



REGULAR MEETING

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

DRAFT MINUTES

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

President Kersteen-Tucker called the regular meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Director Holman

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, Executive Assistant/Deputy District Clerk Nalini Pillay, Public Affairs Specialist III Natalie Jolly, Senior Capital Project Manager Paul Kvam, Senior Resource Management Specialist David Liefert

President Kersteen-Tucker announced that this meeting is held in person only. This information can be found on the meeting agenda, which was physically posted at the District's Administrative Office and on the District website.

President Kersteen-Tucker dedicated the meeting in memory of Doug McConnell. Mr. McConnell once told the District that he had two long-held passions, nature and storytelling. He was best known for his long running series *Bay Area Backroads and Open Road with Doug McConnell*, which featured many District projects, people, and preserves. Mr. McConnell continues to live on through these stories and in the landscapes for all to enjoy.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

President Kersteen-Tucker reported that the Board met in closed session on January 21, and no reportable action was taken.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Public comment opened at 7:03 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 7:03 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0-0 (Director Holman absent)

CONSENT CALENDAR

Public comment opened at 7:04 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 7:04 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0-0 (Director Holman absent)

- 1. Approve the January 14, 2026 Board meeting minutes**
- 2. Approve Claims Report**
- 3. Appointment of the Board of Directors Standing Committee Members and Representative to Various Bodies, Including the Governing Board of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Financing Authority, for Calendar Year 2026 (R-26-08)**

Board President's Recommendations: Approve the Board President's appointments to Board Standing Committees and other bodies, including the Governing Board of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Financing Authority, and the compensable status for attendance at these meetings.

- 4. Contract Amendment with Sicular Environmental Consulting and Natural Lands Management to authorize assignment of the contract and provide additional technical supports for the La Honda Forest Health Project (R-26-09)**

General Manager's Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to amend the contract with Sicular Environmental Consulting and Natural Lands Management of Berkeley, California to authorize the assignment of contracted forest assessment and planning services for the La

Honda Forest Health Project to Sicular Environmental Consulting LLC (a new organized consulting entity) and provide additional technical support for a feasibility study of the Northside Road in the amount of \$37,643, bringing the total contract not-to-exceed amount to \$224,936.

5. Award of Contract to Community Initiatives (the fiscal sponsor of Latino Outdoors) to provide Community Engagement Events for Two Years (R-26-10)

General Manager's Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Community Initiatives for an amount not-to-exceed \$88,000 over a two-year span to provide engaging outdoor experiences for diverse participants at various open space preserves and via online virtual presentations.

6. Contract Amendment with Ascent Environmental for Permitting Support to Implement the Purisima Comprehensive Use and Management Plan (R-26-11)

General Manager's Recommendations:

1. Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract amendment with Ascent Environmental for permitting support to implement the Purisima Comprehensive Use and Management Plan within the San Mateo Coastal Zone in the amount of \$60,009, bringing the contract base amount to a not-to-exceed total of \$202,184.
2. Authorize an additional 15% contingency in the amount of \$9,001 to cover unforeseen tasks and unanticipated issues beyond the current scope.
3. Authorize a separate contract allowance of \$10,000 for additional project management, application review and consultations with the permitting agency to avoid potential delays, if needed, bringing the not-to-exceed contract amount to \$262,511.

BOARD BUSINESS

7. Community Partnership Highlight: Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (R-26-12)

Director Holman arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Public Affairs Specialist III Natalie Jolly and Associate Director Neeraj Gupta with Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired presented. Clinic Director Marlu Treuhaft-Silva assisted in answering questions.

Public comment opened at 7:48 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 7:48 p.m.

No Board action required.

8. Award of Contract for Agricultural Water Development Project in La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (R-26-13)

Senior Capital Project Manager Paul Kvam and Senior Resource Management Specialist David Liefert presented. Assistant General Manager Brian Malone assisted in answering questions.

Director McNiven asked about the depth of the well.

Mr. Kvam responded that the well depth is approximately 250 feet, but would need to confirm with staff.

Director Holman asked about the size of the solar array panels.

Mr. Kvam stated that he would confirm the size of the solar array panels and report back the information, and that the solar array is no larger than the size of the well foundation.

Public comment opened at 8:21 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 8:21 p.m.

Motion: Director Holman moved, and Director Riffle seconded the motion to authorize an award of contract to ECAST Engineering, Inc., of Oakland, CA for a base amount of \$64,001 plus a bid alternate amount of \$26,864, for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$90,865. Authorize a 15% contingency in the amount of \$13,630 to be reserved for unanticipated issues, bringing the total not-to-exceed contract amount to \$104,495.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7-0-0

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

None.

B. Staff Reports

General Manager Ana Ruiz reported that she, Director Riffle and Mr. Malone met recently with Silicon Valley Mountain Bikers Association. On January 26, she met with the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) President Gordon Clark. She further reported that she, Board President Kersteen-Tucker and Director MacNiven attended a meeting with the Farm Bureau. In addition, she reported that she is attending a tour of the Highway 17 project on January 29 with the Wildlife Conservation Board Executive Director and attending the Science & Stewardship Symposium on January 30.

Mr. Malone expressed support for the Board's recognition of Mr. McConnell and provided an update on Bear Creek Stables.

Director Holman commented that staff and the Board should be mindful of the timing for entering into an agreement when it is presented to the Board since it can impact their fundraising efforts.

C. Director Reports

Director Gleason reported that he met with the Silicon Valley Mountain Bikers Association and participated in a volunteer project at Hicks Creek Ranch. He also attended a tour led by POST featuring the Fisher Creek Wildlife Crossing.

Director Cyr reported that he attended the January 28, 2026 Santa Clara Valley Water Commission meeting.

Director Riffle reported that he will be attending the Science Symposium on Friday January 30, 2026.

Director Kishimoto reported that she attended the January 15, 2026 Bay Conservation and Development Commission and provided information on a mountain lion captured in the San Francisco area and released in the proximity of Santa Cruz mountains.

Director MacNiven reported that she attended the Farm Bureau meeting with President Kersteen-Tucker and Ms. Ruiz.

President Kersteen-Tucker reported that she presented at the Half Moon Bay City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kersteen-Tucker adjourned the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Nalini Pillay
Deputy District Clerk

Maria Soria
District Clerk, MMC