



REGULAR MEETING

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

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

*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 Kersteen-Tucker 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, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Margaret MacNiven, and Curt Riffle

Members Absent: Karen Holman and Yoriko Kishimoto

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 Shaylynn Nelson, Public Affairs Specialist I Eleanor Raab, and Public Affairs Specialist III Natalie Jolly

President Kersteen-Tucker 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 7:01 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 7:01 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Gleason moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0-0 (Directors Holman and Kishimoto absent)

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Introduction of Staff

- Alex Reep, Government Affairs Specialist I

Director Kishimoto arrived at 7:02 p.m.

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 Gleason seconded the motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

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

1. **Approve the January 28, 2026 Board meeting minutes**
2. **Approve Claims Report**
3. **Annual Ombudsperson Summary Report for Activities from January through December 2025 (R-26-14)**

General Manager's Recommendations:

1. Review and accept the annual report from the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Ombudspersons regarding Ombudsperson inquiries received in 2025.
2. Accept the resignation of Ombudsperson Kristen Yawitz.
3. Extend the term of Ombudsperson Lisa Zadek through December 2026.
4. **Contract Amendment with Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting to include surveys of Western Pond Turtle at Cherry Springs Pond in Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve as part of the Districtwide Survey and Assessment of Sensitive-Status Herpetofauna (Amphibians and Reptiles) Species (R-26-15)**

General Manager's Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract amendment with Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting in the amount of \$20,000 for additional biological consulting services at Cherry Springs Pond to support the Districtwide Herpetofauna and Aquatic Habitat Assessment project, for a new contract amount not-to-exceed \$267,282.

5. **Award of Contract for Microsoft Corporation Enterprise Agreement (R-26-16)**

General Manager's Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to enter into a 5-year Microsoft Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft Corporation via license service provider SHI International Corp through a cooperative purchasing agreement with the California Department of Technology to renew Microsoft licenses for an amount not-to-exceed \$871,919.

BOARD BUSINESS

6. Public Signature Event (R-26-17)

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

President Kersteen-Tucker expressed an interest in a bayside event that would also encourage coastside attendance and allow coastside participants to learn more about the District's bayside preserves.

Ms. Jolly noted that the biggest barrier to coastside participation is transportation, but staff can strategically consider transportation barriers and survey coastside participants to see what the District can do to make the event more appealing.

Director MacNiven expressed an interest in emphasizing the District's mission since the mission differentiates the District from other partners.

Director Gleason suggested highlighting the Purisima-to-the-Sea trail. He noted that even if the Purisima-to-the-Sea trail could not be part of the experiential aspect of the event, it would still be a good opportunity to create excitement for the trail.

Public comment opened at 7:38 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 7:38 p.m.

Director Riffle suggested that staff consider upcoming major events or themes to tie into the event, such as highlighting agriculture or wildlife corridors.

No vote required.

7. Revisions to the Board Policy 2.01 Guidelines for Board/Staff Working Relationship (R-26-18)

Assistant General Manager Brian Malone presented.

Director Kishimoto suggested either altering the language in the *Purpose* section of the policy or adding an asterisk to make it clear that the Board appointees do not report to the General Manager.

A majority of the Board concurred with Director Kishimoto's suggestion to add an asterisk to the policy.

Director Kishimoto expressed concern that the *Volunteer Related Interactions* section of the policy allows the General Manager to exclude Board member participation from certain projects. She requested that the language be changed to reflect that the General Manager may request a Board member to refrain from attending an event, but the decision would ultimately be left to the Board member.

Director Gleason expressed a preference for deferring to the General Manager to make the final decision, and suggested the General Manager is in the best position to determine if a Board member's presence presents a concern.

Director Riffle concurred with deferring to the General Manager's judgment. He explained that he wants to ensure that constituents and visitors are best served by the District and he would honor the General Manager's opinion if told that a Board member's presence would be a detraction.

President Kersteen-Tucker agreed with Director Riffle and noted that there are times when the District is specifically asking for the public's feedback and the Board of Directors (Board) will have an opportunity to weigh in later. She explained there is value in hearing the public's opinion without being influenced by a Board member's attendance, which changes the dynamic of the event.

Director MacNiven commented that she would like to believe she understands what she is doing and does not indirectly influence staff. She expressed optimism that staff or the General Manager would inform her if she overstepped bounds.

General Manager Ana Ruiz explained that while she would be willing to raise a concern with a Board member, staff has great deference for the Board. She noted that while she encourages and welcomes Board participation, there are rare instances when a Board member's presence could present an issue.

Director Kishimoto explained that while she does understand the power a Board member holds, she believes the decision should remain with the director. She stated the General Manager can make a request, but it should not be a requirement.

Public comment opened at 8:15 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 8:15 p.m.

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved and Director MacNiven seconded an amended motion to change the *Volunteer Related Interactions* section of the policy to reflect that, "The General Manager or designee may request that the participation in certain special events or projects be limited to only external community members...and will notify the Board of this request."

ROLL CALL VOTE: 2-4-0 (Motion Failed)

In Favor: Directors Kishimoto and MacNiven

Opposed: Directors Cyr, Gleason, Kersteen-Tucker, and Riffle

Absent: Director Holman

Motion: Director Riffle moved, and Director Gleason seconded the motion to approve the revisions to Board Policy 2.01, *Guidelines for Board-Staff Working Relationships*, with the added clarification of adding an asterisk in the *Purpose* section of the policy to indicate that Board appointees do not report to the General Manager.

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

8. Revisions to Board Policy 1.05 Board Correspondence (R-26-19)

General Manager Ana Ruiz provided opening remarks. District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria presented.

Public comment opened at 8:33 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 8:33 p.m.

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved, and Director Riffle seconded the motion to approve revisions to Board Policy 1.05, *Board Correspondence*.

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

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

None.

B. Staff Reports

General Manager Ana Ruiz reported meeting with the POST executive staff on February 10.

C. Director Reports

Director Gleason reported attending the Science and Stewardship Symposium on January 30. He also attended a volunteer trail work project at the Lost Trail at Windy Hill Open Space Preserve and a docent-led bike ride at El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve.

Director Riffle reported that he attended the Science and Stewardship Symposium and on February 3 he met with a Midpeninsula Ranger Peace Officer Association representative. He also attended the February 5 Board Workshop and the February 11 Right Relations training.

Director Kishimoto reported that she also attended the Science and Stewardship Symposium and the Right Relations training.

Director MacNiven and President Kersteen-Tucker reported attending the Science and Stewardship Symposium.

President Kersteen-Tucker proposed creating an ad hoc committee to look at both updating the Board Code of Conduct Policy and the Board President job description. She suggested Renne Public Management Group may also assist. A majority of the Board supported the creation of the ad hoc committee. In addition, she inquired if there was Board interest in a Brown Act discussion that included dialogue and scenarios, along with Board meeting parliamentary procedures (e.g., amending a motion). She suggested that this occur soon. General Counsel Hilary Stevenson stated that she will work with the General Manager to schedule the training as a supplement to last year's AB1234 training.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kersteen-Tucker adjourned the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Shaylynn Nelson, Deputy District Clerk
Maria Soria, MMC, District Clerk