



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

**MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT  
PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Administrative Office  
5050 El Camino Real  
Los Altos, CA 94022

**Tuesday, March 31, 2026**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Riffle called the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee to order at 1:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Jed Cyr, Yoriko Kishimoto, 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 Stefan Jaskulak, Executive Assistant/Deputy District Clerk Shaylynn Nelson, Management Analyst II Marie Lanka, Planner III Melissa Borgesi, Engineering & Construction Manager Scott Reeves, Skyline Area Superintendent Chris Barresi, and Senior Resources Management Specialist Coty Sifuentes-Winter

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Public comment opened at 1:01 p.m.

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

Public comment opened at 1:01 p.m.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**1. Approve the March 17, 2026 Planning and Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes.**

Public comment opened at 1:01 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 1:01 p.m.

**Motion:** Director Cyr moved, and Director Kishimoto seconded the motion to approve the March 17, 2026 Planning and Natural Resources Committee meeting minutes.

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

**2. Revised Design Alternatives for the La Honda Creek Parking and Trailhead Access Project Based on New Traffic Findings (R-26-41)**

General Manager Ana Ruiz provided opening remarks. Planner III Melissa Borgesi and Engineering & Construction Manager Scott Reeves presented. Skyline Area Superintendent Chris Barresi, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Senior Resources Management Specialist Coty Sifuentes-Winter assisted with answering questions.

Chair Riffle suggested including a PowerPoint slide with the original goals when staff presents the item to the Board of Directors (Board) at an upcoming study session.

Director Kishimoto suggested that, prior to the study session or the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) meeting, staff place story poles at the site to indicate the location of the proposed new driveway.

Chair Riffle inquired whether the District could consider ways to inform the public that there is additional parking a few miles down the road at the Windy Hill Portola Road lot.

Ms. Borgesi stated there are a few opportunities to inform the public, including posting information to the *Know Before You Go* website and potentially by posting an informational sign and staff can consider this further.

Director Cyr suggested implementing dynamic signage to alert prospective visitors when the parking lot is full.

Ms. Borgesi indicated staff has not previously researched dynamic signage for this site. She noted there may be space constraints to implement a sign large enough to be readable, but staff will consider it.

Chair Riffle inquired whether a warning sign would be added to alert drivers on the roadway of vehicles entering the parking lot.

Ms. Borgesi stated that signage is available indicating when vehicle are entering the roadway, along with a beacon that is triggered by cars approaching the roadway in the driveway. She noted that the beacon would primarily be used as a daytime flashing light, as the gate will be closed at night and vehicles will not trigger the sensor. She added that she will include an image of the warning sign in the study session presentation to the Board.

Chair Riffle requested collision data around sites D and E3.

Ms. Borgesi responded that staff can look into developing maps that reflect the collision data.

Director Kishimoto requested that the line of sight table on slide 13 be included in the staff report to the full Board, along with an explanation of the vegetation and sight distance standards.

Chair Riffle recommended clarifying the roadside parking approach when presenting it to the full Board. He noted that the focus should not necessarily be on where signage will be installed, rather that there will be signage in the area. He also inquired whether vehicles would be able to pull up to the gate and remain clear of traffic, particularly for permit holders waiting for a docent to arrive.

Ms. Borgesi explained that the original design factored in the stacking distance for vehicles, and staff can research this further.

Chair Riffle recommended clarifying the information on tree removal when presenting to the Board, specifically identifying how many trees will be removed for health reasons and how many will be removed to accommodate the driveway.

Director Kishimoto inquired whether staff can mark the trees in the field that would need to be removed.

Ms. Borgesi explained staff is still awaiting confirmation from an arborist to make a determination and staff can look into it further.

Chair Riffle suggested including examples of potential median designs in the presentation to the Board.

Director Kishimoto requested that additional information be presented at the Board study session on what the cross section would look like with the median and if there would be any potential impacts to bicyclists.

Public comment opened at 2:22 p.m.

Richard Booth spoke in favor of keeping the corridor scenic without streetlights and flashing beacons and advised that there are many traffic accidents in the area.

Public comment closed at 2:26 p.m.

Director Kishimoto expressed support for option 1 given that it utilizes an existing driveway and is tucked into the bluff area but noted that she could see the merits of both options.

Director Cyr expressed concern with the slope of option 1 and the significant grading that would be required. He noted there is also a question of soil quality related to the steep slope grade. He expressed support for option 2.

Chair Riffle expressed support for option 2 given the protection and ongoing use of the corrals, the short connection into the parking lot, and especially since use of the parking area would be limited to docent and permit activities. He further noted that option 2 has less site change than option 1 due to the gravel entrance into the parking lot.

Director Kishimoto further explained that her support for option 1 is also due to a large tree that would need to be removed to facilitate option 2.

Ms. Ruiz explained staff will investigate whether there is a way to avoid removing the tree for option 2.

Mr. Sifuentes-Winter explained that the tree in question is a Monterey Pine tree, which staff would like to remove regardless to support forest health. He noted it is a cultivar tree and is potentially affecting the genetics of rare species.

Chair Riffle expressed support for the General Manager's recommendations and noted that providing access is part of the District's mission and it is important to provide access to the area.

**Motion:** Director Kishimoto moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to forward revised design alternatives for Sites E3 and D to the full Board of Directors for review and discussion at a Board study session.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Riffle adjourned the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee at 2:43 p.m.

Shaylynn Nelson, Deputy District Clerk