



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

June 25, 2025
Board Meeting 25-18

REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

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

DRAFT MINUTES

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 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Craig Gleason, Yoriko Kishimoto, Margaret MacNiven, and Curt Riffle

Members Absent: Karen Holman, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker

Staff Present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria, Executive Assistant/Deputy District Clerk Stephanie Gross, Grants Program Manager Carol Schimke, Land & Facilities Manager Brandon Stewart, and Land Stewardship and Trails Manager Michael Gorman

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. This information can be found on the meeting agenda, which was physically posted at the District's Administrative Office, and on the District website.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Public comment opened at 7:00 p.m.

District Clerk Maria Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 7:00 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0-0 (Absent Director Holman and Director Kersteen-Tucker)

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDA

- Climate Program Update and Scope of Strategic Plan for Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change (SPARCC)

CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Holman arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Public comment opened at 7:04 p.m.

Ms. Soria stated that Jessica Tseng had requested to speak on Agenda Item # 5, but she was not in attendance virtually.

Public comment closed at 7:04 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0-0 (Absent Director Kersteen-Tucker)

1. **Approve the June 11, 2025 Board meeting minutes**
2. **Approve Claims Report**
3. **Establish the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Tax Levy for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Measure AA General Obligation Bonds - Series 2015A, Series 2018, and Series 2024 (R-25-82)**

General Manager's Recommendation: Adopt three Resolutions of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, one each for San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties, to establish an ad valorem property tax levy of \$1.40 per \$100,000 in assessed value (or \$0.0014 per \$100) for the Measure AA General Obligation Bonds – Series 2015A, Series 2018 and Series 2024. The District Controller has reviewed the calculation and concurs with the proposed rate of levy for FY26.

4. **Authorization to Transfer \$1.5 Million from Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Savings to the Committed for Infrastructure Reserve (R-25-83)**

General Manager's Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to transfer \$1.5 Million into the Committed for Infrastructure Reserve to pre-fund upcoming large-scale infrastructure projects.

5. Selection of trail names and use designations for four La Honda Phase II trail segments in La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (R-25-84)General Manager's Recommendations:

As unanimously affirmed by the Planning and Natural Resources Committee:

1. Name new trail segments in La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve as follows:
 - Segment 1 – Lonely Forest Trail
 - Segment 2 – Lone Madrone Trail
 - Segment 3 – Western Meadowlark Trail
 - Segment 4 – Coho Vista Trail
2. Designate the following uses for the new trail segments:
 - Segment 1 – Multi-use, No Dogs
 - Segment 2 – Hikers and Equestrians, No Dogs
 - Segment 3 – Multi-use, No Dogs
 - Segment 4 – Multi-use, No Dogs
 - All trails – On-trail use only
 - Redesignate an approximately 0.9-mile segment of Harrington Creek Trail between the Sears Ranch Parking Area and Segment 1 as Multi-Use

BOARD BUSINESS**6. Grants Program Update (R-25-85)**

Grants Program Manager Carol Schimke presented and Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak assisted answering questions.

Director Holman suggested that Ms. Schimke and Governmental Affairs Program Manager Josh Hugg work together to identify existing legislation and explore potential legislation that the Board could help promote to encourage grant funding.

Director Riffle shared an example of a successful collaboration with Mr. Hugg involving Assemblymember Berman noting that after a series of calls encouraged by Mr. Hugg, the District was ultimately able to secure \$8M for the Cloverdale Ranch acquisition. While he is unsure if the calls directly influenced the outcome, the result was positive. He added that, as Director Holman alluded to, if there are similar opportunities arise in the future, the Board is willing to assist in such efforts.

Director Kishimoto noted that the upcoming Science Symposium would provide a great opportunity for emerging grant opportunities.

Director Riffle expressed his disappointment that the last round of the grantmaking program did not yield any potential grantees for science-focused grants. He noted his interest in seeing what efforts will be made to attract more proposals in this area.

Ms. Schimke noted a number of strategies that she plans to put in place to expand outreach to academic institutions to increase the likelihood of receiving science-focused grant proposals.

Public comment opened at 7:54 p.m.

District Clerk Maria Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 7:54 p.m.

No formal Board action was required.

7. Partnership Agreement with San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School to Complete Resource Management, Vegetation Management, and Maintenance Projects (R-25-84)

Facilities and Fleet Manager Brandon Stewart and Land Stewardship and Trails Manager Michael Gorman presented.

Director Holman noted that the last two success criteria outlined on page 3 of the board report are unclear. She suggested revising the language to make them more concrete and clearer.

Public comment opened at 8:20 p.m.

District Clerk Maria Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 8:20 p.m.

Director Holman commented that it would be helpful to be assured that the language for the success criteria will be made more concrete and clearer.

Mr. Stewart confirmed and noted that the agreement includes more detailed language.

Motion: Director Gleason moved, and Director Holman seconded the motion to:

1. Authorize the General Manager to enter into a Partnership Agreement with the San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School for a not-to-exceed amount of \$300,000 in Fiscal Year 2025-26.
2. Authorize the General Manager to extend the agreement for three additional consecutive years, if the program achieves specific success criteria, at an annual cost of up to \$300,000 for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$1,200,000 over four years.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0-0 (Absent Director Kersteen-Tucker)

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

None.

B. Staff Reports

Ms. Ruiz reported that on June 23, staff, along with Director Holman and Director Kersteen-Tucker, met with OneShoreline Special District to learn about a potential funding measure they may place on the 2026 ballot.

Public Affairs Manager Lori Low reported that a featured article about the District's efforts to improve access at the Bear Creek Redwoods ran in the June 25 Mercury News.

C. Director Reports

Director MacNiven reported that she joined the meeting festivities for the hike Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga held on June 21 at Monte Bello Open Space Preserve.

Director Riffle reported that Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga is hosting a series of five hikes for Santa Clara County District 5, with the first held at Monte Bello Open Space Preserve. Approximately 40 participants joined the three-mile hike along the Stevens Creek Nature Trail loop. He noted that several staff and docents supported the coordination of the event. In addition, he said it was a diverse group, with many participants visiting Monte Bello and the District's preserves for the first time.

Director Gleason reported visiting El Serreno Open Space Preserve to observe the fire resiliency work, noting significant progress and improvement in the area. He also shared he met with the Friends of Bear Creek Stables at the Alma parking lot on June 22, where they brought a couple of horses. He announced that he will miss the July 9 board meeting. Additionally, he reported that he has two upcoming District volunteer events: trail maintenance at Mt. Umunhum on Friday and yellow star thistle removal at Cherry Creek on Saturday.

Director Cyr reported that the Board held a Media Training on June 24, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

President Cyr adjourned the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Maria Soria, MMC
District Clerk