, support the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) effort to convert all government fleets to 100% zero-emission by 2035.
14. Supports policies that facilitate meaningful engagement of tribal communities in stewardship actions and opportunities for incorporating cultural land practices.

#### Goal 4: Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission

1. Preserves existing tax revenues and tax authority.
2. Lowers the voter threshold for locally imposed special taxes from two-thirds to 55%.
3. Preserves tax-exempt status for municipal bonds on a state and federal level.
4. Expands state and federal incentives that promote the issuance of green bonds.
5. Preserves and promotes managerial discretion in effective and productive recruiting, hiring, onboarding, professional development, firing and day-to-day oversight of staff at all levels.
6. Preserves and promotes open, transparent, accountable government administrative practices that enable efficient and timely delivery of public services, facilitate public involvement, and support effective and timely decision-making.
7. Maintains prevailing wage and workers compensation exemptions for volunteers.
8. Preserves and promotes streamlined, cost-effective, fair, and efficient contracting practices that give taxpayers the best value for their dollar and attracts greater contractor and vendor competition, particularly among local providers.
9. Enables contracting methods that aid greenhouse gas emission reductions and support the implementation of the Board-adopted Climate Action Plan.
10. Provides funding and funding flexibility, like block grants, to achieve mission-related goals, including, but not limited to:
  - a. District operations and infrastructure.

- b. Integrated Pest Management and ecologically sensitive vegetation management, including approaches like conservation grazing.
  - c. Wildfire prevention and fuel reduction and prescribed fire implementation.
  - d. Research and action on climate change impacts, carbon sequestration and carbon storage on natural and working lands.
  - e. Programs that hire youth to work in parks and open space and encourages them to consider careers in conservation.
  - f. Environmental education partnerships and public outreach efforts at local, regional and state levels.
  - g. Improvements that meet the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and other accessibility standards in District preserves.
  - h. Protection of prime and sustainable agricultural lands, including investments in agricultural-support infrastructure.
  - i. Technical support for agriculture and natural resources enhancements.
  - j. Wildlife corridors and crossing infrastructure.
  - k. Low-intensity, ecologically sensitive public access opportunities.
  - l. Public interpretation of natural, cultural and historic resources.
  - m. Public outreach and engagement planning of equitable public access opportunities for diverse communities.
11. Promotes closer collaboration and coordination between regulatory agencies to enhance permit processing efficiencies and reduce overall project costs.
  12. Improves and streamlines permitting, CEQA and NEPA review and compliance processes for emergency repairs, routine maintenance, habitat restoration, and public access projects.
  13. Builds organizational capacities of regulatory/resource agencies from whom the District needs permitting approvals for our projects
  14. Provides open space districts the authority to utilize a variety of contracting methods to construct projects.
  15. Promotes implementation of and education about sustainable design and construction, including, but not limited to LEED buildings, stormwater treatment and runoff reduction, local (within 50-mile radius of a project) contractor/consultant hiring, construction material reuse/recycling, and use of green/energy efficient materials and equipment.

## 2026 Regional Priorities

Though there is a growing recognition of the importance of regional planning and coordination, local land use authority dominates California planning processes in both the built and natural environments.

In 2026, the District will focus on the following regional topics:

### Plan Bay Area 2050+

Monitor to ensure that the implementation of Plan Bay Area 2050's environmental strategy, *Expand Access to Parks and Open Space*, continues to pursue urban growth boundaries, protect and manage high-value conservation and agricultural lands, and expand parks, trails and recreation facilities. In addition, monitor developments regarding subsequent revisions of Plan Bay Area ([Plan Bay Area 2050+](#)) to ensure the District's interests are maintained.

### Planning Guidelines Update

Monitor and participate in the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation's (formerly Office of Planning & Research) comprehensive update process of the state's General Plan, Specific Plan, and Tribal Guidelines (collectively known as LCI's Planning Guidelines) to advance the mission of the District and current tribal relations efforts.

### Regional Funding

Monitor and engage with regional bodies pursuing funding sources that benefit the District's mission.

## 2026 Federal Policy and Funding Priorities

Significant uncertainty exists at the federal level across both the federal legislature and administration. Reductions in conservation funding and deregulation of environmental protections increase the focus on state level relationships, funding and policy for the foreseeable future. Participation in federal focus areas are considered on a case-by-case basis and subject to staff capacity.

## Appendix A: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Strategic Plan for FY2025-26

Online at: <https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/Strategic-Plan-FY26.pdf>

Goal 1 – Promote, establish, and implement a regional environmental protection vision with partners

- **Objective 1** – Continue implementation of the District’s Vision Plan and communicate progress on projects through reporting results and building partner relationships
- **Objective 2** – Build and strengthen diverse partnerships to implement a collaborative and science-based approach to regional environmental protection
- **Objective 3** – Take a leadership role in advocating for environmental protection goals by building and strengthening relationships with legislators and other elected officials
- **Objective 4** – Preserve and connect open space and agricultural lands of local and regional significance

Goal 2 – Protect the positive environmental and biodiversity values of open space and agricultural lands

- **Objective 1** – Take a regional leadership role in promoting the benefits of open space
- **Objective 2** – Protect and restore the natural environment and implement wildlife corridors to preserve healthy natural systems and biodiversity
- **Objective 3** – Lead by example to reduce the impacts of climate change: implement the Climate Action Plan to reduce operational emissions, expand regional landscape resiliency through partnerships, protect the capacity for long-term carbon storage of open space lands, and climate change adaptation strategies to protect viable populations of local native species
- **Objective 4** – Work with fire agencies and surrounding communities to strengthen the prevention of, preparation for and response to wildland fires for enhanced ecosystem resiliency and public safety
- **Objective 5** – Support the viability of sustainable agriculture and protect the character of rural communities

Goal 3 – Connect people to open space and agricultural lands, and a regional environmental protection vision

- **Objective 1** – Engage the public in realizing the benefits and responsibilities of a regional environmental protection vision to further the District’s achievements in protecting open space and agricultural lands
- **Objective 2** – Implement diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) strategies to build and strengthen partnerships, increase broad and inclusive public outreach and engagement, engage tribal groups in the District’s work, and instill DEI values across all levels of the organization

- **Objective 3** – Expand opportunities, including multimodal options, to equitably connect people to their public open space preserves and enhance the visitor experience in balance with the protection of natural resources
- **Objective 4** – Develop strategies to reflect the diverse communities we serve in the District’s visitors, staff, volunteers, and partners.

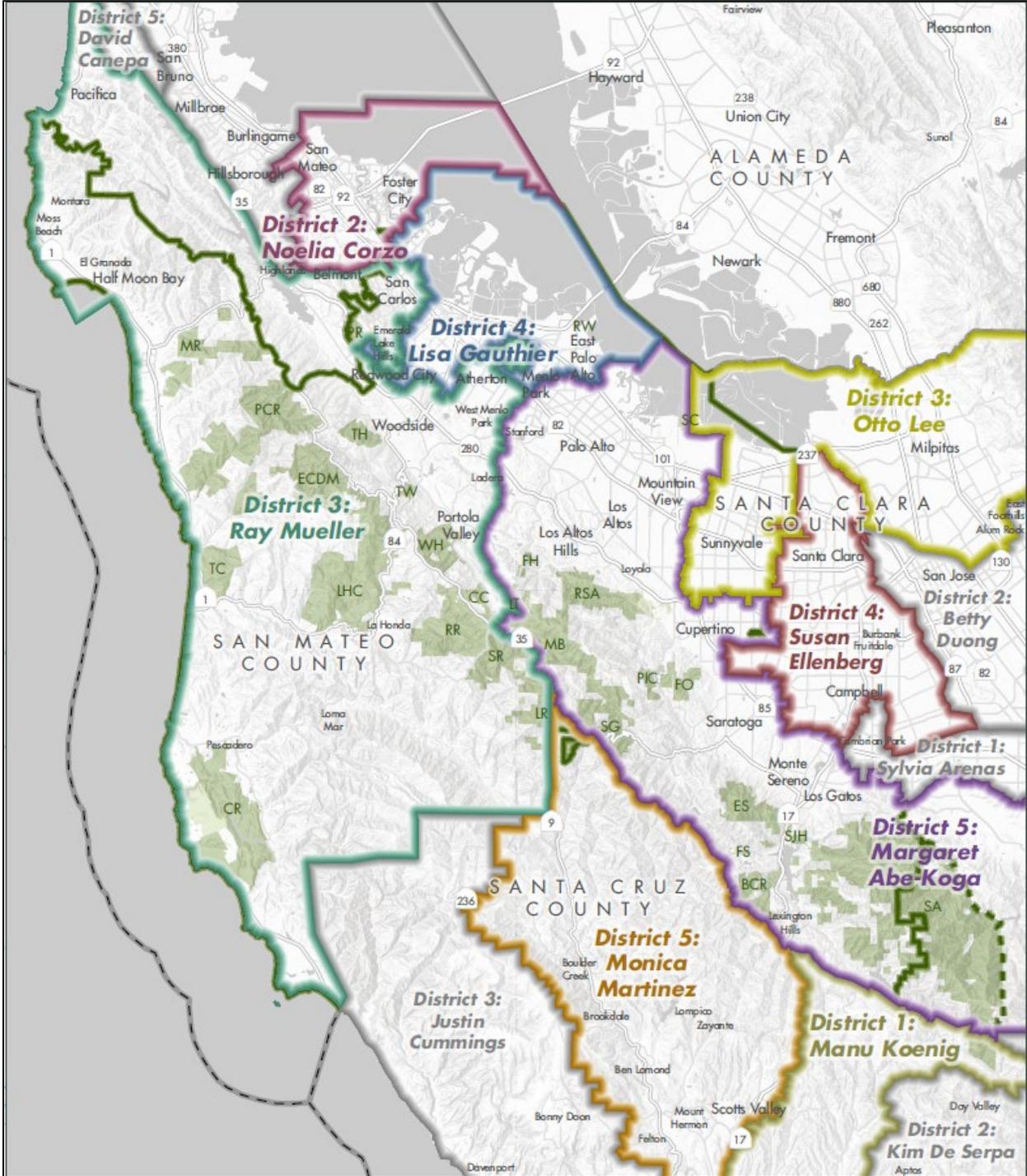
Goal 4 – Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission

- **Objective 1** – Provide the necessary resources, tools, training, staff facilities, and infrastructure, including technology upgrades, capacity building and safeguards to address cybersecurity threats and future natural disasters
- **Objective 2** – Effectively and efficiently deliver Vision Plan projects and priority initiatives by implementing recommendations in the updated 2023 financial and operational sustainability model to guide operational growth and areas of focus, and facilitate project momentum
- **Objective 3** – Evaluate new initiatives against the District’s mission, strategic goals and objectives, as well as internal capacity/workplan to confirm alignment and state of readiness
- **Objective 4** – Remain financially sustainable by preparing for, pursuing, and ensuring discretionary funding opportunities and partnerships
- **Objective 5** – Ensure large operational and capital expenses, including land acquisitions, associated public access and land management costs, are evaluated within the long-term financial model and remain financially sustainable
- **Objective 6** – Ensure the District remains competitive in the labor market and able to recruit, develop, and retain diverse and talented staff to implement the mission. Pursue opportunities to enhance professional development training and career ladders to strengthen our organizational capacity and succession planning efforts

## Appendix B: District County, State and Federal Delegation Maps

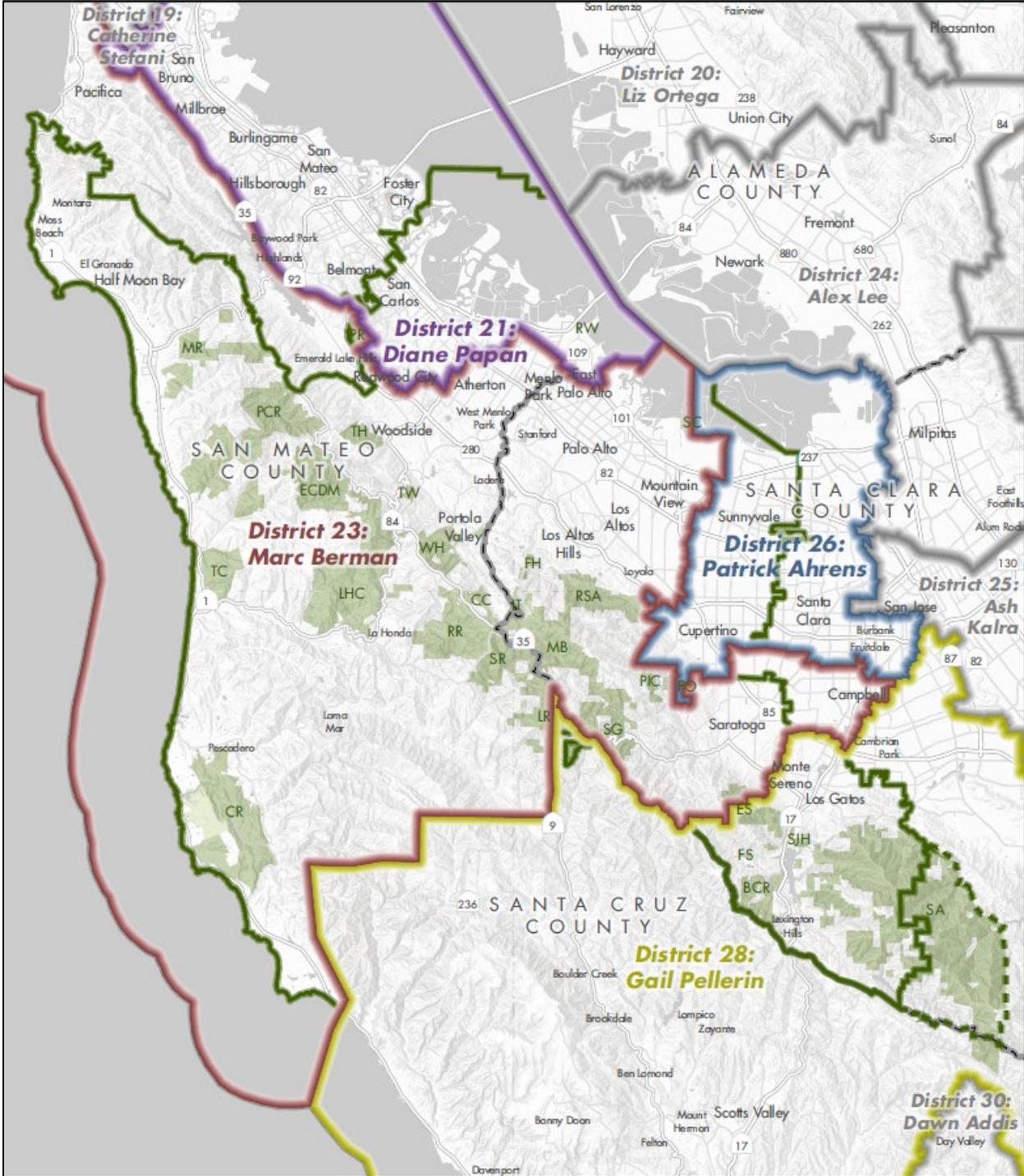
Within the 550-square mile boundary of the District, it overlaps with a variety of jurisdictions that comprise its legislative delegation. Seventeen cities reside within the District – eight in San Mateo County and nine in Santa Clara County. At the county level, the District intersects three counties, each with five board supervisors. The County of San Mateo also has three appointed “community councils” for their North Fair Oaks, Midcoast and Pescadero unincorporated areas. At the state level, the District intersects with four Senate and four Assembly districts. And then at the federal level, the District has four members of the House of Representatives and two United State Senators as part of its delegation. Maps for these legislative districts can be found below.

County Delegation – San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties

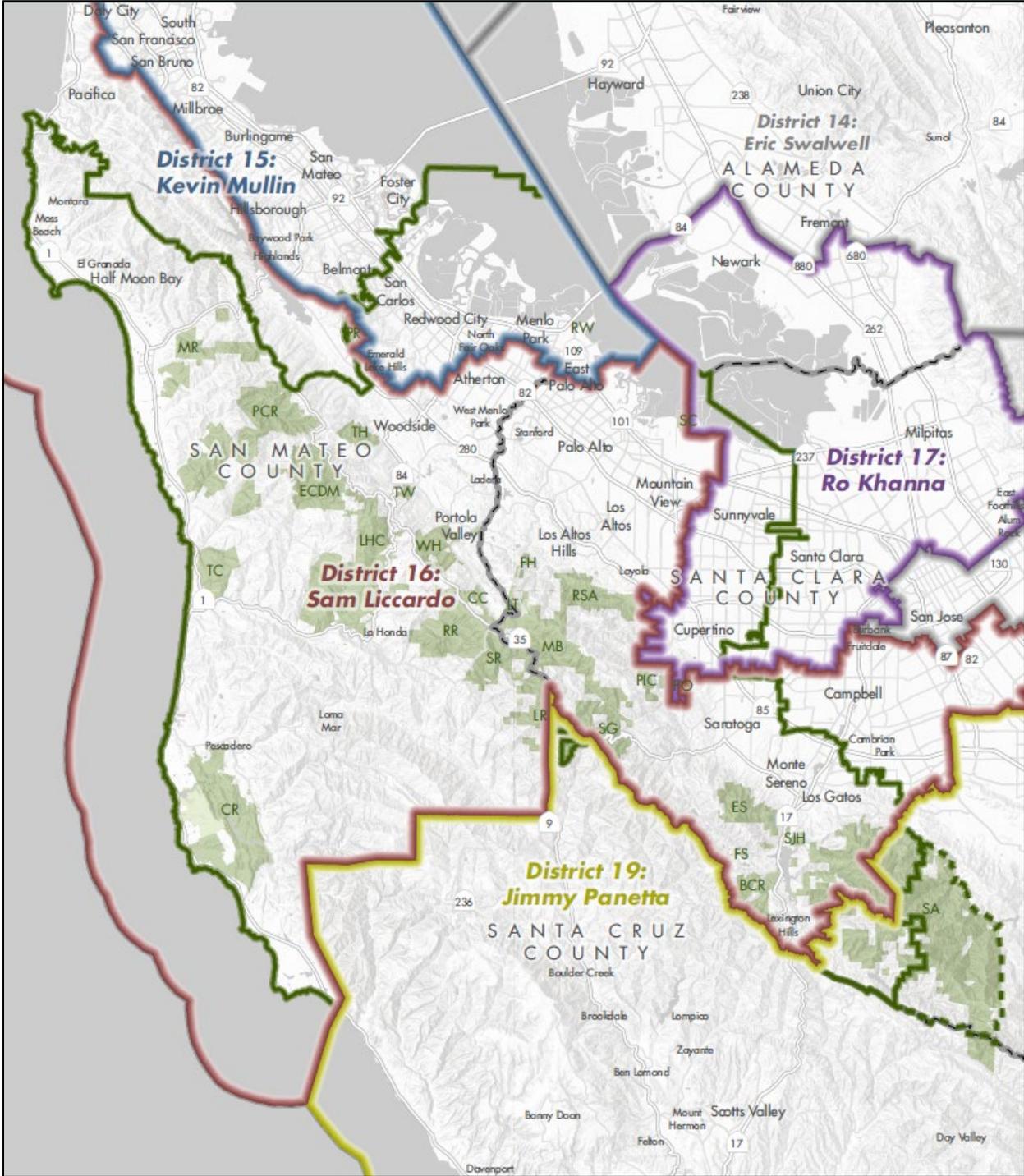




State Delegation - Assembly



Federal Delegation – House of Representatives



# Appendix C: 2026 State Legislative Calendar

**2026 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**  
 COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE  
 Revised 9-29-25

**DEADLINES**

JANUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2	3
Wk. 1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wk. 2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Wk. 3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Wk. 4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Jan. 1** Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 5** Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
- Jan. 10** Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- Jan. 16** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(1)).
- Jan. 19** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed.
- Jan. 23** Last day for any committee to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year. (J.R. 61(b)(2)).  
Last day to submit **bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Jan. 31** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c), J.R. 61(b)(3)).

FEBRUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wk. 2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Wk. 3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Wk. 4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

- Feb. 16** Presidents' Day observed.
- Feb. 20** Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(b)(4), J.R. 54(a)).

MARCH							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wk. 2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Wk. 3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Wk. 4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Spring Recess	29	30	31				

- Mar. 26** Spring Recess begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Mar. 30** Cesar Chavez Day observed.

APRIL							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Spring Recess				1	2	3	4
Wk. 1	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Wk. 2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Wk. 3	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Wk. 4	26	27	28	29	30		

- Apr. 6** Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Apr. 24** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(5)).

MAY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4						1	2
Wk. 1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Wk. 2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wk. 3	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
No hrgs.	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Wk. 4	31						

- May 1** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the **Floor nonfiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(6)).
- May 8** Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61(b)(7)).
- May 15** Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61 (b)(8)).  
Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61 (b)(9)).
- May 25** Memorial Day observed.
- May 26-29** **Floor Session only.** No committee may meet for any purpose except for Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(b)(10)).
- May 29** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(b)(11)).

\* Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.

JUNE							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4		1	2	3	4	5	6
Wk. 1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wk. 2	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Wk. 3	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Wk. 4	28	29	30				

- June 1** Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(b)(12)).
- June 15** Budget Bill must be passed by midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)(3)).
- June 25** Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 3 General Election ballot (Elections Code Sec. 9040).

JULY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4				1	2	3	4
Summer Recess	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Summer Recess	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Summer Recess	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Summer Recess	26	27	28	29	30	31	

- July 2** Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(13)).  
**Summer Recess** begins upon adjournment, provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(b)(2)).
- July 3** Independence Day observed.

AUGUST							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Summer Recess							1
Wk. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Wk. 2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
No Hrgs.	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
No Hrgs.	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
No Hrgs.	30	31					

- Aug. 3** Legislature reconvenes from **Summer Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(2)).
- Aug. 14** Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(14)).
- Aug. 17-31 Floor Session only.** No committee may meet for any purpose except Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(b)(15)).
- Aug. 21** Last day to **amend** bills on the Floor (J.R. 61(b)(16)).
- Aug. 31** Last day for each house to pass bills (Art. IV, Sec 10(c), J.R. 61(b)(17)).  
**Final Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(3)).

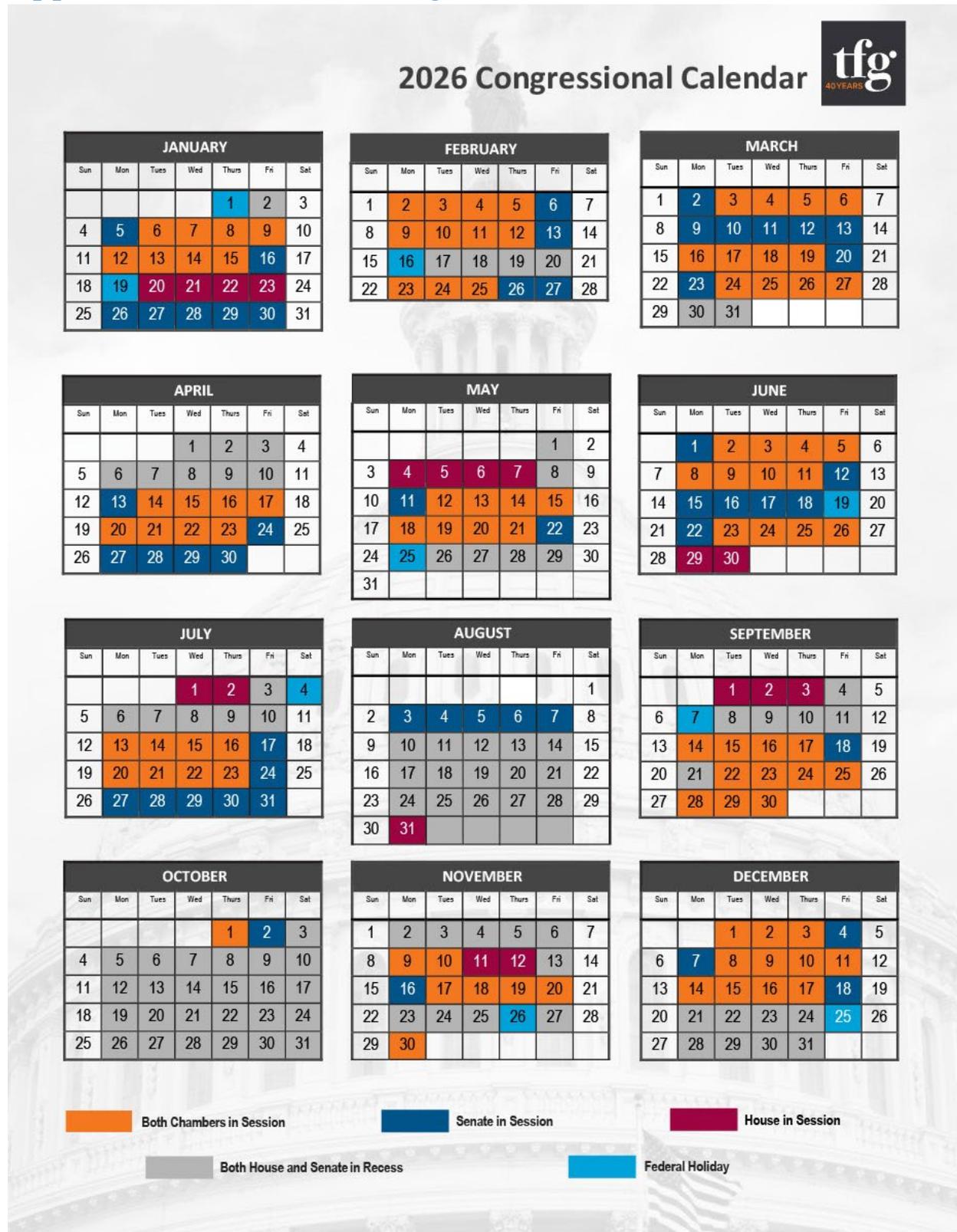
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**IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING INTERIM RECESS**

- 2026**
- Sept. 30 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1 and in the Governor's possession on or after Sept. 1 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(2)).
- Oct. 2 Bills enacted on or before this date take effect January 1, 2027. (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Nov. 3 General Election.
- Nov. 30 Adjournment *sine die* at midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- Dec. 7 2027-28 Regular Session convenes for Organizational Session at 12 noon. (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- 2027**
- Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).

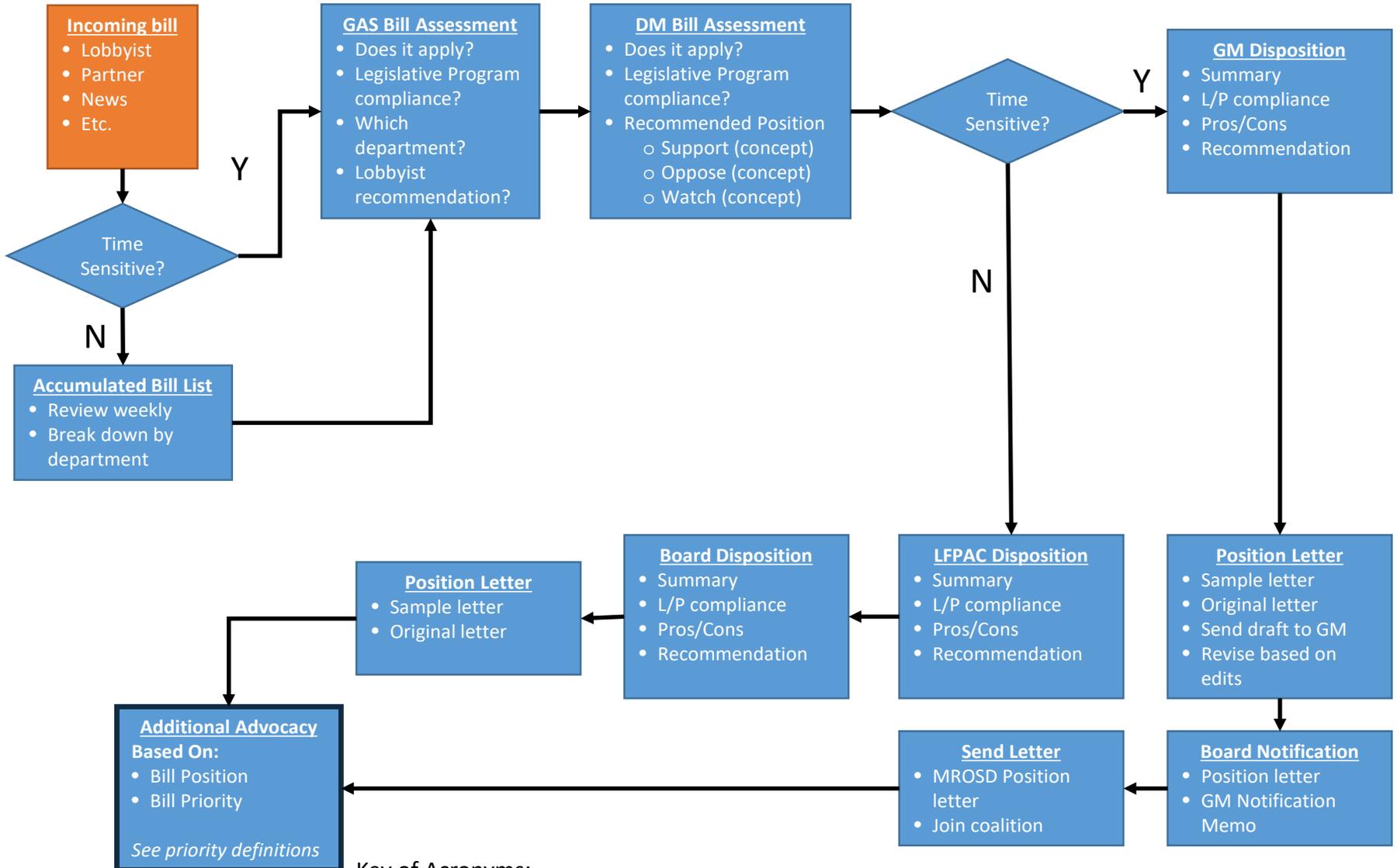
\*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.

# Appendix D: 2026 Federal Legislative Calendar



# MROSD Legislative Bill Disposition Process

## Board Policy 1.11



**Key of Acronyms:**

- GM: General Manager
- GAS: Governmental Affairs Specialist
- DM: Department Manager
- L/P: Legislative Program



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

# Memorandum

DATE: March 12, 2019  
 MEMO TO: Legislative, Finance, and Public Affairs Committee Members  
 FROM: Ana M. Ruiz, General Manager *AMR*  
 SUBJECT: Legislative Actions Update

## BACKGROUND

Board Policy 1.11 titled “Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy,” Section 2.0b, provides the General Manager the ability to take position on pending legislation in time-sensitive situations. More specifically:

- b. When time is so short that neither the full Board nor LFPAC can be convened to consider positions to support or oppose local, state or federal legislation, the General Manager is authorized to take a position on behalf of the District if the legislation:
  - i. Is related to the District’s mission; AND
  - ii. Would directly impact the District’s business, such as project delivery, operations, finances, legal authority, or other District responsibilities; AND
  - iii. The position being taken is consistent/inconsistent with existing District policy, past action, or District Strategic Plan; OR
  - iv. The legislation carries other considerations that make it contrary to the District’s interests.

In such instances, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose the legislation at or before the next Board meeting.

## DISCUSSION

On behalf of the District, the General Manager has taken the following time-sensitive action:

- **SB 45 (Allen): Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020.**

**Action:** At the behest of the statewide Wildlife Corridors Working Group and open space legislative consultants, Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and signed onto a group letter addressed to the Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on March 6, 2019, ahead of their March 12 hearing.

**Bill Summary:** Would enact the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of \$4,300,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects to restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources.

**Consistency with Legislative Program:**

- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Cap and Trade/Climate-related Funding:** The District supports efforts to emphasize and increase the recognition for the use of natural and working land (NWL) for the purposes of carbon sequestration and subsequent allocations of Cap and Trade funding. With the passage of SB 32 (Pavely, 2016) there is increased pressure to not only eliminate sources of greenhouse gas generation, but also find ways to capture emissions as well. This further promotes the recognition of the region's greenbelt as its "life support system."
- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Watershed Protection:** The District supports legislative or regulatory efforts that enhance the ability to protect watershed land, as well as restore and maintain associated habitats.
- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Wildlife Corridors:** The District supports efforts to bring greater funding opportunities and permit streamlining to conservation related to wildlife corridors.
- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Regional Benefits:** The District supports efforts to work with regional and statewide partners to ensure that relevant statewide funding sources are optimized and made available for Bay Area needs, and to ensure that underserved communities in the region benefit from these state resources.
- **Natural Resources Protection and Restoration #8** – Supports wildfire management to become a more natural component of the ecosystem, and minimize negative effects on the community and environment.
- **Natural Resources Protection and Restoration #14b** – Forest health programs that reduce GHG emissions through fuel reduction.
- **Natural Resources Protection and Restoration #14c** – Expands funding for wildlife corridor projects that improve wildlife habitat connectivity.

**AB 209 (Limón): Parks: environmental education: grant program.**

**Action:** At the behest of the California State Parks Foundation, Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and signed onto a group letter to the Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on March 5, 2019, ahead of their March 12 hearing.

**Bill Summary:** Would require the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish the Outdoor Equity Grants Program, to increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences at state parks and other public lands where outdoor environmental education programs take place. The bill would require the director to, among other things, give priority for funding to outdoor environmental education programs that primarily provide outreach to and serve students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, or pupils of limited English proficiency, as provided.

**Consistency with Legislative Program:**

- **District Priority:** Every Kid in a Park Initiative: The District supports national and state efforts to mobilize children and parents to visit and enjoy America's outdoor spaces to encourage the next generation to discover America's public lands and waters.

Prepared by: Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Specialist

Example

2026 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE  
Revised 9-29-25

DEADLINES

JANUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2	3
Wk. 1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wk. 2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Wk. 3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Wk. 4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Jan. 1** Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 5** Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
- Jan. 10** Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- Jan. 16** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(1)).
- Jan. 19** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed.
- Jan. 23** Last day for any committee to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year. (J.R. 61(b)(2)).  
Last day to submit **bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Jan. 31** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c), J.R. 61(b)(3)).

FEBRUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wk. 2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Wk. 3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Wk. 4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

- Feb. 16** Presidents' Day observed.
- Feb. 20** Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(b)(4), J.R. 54(a)).

MARCH							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wk. 2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Wk. 3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Wk. 4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Spring Recess	29	30	31				

- Mar. 26** **Spring Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Mar. 30** Cesar Chavez Day observed.

APRIL							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Spring Recess				1	2	3	4
Wk. 1	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Wk. 2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Wk. 3	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Wk. 4	26	27	28	29	30		

- Apr. 6** Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Apr. 24** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(5)).

MAY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4						1	2
Wk. 1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Wk. 2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wk. 3	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
No hrs.	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Wk. 4	31						

- May 1** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the Floor **nonfiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(6)).
- May 8** Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61(b)(7)).
- May 15** Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61 (b)(8)).  
Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61 (b)(9)).
- May 25** Memorial Day observed.
- May 26-29** **Floor Session only.** No committee may meet for any purpose except for Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(b)(10)).
- May 29** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(b)(11)).

\* Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.

**2026 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE  
Revised 9-29-25

JUNE							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4		1	2	3	4	5	6
Wk. 1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wk. 2	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Wk. 3	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Wk. 4	28	29	30				

**June 1** Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(b)(12)).**June 15** Budget Bill must be passed by midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)(3)).**June 25** Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 3 General Election ballot (Elections Code Sec. 9040).

JULY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4				1	2	3	4
Summer Recess	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Summer Recess	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Summer Recess	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Summer Recess	26	27	28	29	30	31	

**July 2** Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(13)).**Summer Recess** begins upon adjournment, provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(b)(2)).**July 3** Independence Day observed.

AUGUST							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Summer Recess							1
Wk. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Wk. 2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
No Hrgs.	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
No Hrgs.	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
No Hrgs.	30	31					

**Aug. 3** Legislature reconvenes from **Summer Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(2)).**Aug. 14** Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(14)).**Aug. 17-31 Floor Session only.** No committee may meet for any purpose except Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(b)(15)).**Aug. 21** Last day to **amend** bills on the Floor (J.R. 61(b)(16)).**Aug. 31** Last day for each house to pass bills (Art. IV, Sec 10(c), J.R. 61(b)(17)).**Final Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(3)).**IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING INTERIM RECESS****2026**

- Sept. 30 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1 and in the Governor's possession on or after Sept. 1 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(2)).
- Oct. 2 Bills enacted on or before this date take effect January 1, 2027. (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Nov. 3 General Election.
- Nov. 30 Adjournment *sine die* at midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- Dec. 7 2027-28 Regular Session convenes for Organizational Session at 12 noon. (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).

**2027**

- Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).

\*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

**MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT  
LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Administrative Office  
5050 El Camino Real  
Los Altos, CA 94022

**Tuesday, November 4, 2025**

*The Board of Directors conducted this meeting in accordance with  
California Government Code section 54953.*

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Gleason called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 10:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Craig Gleason, Karen Holman, Margaret MacNiven

Members absent: None

Staff present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Chief Financial Officer Stefan Jaskulak, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria, Executive Assistant/Deputy District Clerk Shaylynn Nelson, Governmental Affairs Program Manager Joshua Hugg, Public Affairs Specialist I Eleanor Raab, Public Affairs Specialist III Natalie Jolly, and Public Affairs Manager Lori Low

Chair Gleason announced that the public has the opportunity to comment on the agenda, and the opportunity to listen to this meeting through the internet or via telephone. This information can be found on the meeting agenda, which was physically posted at the District's Administrative Office, and on the District website.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Director Holman moved, and Director MacNiven seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0**

**Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee  
November 4, 2025**

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Public comment opened at 10:31 a.m.

Deputy District Clerk Shaylynn Nelson reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 10:31 a.m.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**1. Approve the revised May 20, 2025 and July 15, 2025 Legislative, Funding, And Public Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes**

Public comment opened at 10:31 a.m.

Ms. Nelson reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 10:31 a.m.

**Motion:** Director MacNiven moved, and Director Holman seconded the motion to approve the revised May 20, 2025 and July 15, 2025 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs committee meeting minutes.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0**

**2. Draft 2026 Legislative Program (R-25-136)**

Governmental Affairs Program Manager Joshua Hugg presented. General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, General Manager Ana Ruiz, and Public Affairs Manager Lori Low assisted with answering questions.

Director Holman inquired what the definition is for the term “statewide significance” in Goal 1.

Mr. Hugg stated it is not a detailed definition, but it is the recognition of the conservation value and importance to biodiversity of the specified area. He explained Assembly Bill (AB) 948 that is focused on Coyote Valley was the first area of statewide significance created in the state of California.

Director Holman asked whether the District should promote a legislator to pursue defining the criteria for the term “statewide significance” to provide clarity for agencies seeking funding.

Mr. Hugg responded that it would be a long and political process to obtain a definition. In the meantime, the District is proceeding in the same manner as the District’s counterparts in highlighting the significance of the local region for conservation and biodiversity to leverage future funding.

Chair Gleason inquired if there are potential downsides to a formal definition in terms of regulation and oversight.

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General Counsel Hilary Stevenson stated it is difficult to predict the unintended consequences but there is the potential that areas deemed to be of “statewide significance” could be regulated differently in the future.

Mr. Hugg suggested that there may be less regulation for natural resource restoration and enhancement projects in areas of “statewide significance” since the state’s current trajectory is to reduce permitting barriers for restoration and climate resilience work.

Director Holman expressed concern that Goal 2 regarding CEQA streamlining and statutory exemptions does not include language to address the misuse or abuse of CEQA. She expressed her preference for stronger language to this section.

Mr. Hugg asked and received confirmation that Director Holman’s request was directed towards the first portion of Goal 2 to restore the Senate Bill (SB) 35 language back into SB 131.

Chair Gleason asked and received confirmation that Director Holman was requesting the reintroduction of the environmental protections which were removed from the bill as well as ensuring the District continues to make conscientious decisions about CEQA exemptions.

Mr. Hugg stated that the District can prioritize Assemblymember Connolly’s bill, which seeks to remedy the issues found in SB 131. Mr. Hugg will return in the spring with a list of recommended bills to support, including Assemblymember Connolly’s bill.

Chair Gleason stressed the importance of the District having a clear understanding of how to navigate projects when a CEQA exemption applies given high levels of scrutiny.

Ms. Ruiz stated that she, along with the General Counsel and Mr. Hugg, will clarify the CEQA streamlining and statutory exemptions language when the report is presented to the Board of Directors.

Director Holman requested that the legislation for Goal 3 to promote equitable public access incorporate access for people with varying physical abilities.

Mr. Hugg stated that the District works with a statewide coalition to provide equitable public access. He noted the efforts are targeted towards both capital projects and programmatic funding.

Public comment opened at 11:21 a.m.

Ms. Nelson reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 11:21 a.m.

Director Holman provided additions to the motion to include clarifying language on the statewide significance regarding SB 131 and the General Manager’s suggestion of including the CEQA streamlining and statutory exemptions language to the report that will be presented to the full Board.

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**Motion:** Director Holman moved, and Director MacNiven seconded the motion to forward the recommendation to the Board of Directors for approval of the 2026 Legislative Program, with the following additions:

- 1) Clarify SB 131 CEQA streamlining and statutory exemptions language in the Board report.
- 2) Clarify language in the Board report regarding the term “statewide significance.”

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0**

**3. Midpen Signature Event (R-25-137)**

Public Affairs Specialist I Eleanor Raab presented. General Manager Ana Ruiz and Public Affairs Specialist III Natalie Jolly assisted with answering questions.

Director MacNiven suggested that children should be the target audience and promoted the idea of organizing a simple event.

Director Holman inquired whether \$30,000 is sufficient for the event planned. She expressed a preference for an event that is experiential. She discouraged tabling events, panel discussions, and booths, which appeal more to people with an existing interest rather than drawing in a new audience. She suggested a focus on immersive experiences, such as showing a film, followed by a hike or visit to a certain area of a preserve. Additionally, she suggested that a signature event occur each year, if possible, with the event rotating between bayside, coastside, and Skyline locations.

Public comment opened at 11:52 a.m.

Ms. Nelson reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 11:52 a.m.

Chair Gleason suggested collaborating with docents to create engaging activities for the event. He suggested poster sessions where members of the public could engage with staff who work on or design programs, including the trail crew. He recommended working with partners, such as the Newt Patrol, to design an activity rather than a table event. He suggested a shuttle from Johnston Ranch to Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve for a docent-led hike if feasible.

Public Affairs Specialist III Natalie Jolly stated the District previously held the Coastside Family Festival, which included a hike at a nearby preserve. She explained it was immensely successful and staff can consider ways to connect attendees to a nearby preserve. She noted that booths are a great resource and give a platform to the District’s partners, but staff would consider how to make the booths experiential. Additionally, she noted that staff does believe that \$30,000 is a sufficient budget.

Director MacNiven suggested including an educational component with information specific to the event location, such as the name of native plants. She further suggested that staff can recommend applications for the public to download to help identify plants on their own.

No vote required.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Gleason adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 12:00 p.m.

Shaylynn Nelson, Deputy District Clerk