



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Administrative Office
5050 El Camino Real
Los Altos, CA 94022

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

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

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Gleason called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 3:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Jed Cyr, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, and Craig Gleason

Members absent: None

Staff present: General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Acting General Manager Brian Malone, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria, Executive Assistant/Deputy District Clerk Stephanie Gross, Governmental Affairs Program Manager Joshua Hugg

Chair Gleason 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.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Cyr moved, and Director Kersteen-Tucker seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Public comment opened at 3:07 p.m.

Deputy District Clerk Stephanie Gross reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 3:07 p.m.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approve the May 16, 2024 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Public comment opened at 3:07 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 3:07 p.m.

Motion: Director Cyr moved, and Director Kersteen-Tucker seconded the motion to approve the May 16, 2024 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs committee meeting minutes.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

2. Draft 2025 Legislative Program (R-24-132)

Governmental Affairs Program Manager Joshua Hugg presented on the 2025 Draft Legislative Program (Program). He reviewed the Program's purpose and stated that the District reviews numerous pieces of proposed legislation each year, and most bills are considered on a case-by-case basis, and that the Program provides a publicly accessible, transparent and proactive summary of selected issues and the District's stance on them, as well as prompts staff and the Board of Directors to think about their work in policy terms, rather than just project execution, as well as promoting a higher degree of interdepartmental coordination and culture of continuous improvement. The Program is broken into several sections such as the legislative priorities, legislative policy positions, and regional and federal legislative priorities. Mr. Hugg then reviewed in detail the state level priorities grouped under the four goals according to the Board's Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives. The priorities are Climate Adaptation Strategy, Ecologically Sensitive Vegetation Management, Permit Streamlining and Cutting the Green Tape, Sustainable Patterns of Development, Equitable Public Access, Multimodal and Public Access Infrastructure, General Manager Purchasing Authority, State Funding, and Workforce Development. He then continued to review in detail the regional level priorities that include Self-Permitting for Local Permits, Plan Bay Area 2050, Regional Funding, Regional Collaboration, and Active Transportation Programs. Lastly, he noted that federal priorities are pursued in alignment with state priorities. If a federal connection exists, those issues will be addressed as well.

Director Kersteen-Tucker asked what progress has been made with San Mateo County regarding the Self-Permitting for Local Permits.

Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan explained that last year, the District received a master general permit from San Mateo County that allows the District to pursue projects on an annual basis without having to apply for individual permits and covers grading permits, coastal development permits, routine maintenance, small restoration projects, and some facility improvements.

Director Kersteen-Tucker asked about the next steps in the process for permitting with San Mateo County.

Ms. Chan stated that the Real Property and Planning departments are working together to pursue a similar permit for land acquisitions in terms of how they recognize the general plan conformance for land purchase projects as it currently requires individual projects to go to the Planning Commission. Staff is looking to streamline this process so it can be done at the staff level.

Chair Gleason asked if this was related to self-permitting from the Financial and Operational Sustainability Model (FOSM) and if there are additional items in progress now.

Ms. Chan explained that the master permit in San Mateo County is very specific and covers small scale routine maintenance projects. Staff worked with San Mateo County to expand the definition, and they now allow the District to cover some larger projects. However, it has limits.

Chair Gleason asked why wildlife corridors did not appear in the top-level priorities.

Mr. Hugg stated that it continues to be a priority for the District and there has been great progress, so rather than introduce additional legislation focused on wildlife crossings, the focus is to see how current programs unfold. There is a collaborative relationship between Caltrans and CDFW, both of which have recently created whole departments to evaluate wildlife corridors and barriers.

Public comment opened at 3:53 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 3:53 p.m.

Motion: Director Kersteen-Tucker moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors for approval of the 2025 Legislative Program, with any changes as requested by the committee.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gleason adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 3:53 p.m.

Stephanie Gross
Deputy District Clerk