



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

March 12, 2025
Board Meeting 25-08

SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

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

DRAFT MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT – STUDY SESSION

President Cyr called the special meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to order at 5:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Craig Gleason, Karen Holman, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Yoriko Kishimoto, and Margaret MacNiven

Members Absent: Curt Riffle

Staff Present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Counsel II Egan Hill, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria, and Executive Assistant/Deputy District Clerk Shaylynn Nelson

President Cyr 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.

1. (AB) 1234 Ethics Training

Richard Pio Roda, Founding Partner with Redwood Public Law, presented.

ADJOURNMENT

President Cyr adjourned the special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 7:00 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

President Cyr called the regular meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to order at 7:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Craig Gleason, Karen Holman, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Yoriko Kishimoto, Margaret MacNiven, and Curt Riffle

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/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria, Senior Planner Tina Hugg, Planner III Ashley Mac, Capital Projects Field Manager Bryan Apple, Skyline Area Superintendent Chris Barresi and Matt Anderson Visitor Services Manager/Chief Ranger

President Cyr 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.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

General Counsel Hilary Stevenson reported the Board met in closed session on February 26, 2025, and no reportable action was taken.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Public comment opened at 7:11 p.m.

The following people spoke in favor of allowing the extended Girouard family to reside at Rhus Ridge:

- Devin Schroeder
- Marianne Schroeder
- Tom Rees
- Jeremiah Girouard
- Jennifer Rees

Public comment closed at 7:23 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7-0-0

CONSENT CALENDAR

Public comment opened at 7:27 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 7:27 p.m.

Motion: Director Riffle moved, and Director Gleason seconded the motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7-0-0

- 1. Approve the February 26, 2025 Board meeting minutes**
- 2. Approve Claims Report**
- 3. Amend the Contract with Ecological Concerns, Inc. for Grant-Funded Forest Health and Ecosystem Resiliency Work (R-25-28)**

General Manager's Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to amend the contract with Ecological Concerns, Inc., of Santa Cruz, California to increase the base contract amount by \$800,000 for vegetation management services, for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$1,400,000, and extend the contract term by one year to July 1, 2026.

- 4. Amendment to Site Rental Agreement with Communication & Control, Inc. for Tomita Hill and McQueen Ridge Tower (R-25-29)**

General Manager's Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to amend a communications lease exchange with Communication and Control, Inc. to add the McQueen Ridge Radio Tower site for a monthly rental cost of \$1,411 with an annual escalator of 3% effective each January 1, plus an increase of \$150 per month for utilities, for a total 25-year, not-to-exceed amount of \$845,000, if all extensions are executed.

- 5. Award of Contract for Construction Services for the Drilling of an Agricultural Water Well in La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (R-25-30)**

General Manager's Recommendations:

1. Authorize an award of contract to Pitcher Services, LLC., of East Palo Alto, CA for a not-to-exceed base contract amount of \$89,800.
2. Authorize a contingency of 15% in the amount of \$13,470 to be reserved for unanticipated issues, bringing the total not-to-exceed contract to \$103,270.

- 6. Approval of an Agreement with Maze & Associates to provide Financial Auditing Services for three years to cover Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 through FY2027-28, for a Not-To-Exceed Total Amount of \$142,013 (R-25-31)**

Controller's Recommendation: Appoint Maze & Associates as the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's financial auditor for FY2024-25 through FY2027-28 and authorize the General Manager to execute a three-year contract and engagement letter agreement for a not-to-exceed amount of \$142,013.

7. Legislative Position Recommendations (R-25-32)

General Manager's Recommendation: Approve the recommended list of legislative positions for the 2025 state legislative session.

BOARD BUSINESS**8. Approval of the Hawthorns Area Plan Public Access Working Group Recommendations with Slight Modifications (R-25-33)**

Planner III Ashley Mac and Senior Planner Tina Hugg presented the item.

Director Kersteen-Tucker commented she would like to hear from her colleagues on whether the parking should be phased noting that she is considering that it not be phased.

Director Kishimoto suggested that as part of the CEQA process, it should be clarified that Segment 18 requires visitors to stay on the trail.

Ms. Mac stated that the District's Trail Policy emphasizes staying on the trails and leaving no trace. However, signs could be added to segment #18 to encourage people to stay on the trail.

Director Kishimoto expressed that her preference would be phased parking.

Director MacNiven conveyed a preference to remove the trail connector between trail #18 and the Sweet Springs Trail.

Director Gleason indicated a preference for keeping options open with parking and trail connections. He advised staff to consider making trail 18 more narrow if it is hiking only to reduce impacts to the meadow and the view.

Director Holman echoed Director Gleason's comments and favored studying the phased parking approach and keeping the Sweet Springs connector trail. Additionally, she noted that the signs indicating to stay on trail for segment 18 are critically important since it is a small site, and the focus should be on the ecological sensitivity.

Public comment opened at 8:06 p.m.

The following people expressed concern for the Hawthorns Area Plan Public Access Working Group (PAWG) recommendations:

- Linda Olson
- Elizabeth Weigen
- Leslie Kriese
- Kristi Corley

The following people expressed support for the Hawthorns PAWG recommendations:

- Rachel Oslund
- Jeff Greenfield

Public comment closed at 8:23 p.m.

Director Kishimoto commented that her preference would be for a narrow trail and not the standard 4-foot trail and if the Board is interested the motion can be amended.

President Cyr commented that he preferred staff to conduct a thorough analysis.

Director Kersteen-Tucker agreed with President Cyr and emphasized the importance of maintaining some flexibility. She also stated that she reconsidered that parking approach and now supports the phased parking option.

Director Gleason commented that he raised the trail issue as a point of flexibility. He noted that when Mr. Apple and the team assess steep areas or those with significant visual or environmental impacts, they should have the flexibility to make recommendations. However, he did not feel it was necessary to prescribe those decisions for them.

Director Holman requested that CEQA analysis consider that option 10 is less steep and would require less, or no retaining walls.

Motion: Director Riffle moved, and Director MacNiven seconded the motion to:

1. Approve the Hawthorns Area Public Access Working Group's (PAWG's) recommendations with slight modifications supported by the Board of Directors (Board) at the February 26, 2025 Special Meeting and direct the General Manager to incorporate them into the public access component of the Hawthorns Area Plan. The complete Hawthorns Area Plan will be developed in the next phase of work and brought back to the Board for consideration prior to initiation of environmental review.
2. Determined that the Hawthorns Area PAWG has fulfilled its charge and direct the General Manager to dissolve the group and keep members on the project notification list to solicit their individual input as part of future Committee and Board meetings on the project.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7-0-0

President Cyr called for a recess at 8:34 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 8:38 p.m. All Board members present.

9. Informational Ranger Public Safety Report for 2024 (R-25-34)

Visitor Services Manager/Chief Ranger Matt Anderson presented.

Public comment opened at 9:25 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 9:25 p.m.

No Board action required.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

Director Riffle provided an update of the March 11, 2024 Board Appointee Evaluation Committee meeting.

B. Staff Reports

Mr. Malone provided an update on Bear Creek Stables.

Ms. Ruiz provided an update of the upcoming meetings she will be attending.

C. Director Reports

Director MacNiven reported that she and Director Kersteen-Tucker attended a Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council (PMAC) meeting on April 11, 2025.

Director Kersteen-Tucker reported that she along with President Cyr attended the State of Valley Conference on March 7, 2025.

Director Gleason reported that he attended a Santa Clara County Special District Association meeting on March 3, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

President Cyr adjourned the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Stephanie Gross, Deputy District Clerk
Maria Soria, MMC, District Clerk