



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

R-25-138

November 4, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 2

AGENDA ITEM

Draft Goals and Outcomes for the Strategic Plan for Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Receive a presentation on the process for developing the Strategic Plan for Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change (SPARCC) and provide feedback on the draft Goals and Outcomes.

SUMMARY

Resource Management Policy XVI – Climate Change (Climate Change Policy) calls for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) to “Prepare for climate change impacts and promote resilience for both natural and built environments.” In support of this policy, a contract was awarded in June 2025 under the General Manager’s authority to BluePoint Planning (BluePoint) to help develop the Strategic Plan for Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change (SPARCC). The SPARCC, which is under development, will articulate the goals, strategies, and actions to guide the District in preparing for and responding to climate impacts and will include success metrics and tools to support implementation and accountability. Draft Goals and Outcomes are now ready for review and comment by the Planning and Natural Resources Committee (PNR). The Goals and Outcomes will be brought to PNR again for final review along with the full draft SPARCC document in 2026.

BACKGROUND

The District’s Climate Program emerged in 2016 through agency-wide recognition that climate change presents a significant threat to the District’s mission, and that explicit policy direction, staffing, and action planning was needed to address that threat. Subsequent development of the Climate Change Policy (Resource Management Policy XVI) and Climate Action Plan, both approved by the District Board of Directors (Board) in 2018, set the District’s intentions for addressing these far-reaching issues.

The Climate Program consists of three branches: greenhouse gas emission reduction, carbon sequestration and storage, and resilience and adaptation. Progress on reducing operational greenhouse gas emissions has been steady and is reported to the Board biannually (the 2024 emissions report will be brought to the Board by the end of calendar year 2025), while land

acquisitions and various ecosystem management projects continue to expand and stabilize the vast stores of carbon held on District lands (Carbon Sequestration and Storage).

Resilience is the area in which the District has the most potential for new and impactful climate actions. In a moment when climate action at a national level is facing immense barriers to progress, state, local, and regional entities remain committed to this effort, recognizing that climate change affects not just lands and infrastructure, but also human health and operational capacity. Furthermore, researchers and policymakers have made it clear that appropriate management of natural landscapes is key for combatting climate change. By establishing the SPARCC, the District will set the guiding framework for: protecting and preserving the function of many interconnected systems, responding to emerging impacts, and preparing for the intensification of climate-driven events through organized agency-wide action.

DISCUSSION

In spring of 2025, staff solicited proposals and qualifications from firms to assist with the SPARCC and, under the General Manager's signing authority, a contract was awarded in June 2025 to BluePoint. BluePoint began with an "environmental scan" consisting of literature review, small group interviews, and a project team meeting to understand the context of climate action at the District. The literature review included documents, both internal and external, that could inform strategic direction and suggest best practices for addressing climate resilience at an agency-wide level. BluePoint interviewed management and executive staff to identify views of resilience, perceived opportunities and challenges, goals, and knowledge gaps. Findings from these interviews were then summarized and further expanded upon based on added input about the District's strengths and constraints related to climate action.

Following the environmental scan, BluePoint identified six themes reflecting the information gathered: operations, partnerships, capital development, leadership, landscape management, and access. These themes were subsequently refined internally into meaningful, feasible, and holistic goals. BluePoint then developed draft Goals and Outcomes that were reviewed by management and the project team and further revised. Goals describe a high-level intention, while Outcomes envision the desired successful outcome.

Proposed (Draft) Goals and Outcomes for the SPARCC

The draft Goals and Outcomes are listed in Attachment 1. At this meeting, the PNR Committee is asked to review and affirm or amend these draft Goals and Outcomes.

The Goals and Outcomes may continue to evolve following this meeting as other pieces of the SPARCC plan are developed. More specifically, BluePoint and the project team will next proceed to develop initial strategies and actions, and a prioritization system to organize the action list. This information, along with the final Goals and Outcomes, will be presented as a complete Plan to the PNR Committee in the spring of 2026 for review and input in preparation for a subsequent full Board review later that summer.

FISCAL IMPACT

The recommended action has no immediate fiscal impact.

The current fiscal year budget for project 80101- *Strategic Plan for Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change* contains sufficient funds for the development of the SPARCC document.

Costs associated with implementation of plan actions will be budgeted in future fiscal years as discrete projects or programmatic budget items.

PRIOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW

None

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. Individual actions undertaken as a result of the SPARCC will be reviewed and noticed as needed for CEQA compliance.

NEXT STEPS

The draft Goals and Outcomes will be revised based on comments provided by the PNR Committee and may continue to evolve as other pieces of the plan are developed. A list of strategies and actions and prioritization criteria are currently in development and will be refined into a draft Strategies and Actions table that will be presented to the PNR Committee on April/May of 2026. The expected timeline for the remainder of the project is as follows:

Date	Deliverable/Milestone
November 2025	Prepare the draft Strategies and Actions Table
January 2026	Prepare the draft Implementation Targets
March 2026	Prepare the 1 st draft SPARCC document
April-May 2026, date TBD	Present the draft SPARCC to PNR for comment
June-July 2026, date TBD	Present final SPARCC to full Board of Directors

Attachment(s)

1. Draft SPARCC Goals and Outcomes

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Prepared by/Contact person:

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Draft SPARCC Goals and Outcomes

1. Goal: Elevate a culture of climate resilience throughout Midpen to advance climate-ready, efficient, and effective operations.

Outcomes:

- The District understands the meaning, implication, and benefits of resilience and effectively applies a resilience lens to day-to-day work.
- The District embraces its role and responsibility for implementing actions in the SPARCC.

2. Goal: Grow and strengthen strategic partnerships to expand the District's reach and impact on climate resilience efforts.

Outcomes:

- The District works with partners in its land management efforts to holistically address resilience needs across jurisdictional borders.
- Local hazard and vulnerability data is shared between the District and other jurisdictions, agencies, and universities.

3. Goal: Strategically prioritize and scope projects to promote climate resilience for District land and infrastructure.

Outcomes:

- Decision-making processes include resilience considerations.
- Capital and operational projects are developed with resilience best practices.

4. Goal: Effectively manage landscapes and natural resources for optimal ecosystem function in the face of changing climatic conditions.

Outcomes:

- The District implements an adaptive landscape management approach that responds to emerging climatic changes.
- District lands strategically protect wildlife connectivity and foster healthy natural systems.

5. Goal: Foster community awareness of and safe and equitable access to Midpen preserves for improving physical and mental resilience to climate hazards.

Outcomes:

- District participation in local emergency response planning efforts supports visitor and community safety.
- District lands function as a platform and tool for increasing public awareness of climate change impacts and actions, including how to recreate safely during climate-driven weather events.