



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-17-66  
Meeting 17-12  
May 24, 2017

## STUDY SESSION

### AGENDA ITEM

Review of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation Area Service Plan and Commitments

### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Receive a presentation to review significant District commitments under the San Mateo Coastal Annexation Area Service Plan including a Case Study to understand how these commitments are being met. No Board action required.

### SUMMARY

The Board of Directors (Board) adopted the San Mateo Coastal Annexation Area (CAA) Service Plan (*Service Plan*) in June 2003 to establish the policies, guidelines, and commitments governing the activities and services provided in the 140,000-acres of coastal San Mateo County by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District). The San Mateo County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) approved the CAA in September 2004. The *Service Plan* is now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year of implementation. The overall target for acres of land protected is on schedule. Implementation of projects approved through the annual Action Plan and Budget process continues to focus on open space land purchases, conservation grazing, the protection of unique natural and scenic resources, stream habitat restoration, and with recent Measure AA voter approval, new public access opportunities. In addition, the District has also fostered partnerships and new relationships on the coast, secured grants and other funding to support the preservation and stewardship of, and careful introduction of public recreational use on coastal properties and working lands. All of this work occurs in recognition of the importance of agriculture in sustaining the local economy and in preserving the rural landscape of the San Mateo County coast.

This study session is an opportunity to provide a refresher on the *Service Plan* to the Board, discuss how the District has met and continues to meet the policies and commitments made for the coast, provide information on upcoming coastal projects, and discuss any remaining components of the *Service Plan* that need to be addressed. Finally, the study session presentation will include a discussion of La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve as a case study to illustrate how the District has applied the *Service Plan* to its work on the San Mateo coast.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Development of the *Service Plan***

By the 1990s, many organizations and agencies had expressed the need for increased stewardship of open space and agriculture in coastal San Mateo County by a local agency. The National Park Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and San Mateo County Parks indicated

they had limited capacity for this significant task, and local land trusts lacked the structure and resources to manage large open space preserves or public access on a long-term basis. In 1997, responding to requests from various coastal community representatives, the District began to study options for an expanded role in preserving the coast's unique natural and agricultural resources. In 1998, voters in the coastal area approved Measure F, an advisory measure asking coastal residents if they supported annexation of the coast. Upon passage of Measure F, the District began to prepare for the potential extension of the District's boundaries to the San Mateo County coast.

From 1999 to 2002, District Board members, staff, and consultants, worked with a citizens' task force known as the Coastal Advisory Committee (CAC) to develop the *Service Plan*. The CAC, chaired by then San Mateo County Supervisor Rich Gordon, was composed of thirteen coastside residents representing agricultural and environmental community interests. They identified issues regarding the proposed boundary extension and policies for the District's operations on the San Mateo County coast. In June 2003, the District Board adopted the *Final Service Plan* (Attachments 1 and 2). In September 2004, LAFCO issued a certificate of completion for the terms and conditions to annex the coastal area as part of the District's jurisdiction.

Going forward, recent changes in the District's vision, voter approval of a new funding source, and an internal structural reorganization have provided a clear plan and additional resources to further guide and fund the *Service Plan*. The 2014 Open Space Vision Plan identifies 19 priority actions in the CAA. Passage of Measure AA in 2014 provides \$120 million in funding for seven project portfolios on the San Mateo Coast, with emphasis on redwood forest protection, fisheries restoration, conservation grazing, trail connections and staging areas, and acquisition of important coastal lands. The implementation of organizational changes in 2015 has expanded the District's capacity to provide enhanced visitor services, land and facilities management, natural resources protection, and public access facilities.

### **Mission of the *Service Plan***

The *Service Plan* modified the District's Mission Statement to include agricultural preservation (refer to underlined language below). This new Mission Statement specifically applies to the CAA:

*"To acquire and preserve in perpetuity open space land and agricultural land of regional significance, protect and restore the natural environment, preserve rural character, encourage viable agricultural use of land resources, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education"*

### **Functional Differences between the CAA and District's Historical Boundaries**

The District's mission in the CAA is similar to its mission within historical District boundaries. However, there are important functional differences that limit some of the District's authority, mitigate fiscal impacts to the coastal community, and conform to LAFCo's conditions of approval:

- Limits to use of eminent domain - When the Board adopted the *Service Plan*, they also adopted Ordinance No. 03-01, prohibiting acquisition of property by the use of eminent domain in the CAA (Report R-03-54). Assembly Bill 1195 prohibiting the District's use of eminent domain in the CAA became law in April 2004, modifying the District's enabling legislation in the Public Resources Code.
- No assessment of District fees - The District's coastal annexation did not result in an assessment of coastal residents. However, annexation allowed the District to work with

local interests in the CAA and the historical District to identify a funding measure to be submitted for voter approval at a later time.

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the San Mateo County Farm Bureau (see details below)
- Agreement with San Mateo County for Fire Services (see details below)
- Agreement with the La Honda/Pescadero Unified School District (see details below)

### LAFCo Conditions of Approval

In total, LAFCo issued the following eight conditions to implement the *Service Plan*, all of which the District has met and continues to meet:

LAFCo Conditions of Approval for the San Mateo County Coastal Annexation		
Conditions		Completion / Implementation Status
1	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MROSD and the Farm Bureau	Approval of the MOU – January 28, 2004. Requires ongoing consultations on new land acquisitions, agricultural leases and infrastructure, grazing and agricultural plans, and public access improvements on agricultural lands.
2	Agreement between MROSD and San Mateo County for Fire Protection	Approval of agreement to provide fire-related services to District lands in the CAA not provided within the State responsibility area by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) - March 16, 2004. Original agreement expires March 15, 2019. The District and the County will need to negotiate a Successor Agreement to extend term. Current Annual payments: \$6,300
3	Agreement between MROSD and La Honda/Pescadero Unified School District	Approval of agreement to provide tax compensation fee for new District lands purchased within the School District boundaries and to promote environmental education - March 8, 2004. Original agreement expires March 7, 2023. The District and School District will need to negotiate a Successor Agreement to extend term in March 2022. Current annual payments \$16,000.
4	Adoption of a public participation process for reapportionment	Public participation process for reapportionment adopted February 2004.  <i>Ward District Boundaries</i> revised to include the CAA for elected representation to the District Board of Directors, November 2004.
5	Amendment of District's Good Neighbor Policy	Process to amend Good Neighbor Policy to include compliance with the <i>Service Plan</i> adopted September 2007.
6	Appointment of Ombudsperson	<i>Ombudsperson Appointment Procedure</i> adopted July 2004.  Most recent appointment of Ombudspersons – January 17, 2017.
7	Employ Agricultural Management Expertise	Rangeland Ecologist hired as part of permanent District staff, July 2008.
8	District Board & committee meetings to be held in the Coastal Annexation Area.	<i>District's Rules of Procedure</i> amended May 26, 2004, to require meetings with matters concerning the Coastsides Protection Area be conducted in locations within the Coastal Annexation Area.

### Guiding Principles for the Coastal Annexation Area (CAA)

Recognizing that the San Mateo County coast is a distinct landscape with unique challenges and opportunities for land conservation and management, a set of Guiding Principles and Guidelines covering Land Acquisition, Services and Funding, Agriculture, Forestry, Planning and Development, Representation, Partnerships, and Land Use were developed as an integral part of the *Service Plan*. The Guiding Principles provided the basis for the annexation review process and informed the public about the District's plans in the CAA. An overview of activities that the District has completed or is pursuing under each Guiding Principle of the *Service Plan* is

provided in Attachment 3. Only one (1) Guideline out of 51 that are under the eight (8) Guiding Principles remains outstanding. Under Planning and Development, Guideline G.6.1 (*Service Plan*, page 23) calls for the development of Basic Policies for the CAA. To date, the District has been following the *Service Plan* as the guiding policy document for activities and services on the Coast. Recognizing, however, that this item remains to be completed, the General Manager proposes to schedule this item as a project for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None. However, the seven Measure AA project portfolios within the Coastal Annexation Area represent over \$126 million in projects funded by Measure AA.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW**

This item was previously discussed by the full Board at the February 2017 Board Retreat, and not referred to a Board Committee.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice of this Agenda Item was provided as required by the Brown Act.

### **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

This action is not a Project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

### **NEXT STEPS**

The General Manager will return to the Board in early fall with a second study session to be held on the San Mateo Coast to discuss recent and upcoming coastal outreach, engagement, and information sharing work. This meeting will also provide the public with an opportunity to share their opinions of what is working well and how the District can further improve its communications and outreach work.

Moreover, the General Manager has scheduled an update to the District's Basic Policy for FY2018-19 to complete the one outstanding implementation action for the *Service Plan*. If the Board desires to move this item up earlier, the General Manager will need to evaluate which project(s) to swap on the current proposed FY2017-18 Action Plan.

#### Attachments

1. Service Plan for the San Mateo County Coastal Annexation Area
2. Coastal Annexation Area Map
3. Implementation of the *Service Plan's* Guiding Principles for the Coastal Annexation Area

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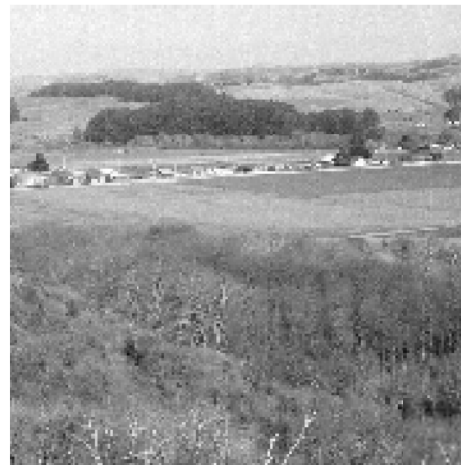
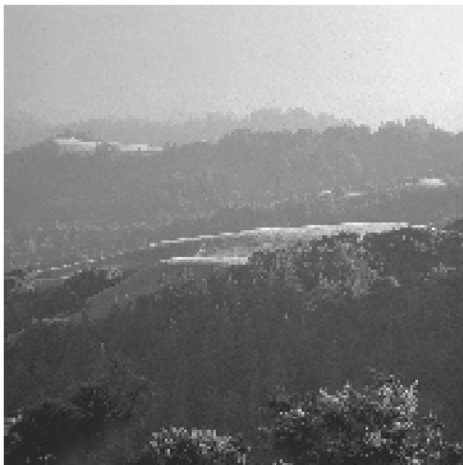
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Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
**SERVICE PLAN**  
FOR THE SAN MATEO COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA

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as approved by the District Board of Directors  
June 6, 2003

## **PREFACE**

This document is the *San Mateo Coastal Annexation Area – Service Plan* of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (the District) as approved by the District Board of Directors on June 6, 2003. This Plan summarizes the services that would be provided by the District and the policies that would apply to District activities in the Coastal Annexation Area if that area is annexed.

The Service Plan includes mitigation measures identified in the Final Program Environmental Program Impact Report (FEIR) prepared pursuant to the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Coastal Annexation. Mitigation measures recommended in the FEIR are included in the Service Plan section titled “Guiding Principles For The Coastal Annexation Area”. For ease of cross-referencing between the Final Service Plan and the FEIR, the mitigation measure codes as used in the FEIR are listed in parenthesis after the text of each applicable Policy, Guideline, or Implementation Action.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **PURPOSE OF THE SERVICE PLAN**

The purpose of the District's Service Plan is to outline the services that would be provided by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in the Coastal Annexation Area. This Service Plan will allow the San Mateo County LAFCo to determine if annexation of the Coastal Annexation Area to the District would be consistent with the goals of the State to encourage orderly growth and development as set forth in the Cortese-Knox Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000.

### **THE COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA**

The proposed Coastal Annexation Area is illustrated in Figure 1 and is generally defined as follows:

- on the east by the existing District boundary and San Francisco watershed lands
- on the west by the Pacific Ocean
- on the north by the southern boundary of the City of Pacifica
- on the south by the San Mateo County / Santa Cruz County boundary

The proposed Coastal Annexation Area is located entirely within San Mateo County.

### **DEFINITIONS**

Definitions of key terms used can be found in Appendix A at the end of this report.

### **CORTESE-KNOX-HERTZBERG LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2000**

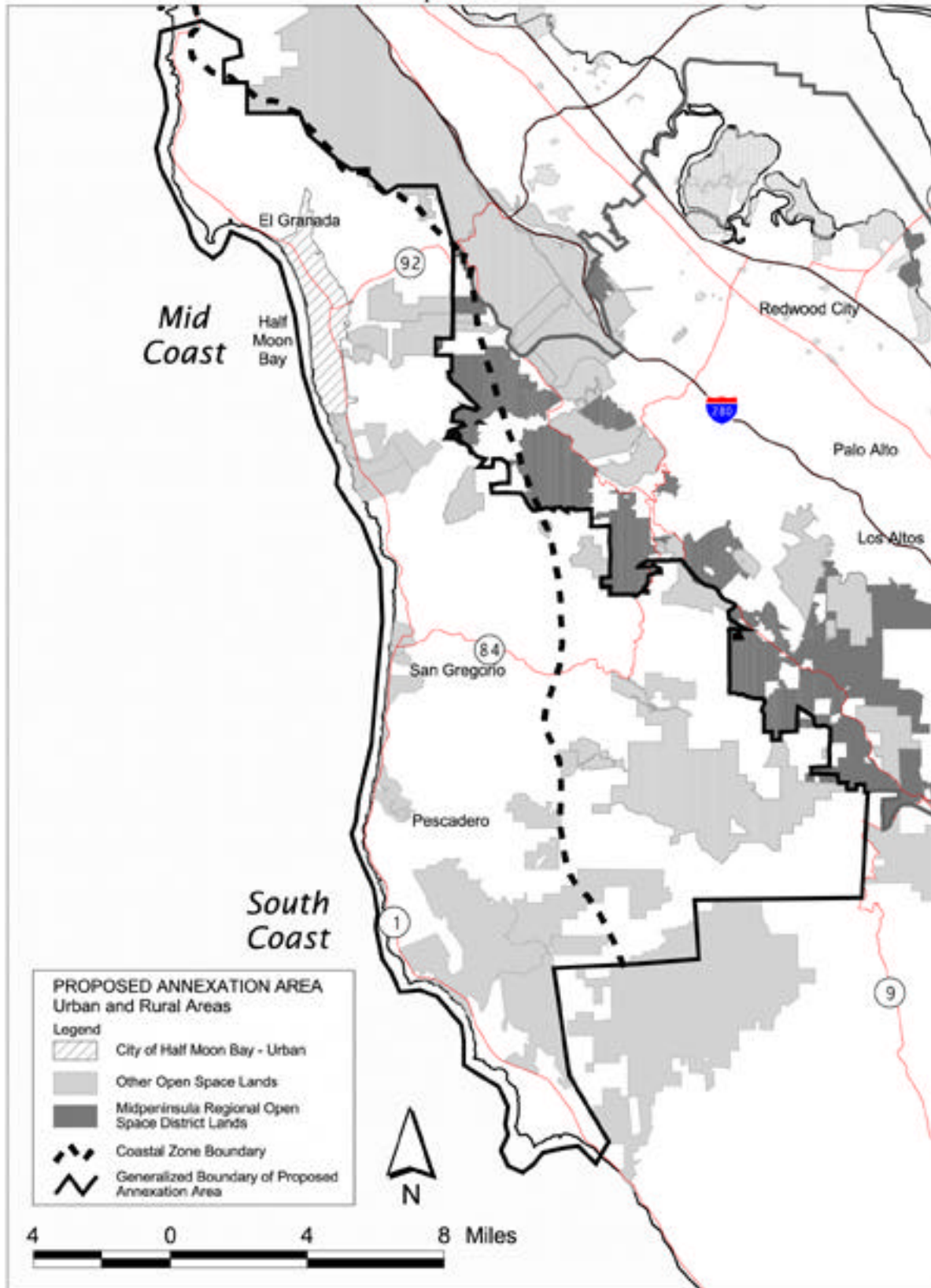
The District's annexation application is governed by the requirements of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act).

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act was instituted by the California Legislature to recognize that the determination of local agency boundaries is an important factor in promoting the State's policy of encouraging orderly growth and development as essential elements to the social, fiscal, and economic well-being of the State. The Legislature further declared that the best mechanism for establishing community service priorities to promote orderly urban development was a single governmental agency, in this case the San Mateo County LAFCo, rather than several limited-purpose agencies.

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act recognizes that establishing community service priorities involves two important dynamics. These are:

- 1) that urban population densities and intensive residential, commercial, and industrial development necessitate a broad spectrum and high level of community services and controls; and
- 2) that there is a need to carefully weigh urban growth patterns against the total financial resources available for securing community services.

FIGURE 1: Coastal Annexation Area Map



Typically, the thrust of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act in promoting orderly development is most applicable to the provision or expansion of traditional community services like water, sewer, and roads that support urban development. However, there is growing recognition that the preservation of open space as would be provided by the District is also an important community service.

Because the District is submitting an application for a change of organization, the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act requires that a plan be presented to the San Mateo LAFCo for providing services within the affected territory, which in this case is the Coastal Annexation Area. This Service Plan must include, at a minimum, the following information:

- An enumeration and description of the services to be extended to the affected territory.
- The level and range of those services.
- An indication of when those services can feasibly be extended to the affected territory.
- An indication of any improvement or upgrading of structures, roads, sewer or water facilities, or other conditions the local agency would impose or require within the affected territory if the change of organization is completed.
- Information with respect to how those services will be financed.

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act (Government Code Section 56377) requires that the San Mateo LAFCo consider the following policies and priorities in reviewing proposals that could reasonably be expected to induce, facilitate, or lead to the conversion of existing open-space lands to uses other than open-space uses:

- Development or use of land other than for open-space uses shall be guided away from existing prime agricultural lands toward areas containing nonprime agricultural lands, unless that action would not promote the planned, orderly, efficient development of an area.
- Development of existing vacant or nonprime agricultural lands for urban uses within the existing jurisdiction of a local agency or within the sphere of influence of a local agency should be encouraged before any proposal is approved which would allow for or lead to the development of existing open-space lands for non-open-space uses which are outside of the existing jurisdiction or outside of the existing sphere of influence of the local agency.

Note however that in this Service Plan the definition of “Prime Agricultural Land “ is based on the definition contained in the San Mateo County Local Coastal Plan (see appendix A). In addition prime agricultural land includes the Resource Agency categories of Unique Farmlands or Farmlands of Statewide Importance as mapped by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency.

Annexation of the San Mateo Coastal Area by the District and the acquisition and management of lands for open space purposes as defined by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act is consistent with the above policies.

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act (Government Code Section 56425) defines the purposes and responsibilities of the San Mateo LAFCo to plan and shape logical and orderly development and to coordinate local governmental agencies so as to advantageously provide for the present and future needs of the County and its communities. In determining the District's sphere of influence, the San Mateo LAFCo must consider and prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

- The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.
- The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.
- The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.
- The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.

As outlined in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act (Government Code Section 56668) the factors to be considered in the San Mateo LAFCo review of the District's Service Plan include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Population, population density; land area and land use; per capita assessed valuation; topography, natural boundaries, and drainage basins; proximity to other populated areas; the likelihood of significant growth in the area, and in adjacent incorporated and unincorporated areas, during the next 10 years.
- Need for organized community services; the present cost and adequacy of governmental services and controls in the area; probable future needs for those services and controls; probable effect of the proposed incorporation, formation, annexation, or exclusion and of alternative courses of action on the cost and adequacy of services and controls in the area and adjacent areas.
- The effect of the proposed action and of alternative actions, on adjacent areas, on mutual social and economic interests, and on the local governmental structure of the county.
- The conformity of both the proposal and its anticipated effects with both the adopted commission policies on providing planned, orderly, efficient patterns of urban development, and the policies and priorities set forth in Government Code Section 56377. These include that development or use of land for other than open-space uses shall be guided away from existing prime agricultural lands in open-space use toward areas containing nonprime agricultural lands, unless that action would not promote the planned, orderly, efficient development of an area.
- The effect of the proposal on maintaining the physical and economic integrity of agricultural lands as defined by Government Code Section 56016.
- The definiteness and certainty of the boundaries of the territory, the nonconformance of proposed boundaries with lines of assessment or ownership, the creation of islands or



corridors of unincorporated territory, and other similar matters affecting the proposed boundaries.

- Consistency with city or county general and specific plans.
- The sphere of influence of any local agency which may be applicable to the proposal being reviewed.
- The comments of any affected local agency.
- The ability of the newly formed or receiving entity to provide the services which are the subject of the application to the area, including the sufficiency of revenues for those services following the proposed boundary change.
- Timely availability of water supplies adequate for projected needs as specified in by Government Code Section 65352.5.
- The extent to which the proposal will assist the receiving entity in achieving its fair share of the regional housing needs as determined by the appropriate council of governments.
- Any information or comments from the landowner or owners.
- Any information relating to existing land use designations.

#### **BACKGROUND OF THE ANNEXATION PROPOSAL**

Events and factors leading to the District's proposal to expand its boundaries to include the Coastal Annexation Area include:

- Resolutions, letters, and petitions sent to the District in 1997 requesting that the District explore ways to help permanently conserve the open space resources of the San Mateo Coast. The District may realistically acquire and manage open space land and provide low-intensity recreation opportunities only within its jurisdictional boundaries. To help protect agriculture, open space, and natural resources on the San Mateo County Coast, the District must amend its sphere of influence and boundaries through the LAFCo process. The District may legally acquire land outside its jurisdictional boundaries where related to accomplishing its statutory purposes. However, a series of pragmatic concerns discourage such acquisitions. These concerns include:
  - the potential for inefficient management where property is not adjacent to existing District land,
  - the desire to acquire lands which result in workable and efficient preserves which are integral units, and
  - the State "Open Meeting" law that prohibits the District Board from conducting meetings outside its boundaries, which, in turn, would not provide for local representation and would not encourage local participation in District programs.
- Discussions with other open space, recreation, and park service providers within the Coastal Annexation Area - including the National Park Service, the California Department of Parks

and Recreation, and the San Mateo County Parks Department - indicate that these agencies have a limited capacity to provide expanded open space preservation and management services, and that there is the need, therefore, for a local organization to provide these services.

- While local conservation organizations owning land in the Coastal Annexation Area will continue to be successful in acquiring land, they are not ordinarily structured to manage open space lands on a long-term basis. Thus these organizations have asked the District to manage natural resources and low-intensity public-use programs on some of their properties, as the District is the only locally represented public agency capable of providing this land management.
- Economic changes within the greater San Francisco Bay Area, and within San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties in particular, have caused dramatic changes in real estate dynamics. These dynamics involve the increase in personal income associated with the economic vitality of Silicon Valley and the subsequent increase in real estate development pressures on the rural coast.

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors agrees the agricultural and open space resources along approximately 40 miles of the San Mateo County coast are of national significance and deserve the highest level of stewardship possible. Further, the District Board believes that the continuation of active agricultural and ranching uses on the San Mateo County coast is very important in retaining the area's rural atmosphere and way of life.

Over the last two years and in a variety of forums, including two public opinion polls, an advisory election, and over twenty-five community advisory and informational meetings, the District received significant public comment about the Coastal Annexation Area and the role of the District in that area. Chief among the opinions expressed during this process is that to build confidence in the District's intent and to be the most effective overall in terms of long-term programs, the District should acquire lands from willing sellers only. Adopting a policy that prohibits the use of eminent domain would also aid the District in working with private property owners who, though they may not wish to sell their property, would be interested in cooperating in a variety of management programs that would benefit the natural and agricultural resources of the Coastal Annexation Area.

Additional sentiments expressed by the public about the significance of the Coastal Annexation Area and need for long-term conservation of open space resources include:

- the outstanding natural resources and ecological diversity present within the Coastal Annexation Area due to its mountain-to-ocean landscape;
- the integrity and dramatic visual character of the Coastal Annexation Area, its forested rural backdrop, coastal plains and valleys, continental edge, and the Pacific Ocean; and
- the proximity of the Coastal Annexation Area, being within a one-hour drive, or less, to literally millions of Bay Area residents.
- The importance of preservation of agricultural lands.

## **ROLE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT IN THE COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA**

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a public agency that acquires and manages open space resources. Where appropriate, the District provides visitor-serving facilities for low-intensity recreation by the general public.

The District is not a land regulatory agency. Within the Coastal Annexation Area the District would only purchase property or easements from willing sellers and would not exercise the power of eminent domain. As a property owner, the District must work within the context of existing Federal, State, County, and City land use regulations and zoning designations. Approximately three-fifths of the 140,000-acre Coastal Annexation Area is within the Coastal Zone. All lands within the Coastal Zone are subject to local coastal policies adopted by San Mateo County pursuant to the California Coastal Act. No changes in land use designations or land use controls are associated with the annexation process or would be required as a result of any District activities.

The District strives to preserve open space in perpetuity, which would protect both the agricultural and the natural resources of the Coastal Annexation Area. Although the District is not an agricultural preservation district, and does not propose any agricultural subsidy programs, its Service Plan does recognize the importance of agriculture to the economy and heritage of the Coastal Annexation Area. Thus, the Service Plan defines program guidelines to conserve resources on District-owned lands that could be used for agriculture, and to encourage the sale or leasing of District properties for outdoor agriculture. The Service Plan also establishes guidelines for managing the impacts of District programs that could potentially affect adjacent agricultural operations. And finally, the Service Plan provides for the acquisition of conservation easements from willing sellers over private agricultural properties, to promote the economic vitality of continued agricultural operations. The Service Plan provides that the District shall actively pursue agricultural easements and leases,

Preservation and management of agricultural resources represents an important aspect of the District's mission for the Coastal Annexation Area. Annexation would provide an unparalleled opportunity for the District to apply its resources and proven land management expertise to the lasting protection of coastal agriculture. As the District extends its services to the Coast, agricultural preservation will play a larger role in the District's activities than it has within existing District boundaries. With collaborative efforts by District personnel and the agricultural community, together with the Guiding Principles adopted in this Service Plan, an effective and successful agricultural preservation program can be developed and funded.

The District's annexation of the Coastal Area would allow it to use currently available funding to acquire open space lands when willing-seller opportunities are presented to manage natural resources, and provide limited visitor-serving facilities for low-intensity public recreation.

If the District is to play a meaningful partnership role in acquiring and/or managing properties or easements in the Coastal Annexation Area, it would benefit from local input and an administrative presence in the area. If the Coastal Annexation Area is included within the District:

- District resources would be used to more formally involve residents of the Coastal Annexation Area in decision-making;
- the opportunity for one or more local residents to be elected to the District Board of Directors would be provided; and
- significant stewardship or resource management programs to the Coastal Annexation Area would be provided.

The District's annexation of the Coastal Area, based on the proposed Service Plan, would not in itself result in an assessment of Coastal Area residents. However, annexation would allow the District to work with local interests within the Coastal Annexation Area and within the existing District to identify a funding measure that, at a later time, could be submitted for voter approval. Proposal of a new tax and/or assessment district requires a deliberate research and analysis process to identify projected needs for funding, target uses for funds to be derived, and evaluate willingness to pay on the part of the voting constituency. A tax funding measure would currently require at least a two-thirds margin of approval by the voters. The term "voter-approved funding measure" is used in this document to refer to a funding measure that might be selected after this research and analysis process.

The District's Service Plan emphasizes working in partnership with other land conservation interests, both public and private, in acquiring land and conservation and agricultural easements. Fiscally, annexation will not result in the District purchasing a significant area of land without partnerships. The Service Plan emphasizes the District taking a leading role in land stewardship programs and, where appropriate, providing limited visitor-serving facilities that would generally be in the form of staging areas and trails.

In evaluating the District's potential role and how the District might best support long-term conservation in the Coastal Annexation Area, the following characteristics have become readily apparent:

- As numerous public agencies and private organizations are interested in conserving the resources of the San Mateo County Coast, the District views its role as that of a "partner" in a broad-based cooperative effort, rather than being "the" solution.
- The San Mateo County Coast remains relatively pristine today due in large part to:
  - 1) the many residents in the area who have continuously worked the land, in some cases for generations, and served as stewards of its resources; and

- 2) the many residents in the area who have recognized the value of the open space resources within the Coastal Annexation Area and have encouraged public and private protection of those resources.
- Many San Mateo County residents have been vigilant in urging San Mateo County to adopt strict policies in its Local Coastal Program and Skyline Area Plan that control and direct urban development and so help retain the rural character of these areas. The District would take advantage of the cumulative knowledge of these residents concerning the land, its resources, and its agricultural heritage, and the District would work with them in developing specific policies and stewardship programs for the Coastal Annexation Area.
  - While the rural lifestyle enjoyed by many residents in the Coastal Annexation Area involves a certain degree of self-reliance, it also involves a strong sense of community and a spirit of cooperation. The District wants to be a good neighbor in the way it establishes its priorities within the Coastal annexation Area and conducts its business, and thus will strive to develop positive relations with the residents of the Coastal Annexation Area in order to become a welcome member of the Coastal community.

Recognizing that the San Mateo County Coast is a distinct landscape with unique challenges and opportunities for land conservation, the District has developed a set of Guiding Principles as an integral part of its Service Plan for the Coastal Annexation Area. These Guiding Principles are to provide the basis for the annexation review process and to inform the public about the District's plans in the Coastal Annexation Area. More detailed and comprehensive policies consistent with the Guiding Principles will be developed with full public involvement following completion of the annexation process.

## **SERVICE PLAN**

### **PURPOSE**

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's enabling legislation (California Public Resources Code sec. 5500) allows it to acquire land, or rights in land, to operate and maintain a system of public ecological and open space preserves, trails, and other facilities for the use, education, and enjoyment of all the inhabitants of the District. Extending the District's boundaries to include the Coastal Annexation Area would allow the District to acquire lands and conservation easements, and to conduct stewardship programs to preserve and manage open space resources in the Coastal Annexation Area. These activities would be conducted by the District both on its own, and in partnership with other organizations and individual property owners.

The District would focus its efforts in the Coastal Annexation Area on the preservation and management of open space resources of its own lands or lands of other public or non-profit entities that request management assistance from the District in order to:

- protect watershed integrity and water quality;
- protect sensitive resources such as habitats for special-status species;
- provide key links to existing District and other public open space lands;
- provide visitor-serving facilities for low-intensity recreation;
- support development of an integrated regional trail system coordinated with the San Mateo County Trails Plan;
- provide opportunities for scientific research, resource conservation demonstration projects, outdoor environmental education programs, and interpretive programs; and
- preserve existing and potential agricultural operations in order to keep the maximum amount of prime agricultural land and other lands suitable for agriculture in agricultural production.

### **THE MISSION FOR THE COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA**

The District's mission for the Coastal Annexation Area is: To acquire and preserve in perpetuity open space land and agricultural land of regional significance, protect and restore the natural environment, preserve rural character, encourage viable agricultural use of land resources, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education. The District will accomplish this mission as a cooperative endeavor with public agencies, non-profit organizations, and individuals with similar goals.

This mission statement is incorporated into the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Service Plan for the Coastal Annexation Area.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA**

The District operates under a set of basic policies and related resource management, land acquisition, and recreation management policies. While many of the District's existing policies may apply to the Coastal Annexation Area, it is recognized that they do not necessarily reflect the particular

agricultural and open space resources of the San Mateo Coast or the particular needs of area residents.

The Guiding Principles provide a foundation for the District's development of more specific policies for the Coastal Annexation Area.

Guiding Principles for the Coastal Annexation Area are organized into three categories:

- **Permanent Policies**—Policy statements that the District has determined are critical to its ability to operate effectively within the Coastal Annexation Area and will be carried forth over time. Permanent Policies are preceded by a “P”, or in the case of Agriculture by a “PA”.
- **Guidelines**—Statements to guide decision-making and initial District programs within the Coastal Annexation Area. Guidelines indicate to the general public a clear commitment by the District. Guidelines are preceded by a “G”.
- **Implementation Actions**—Explain how the District will operate within the Coastal Annexation Area. These actions, procedures, programs, or techniques carry out related Permanent Policies and Guidelines. Implementation Actions apply to the set of Permanent Policies or Guidelines that immediately precede them. Implementation Actions are identified with code numbers that include an “(i)”.

The Guiding Principles incorporate all mitigation measures recommended in the Final Environmental Impact Report for the District’s annexation. Where applicable, the mitigation measure codes as used in the Final Environmental Impact Report are listed in parenthesis after the text of each applicable Principle.

The following Guiding Principles will apply to the activities of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District within the Coastal Annexation Area. Any or all of the Guiding Principles could be considered by the San Mateo LAFCo as permitted conditions of the District’s annexation.

### **Land Acquisition**

The following Permanent Policies have been adopted by the District Board of Directors based on comments made by the residents of the Coastal Annexation Area about land acquisition techniques within the Coastal Annexation Area.

#### **Permanent Policy**

##### **P.1**

Within the Coastal Annexation Area, the District shall only acquire lands or interests in lands from willing sellers. The power of eminent domain will not be exercised by the District within the Coastal Annexation Area. This policy is a Basic Policy for the Coastal Annexation Area.

**Implementation Action P.1.A.(i)** This policy within the defined Coastal Annexation Area shall be a permanent policy of the District adopted by ordinance of the District Board of Directors. (Reference: Mitigation AGR-1c)

**Implementation Action P.1.B.(i)** This policy is a basic component of the District’s application to the San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission. It will be a basic component of the Service Plan to be approved by LAFCo. The District will request that this policy be made a Finding by the San Mateo LAFCo in its decision.

**Implementation Action P.1.C.(i)** This policy will be adopted by the District as an ordinance, and through the District Board of Directors’ certification of the Coastal Annexation Area Environmental Impact Report, will serve as an agricultural impact mitigation measure pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**Implementation Action P.1.D.(i)** This policy will be referenced in every governing document and proposal by the District in connection with the Coastal Annexation Area.

**Guideline G-L1**

The District shall also review local, state, or federal government hazardous sites lists prior to acquiring a property to determine if the area is a hazardous materials site. The following resources and agencies can be consulted:

- Federal and state database information
- Water Quality Control Board (San Francisco Bay Region)
- San Mateo County Health Services Agency

If a parcel is found to contain a hazardous materials site, trails, staging areas, or other facilities will not be constructed on the parcel until plans can be developed and implemented to either remediate the hazard or ensure that the public will not have access to hazardous areas.

(Reference: Mitigation HAZ-1)

**Services and Funding**

The following statements address how the District can assure that its activities within the Coastal Annexation Area will not compromise existing services and that sufficient funding will exist before the District takes on any new responsibilities.



**Guideline****G.1**

The District shall only acquire lands or enter into management agreements with other public or non-profit entities where such agreement would not result in any negative significant impact to existing services.

**Implementation Action****G.1.A(i)**

Following annexation, the District will work cooperatively with its constituents to develop appropriate District funding measures to augment existing funding sources for land acquisition and management within the Coastal Annexation Area.

See also Implementation Action G.5.C(i)

**Guideline****G.2**

Prior to making any lands available to public access for low-intensity recreation in the Coastal Annexation Area, the District shall have personnel and equipment available to manage public access such that: there would be no significant negative impact on existing services; and adequate stewardship to protect natural and agricultural resources will be provided by qualified and experienced personnel.

(Reference: Mitigation Measure AGR-3i)

**Implementation Action****G.2.A(i)**

The District shall conduct a site assessment prior to entering into any acquisition and/or management agreements to assure that the District shall not undertake any project without sufficient resources to sustain that project.

**Agriculture**

Agriculture is a very important rural land use and open space resource within the Coastal Annexation Area. Consistent with the purpose of San Mateo County's policies and regulations related to agriculture, the Guidelines and Implementation Actions below are directed at:

- preserving and fostering existing and potential agricultural operations in San Mateo County in order to keep the maximum amount of prime agricultural land and all other lands suitable for agriculture in agricultural production, and
- minimizing conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural land uses that may occur on District owned or managed lands.

**Permanent Policy****PA.1**

When acquiring lands in agricultural use, the acquisition shall be subject to continued use by the owner or operator until such time as it is sold or leased pursuant to the use and management plan adopted for the property. All agricultural land which is not needed for recreation or for the protection and vital functioning of a sensitive habitat will be permanently protected for agriculture and, whenever legally feasible, the District will offer for sale or lease the maximum amount of agricultural land to active farm operators on terms

compatible with the recreational and habitat use. Lands that do not have significant recreation or sensitive habitat values and which can clearly support productive agricultural operations will generally be offered for sale while other agricultural lands will generally be offered for lease.

(Reference: Mitigation Measure AGR-3g)

**Permanent Policy  
PA.2**

The District shall actively work with lessees of District lands and with the owners of land in which the District has an agricultural easement interest to:

- a) Facilitate the provision of farm worker housing on District-owned lands by providing technical assistance in obtaining permits for such housing from the County of San Mateo.
- b) Seek grant funding for the continuation or establishment of viable agriculture through the California Farmland Conservancy Program and other agriculture grant programs.
- c) Provide technical assistance to secure water rights for the continuation or establishment of viable agriculture consistent with protection of sensitive habitats.

(Reference: Mitigation Measure AGR-3j)

**Permanent Policy  
PA.3**

The District shall actively pursue opportunities to enter agricultural easements and leases with interested farmers and ranchers. All agricultural easements and agricultural leases in the Coastal Annexation Area shall:

- a) Be tailored to meet individual farmers and ranchers needs while respecting the unique characteristics of the property;
- b) Specify uses that are unconditionally permitted pursuant to the easement or lease to provide certainty to the farmer or rancher entering the lease or easement with the District;
- c) Include terms that allow farmers and ranchers to adapt and expand their operations and farming practices to adjust to changing economic conditions;
- d) Include terms that ensure farmers or ranchers may provide farm labor housing as defined and approved by San Mateo County;
- e) Ensure compatibility of resource protection and management, low-intensity public recreation and viable agricultural operations; and
- f) In the case of leases, be for a sufficient period of time to gain a return on the investment in the agricultural operation.

(Reference: Mitigation Measure AGR-3k)

**Guideline  
G.3.1**

The District shall conduct its land management practices such that they do not have an adverse significant impact on the physical and economic integrity of prime agricultural lands on or contiguous to properties owned or managed by the District (e.g. establishing appropriate buffers on District lands, etc.).

**Guideline  
G.3.2**

Improvements or public uses located upon open space lands other than agriculture shall be located away from existing prime agricultural lands and Unique Farmlands or Farmlands of Statewide Importance as shown on Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. All trails and other public facilities should be located so as not to fragment agricultural operations unless no feasible alternative is available. While trails that bisect grazing lands would not be likely to fragment grazing operations, trails that bisect cultivated crops could adversely affect the vitality of agricultural operations and should be avoided. If trails must traverse cultivated lands then they shall be permitted only if adequate buffers, signs, and other measures necessary to ensure that trail use does not interfere with the agricultural operations are implemented.”  
(Reference: Mitigation AGR-3a)

**Guideline  
G.3.3**

All lands acquired by the District within the Coastal Annexation Area will be inventoried to identify and prioritize resource management issues. Where there are critical issues, such as the presence of non-native invasive species which threaten the habitat of endangered species or the economic viability of an adjacent agricultural operation, resource management plans will be prepared for these areas even if they remain closed to the public.

The use and management plan shall include an agricultural production plan for District-owned agricultural lands or District lands adjacent to agricultural lands. For district-owned lands, the plan shall describe the crop and/or livestock potential for the property together with the management actions required to protect existing agricultural production (e.g., growing seasons, water requirements, pesticide, manure, and waste management) and the agricultural potential of the land. The plan shall consider the following factors:

- a) Availability of labor, including farm labor housing;
- b) Availability of farm support services and goods;
- c) Necessary capital improvements (e.g. water storage, fencing, land leveling)

- d) Farm operations, including erosion control, the season(s) and times of pesticide or herbicide usage, manure and waste management;
- e) Water use and availability;
- f) Access to transportation and markets; and
- g) Promoting agricultural production on District-owned land.

In the case of District lands adjacent to agricultural production, the agricultural production plan shall develop site-specific measures to prevent activities on District lands from interfering with adjacent agricultural production.

The development of use and management plans will include consultation with the current owner or operator of any agricultural operations on the land, adjoining landowners, the San Mateo County Environmental Services Agency in addition to other opportunities for public involvement.

(Reference Mitigation AGR-3h and BIO-3)

**Guideline  
G.3.4**

In areas where trails would pass potentially hazardous adjacent land uses (e.g., timber operations), trail structures such as fences, barriers, and signs shall be used to deter trail users from leaving the trail and encountering unsafe conditions. Temporary trail closures shall be employed during intermittent operations, such as agricultural spraying, that would jeopardize the safety of an otherwise safe trail. (Reference: Mitigation LU-1a)

**Guideline  
G.3.5**

No new buildings or staging areas shall be located on prime agricultural lands or on Unique Farmlands or Farmlands of Statewide Importance as shown on Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. Ranger office/maintenance facilities and staging areas may not be located on prime agricultural lands or on Unique Farmlands or Farmlands of Statewide Importance as shown on Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. (Reference: Mitigation AGR-1a)

**Guideline  
G.3.6**

Trails and habitat preservation areas shall either be located to avoid prime agricultural lands and Unique Farmlands or Farmlands of Statewide Importance as shown on Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency or traverse such lands in a manner that does not result in interference with agricultural activities or substantially reduce the agricultural potential

of those lands. Owners and operators of agricultural lands shall be consulted to identify appropriate routes on those lands. The agricultural activities and the agricultural potential of traversed lands shall be protected and buffered from trail user impacts by means of distance, physical barriers (i.e., sturdy fences), or other non-disruptive methods.

(Reference: Mitigation AGR-1b)

**Guideline  
G.3.7**

The District shall provide private property signs where appropriate and provide trail users information regarding private property rights to minimize public/private use conflicts and trespassing. The District shall clearly sign trails adjacent to active agriculture and provide trail users with information regarding property rights to minimize trespassing and conflicts with agricultural users.

(Reference: Mitigation AGR-3b)

**Guideline  
G.3.8**

Trails shall either be located to avoid prime agricultural lands and Unique Farmlands or Farmlands of Statewide Importance as shown on Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency or traverse such lands in a manner that does not result in interference with agricultural activities or substantially reduce the agricultural potential of those lands. Operators of active agricultural activities on lands owned by or under easement to the District shall be consulted to identify appropriate routes on lands they cultivate. Owners and operators of agricultural lands adjacent to District lands used for non-agricultural purposes shall be consulted to identify routes that will avoid adverse effects on agricultural operations. The agricultural activities and the agricultural potential of traversed lands shall be protected and buffered from trail user impacts by means of distance, physical barriers (i.e., sturdy fences), or other non-disruptive methods.

(Reference: Mitigation AGR-3c)

**Guideline  
G.3.9**

The District lands or easements upon which trails are sited shall provide width sufficient for management and/or buffer space from adjacent uses so as not to preclude the viability of those uses. Buffers established to separate recreation and other open space uses from agricultural operations shall be designed and managed in accordance with the following standards:

- a) Buffers shall be designed in relation to the nature of the adjoining land use, potential land uses, and proposed public access;

- b) Buffers shall be designed in relation to the topography and other physical characteristics of the buffer area;
  - c) Buffers shall be designed with consideration of biological, soil, and other site conditions in order to limit the potential spread of non-native invasive species or pathogens onto agricultural lands;
  - d) Buffers shall be of sufficient width to allow agricultural use of adjoining agricultural lands including application of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals taking into account the likelihood and extent of potential pesticide drift;
  - e) All lands used for buffers should be on land or interests in land owned by the District; adjoining landowners shall not be required to provide land for buffers.
  - f) The District shall be responsible for the management and maintenance of all lands used as buffers.
  - g) If a specific buffer fails to resolve conflicts between a recreational use and adjacent agricultural uses the recreational use shall be moved to a different location.
  - h) All buffers shall be developed in consultation with the owners and operators of adjoining agricultural lands
- (Reference: Mitigation AGR-3d)

**Guideline  
G.3.10**

Where pesticides are used, including pesticides for control of noxious weeds, they must be handled, applied, and disposed of in such a manner that they do not adversely affect adjacent agriculture including organic agriculture. Pesticide use shall be guided by label restrictions and any advisories published by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) or the County Agricultural Commission. These chemicals shall only be applied by a person who is properly trained in their application.

(Reference: Mitigation AGR-3e)

**Implementation Action  
G.3.A(i)**

In acquiring lands and preparing site assessments, the District shall recognize that agriculture in the marketplace is dynamic and that agricultural use practices must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, relative to current marketplace conditions. On a case-by-case basis, the District shall determine how best to continue agricultural uses consistent with protection of rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species and their habitat.

See also Guideline G.6.3

**Implementation Action G.3.B(i)** The development of agricultural policies, preparation of site assessments and preparation of access plans for low-intensity public recreation by the District affecting prime agricultural lands shall include consultation with local agricultural interests such as the San Mateo County Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Resource Conservation District, and the local Farm Bureau, and will be subject to public review.

See also Guidelines G.6.3

**Implementation Action G.3.C(i)** Where the District acquires conservation easements on agricultural lands, the District will consider as a term of the easement on a case-by-case basis allowing all agricultural uses permitted by San Mateo County.

## Forestry

The intent of the following guidelines is to recognize that the District is not in the commercial forestry business but that in limited circumstances the removal of trees is in the best interest of managing the ecological health and public safety conditions of the site.

**Guideline G.4.1** The District shall not propose commercial harvest of timber on District-owned property except in the limited cases described in Guideline G.4.3 below.

**Guideline G.4.2** On a case-by-case basis, the District may purchase property or an easement that includes approved timber harvest plans.

**Guideline G.4.3** On rare occasions, the District may permit limited tree removal on District-owned property where a timber harvest plan does not previously exist, if such actions are shown to be in the best interest of managing the ecological values, protecting public safety, or controlling disease within the property or watershed. In such cases, the timber may be sold.

**Guideline G.4.4** The District shall conduct its land management practices such that they do not have an adverse significant impact on the physical and economic integrity of timberland preserves on or contiguous to properties owned or managed by the District and so that the safety of visitors to District preserves is not compromised by timber harvesting (e.g., establishing appropriate buffers on District lands).  
(Reference Mitigation AGR-3f)

**Representation**

Residents of the Coastal Annexation Area have asked that the District conduct its business one step at a time, that the local community be involved, and that the community's voice is represented in District decisions.

By law, special districts are limited to a maximum of seven wards, which represent roughly the same number of people. The District is composed of seven wards with approximately 100,000 people in each. Figure 2 illustrates the physical relationship between the existing District Wards and the Coastal Annexation Area. Based on the 2000 Census, the District reapportioned the Ward boundaries in 2002. Representation for the Coastal Annexation Area would also require the District to reapportion its boundaries. Since the population within the Coastal Annexation Area is below 100,000 a separate ward for the San Mateo Coast is not anticipated. The District could include the Coastal Annexation Area within one or more wards.

There are numerous existing agencies and government-sponsored community forums within the area that should be consulted. Doing so would avoid an additional layer of bureaucracy while assuring public input. The following guidelines outline how the District will conduct business and make sure that local viewpoints are respected.

**Guideline  
G.5.1**

Upon annexation, the District shall institute appropriate forms of representation so that District planning and decision-making relating to the Coastal Annexation Area includes the input of Coastal Annexation Area residents. During the development of policies for the Coastal Annexation Area the District shall consider the formation of advisory committees as needed to address specific policy topics.

**Implementation Action  
G.5.A(i)**

The District Board shall conduct periodic meetings within the Coastal Annexation Area when appropriate and when significant agenda items specifically relate to the Coastal Annexation Area. All proposed Coastal Annexation Area policies will be reviewed by the full Board of Directors at public meetings held in the Coastal Annexation Area.

**Implementation Action  
G.5.B-1(i)**

To ensure that local viewpoints are considered in all significant District planning and decision-making relating to the Coastal Annexation Area, the District will consult with local elected officials, government agencies, and government-sponsored organizations within the Coastal Annexation Area.

**Implementation Action  
G.5.C(i)**

To further ensure recommendations representing local involvement are considered in all significant District planning and decision-making relating to the Coastal Annexation Area, the District shall directly notify community-interest groups, non-profit land trusts, elected officials, and other conservation-oriented organizations about District



Board meetings or other public meetings that involve subjects relating to the District’s activities within the Coastal Annexation Area.

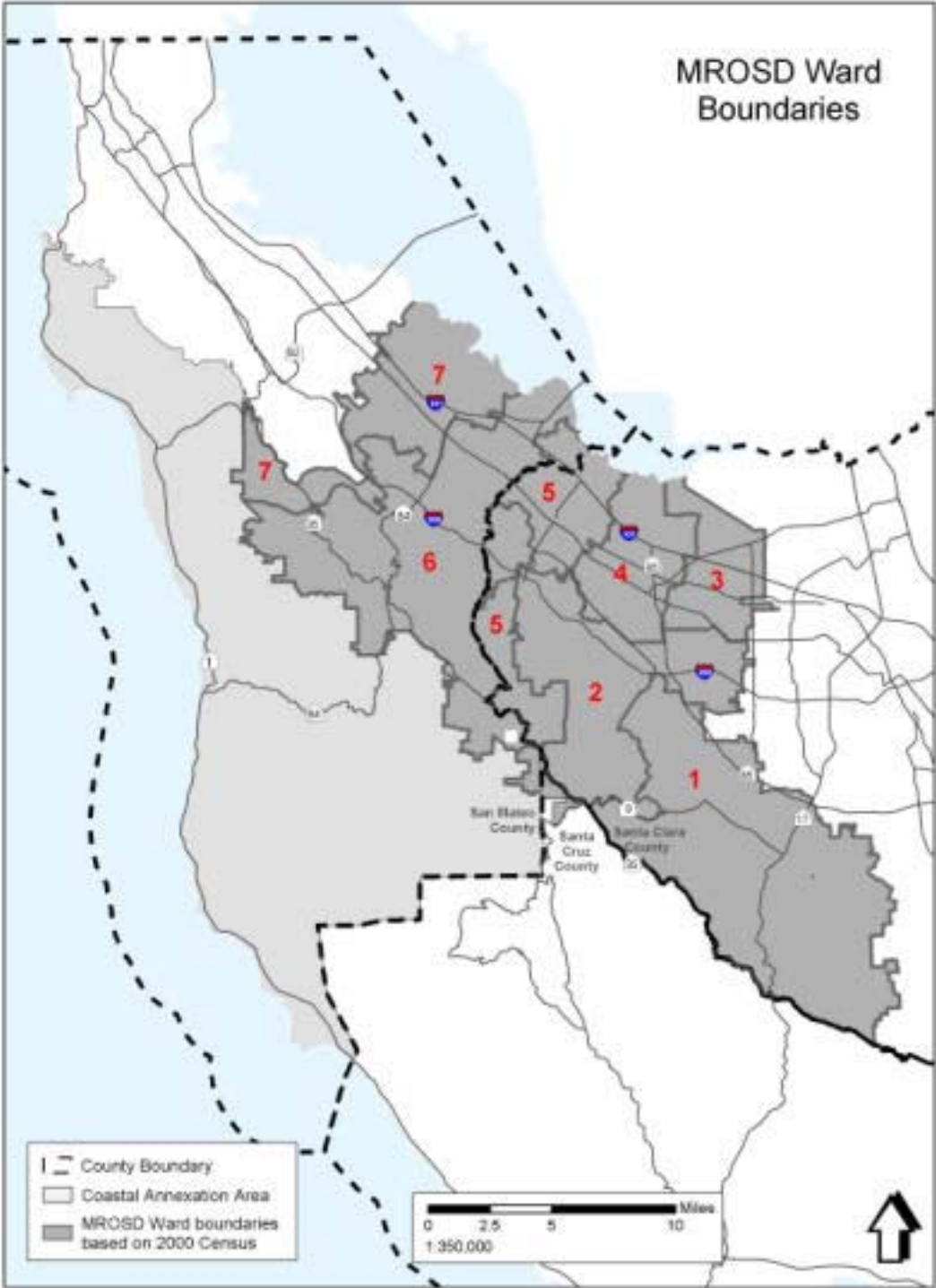
**Implementation Action  
G.5.D(i)**

The District shall notify owners of contiguous properties about public meetings where property acquisitions in the Coastal Annexation Area or any significant use or improvements proposed on District-owned lands in the Coastal Annexation Area are considered.

**Implementation Action  
G.5.E(i)**

Following annexation, no action regarding adoption of Coastal Annexation Area policies shall be taken by the District without consultation with elected officials, government agencies, and government-sponsored organizations within the Coastal Annexation Area.

FIGURE 2: Proposed Annexation Area and Existing District Wards



**Planning and Development**

District lands are managed to promote the long-term preservation of their natural and cultural resources, and at the same time provide low-intensity public recreation, environmental education, and agricultural use where possible. The District has established a planning process to ensure that these goals are met with full participation of the public. Each land use and resource management plan, policy update, acquisition project, and significant capital improvement project is subject to full review by the District Board. The Board typically holds regular meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The public is invited and encouraged to attend these meetings, and to participate in the discussions. All regular and special Board meetings are publicly noticed. In addition, neighbors of District preserves are notified of all projects that require Board attention, as are the individuals on the relevant interested parties lists maintained by the District.

The District can also obtain valuable assistance from the San Mateo County Environmental Services Agency (ESA). The ESA has staff familiar with agricultural production and the relationship between agricultural and non-agricultural land uses in the Coastal Annexation Area. The Office of the County Agricultural Commissioner is also a part of the ESA. In order to take advantage of this expertise, the District will consult with the ESA in preparing use and management plans and in trail route planning for District lands in the Annexation Area. The ESA will receive public notice of all regular and special Board meetings, including where decisions are made to acquire lands or to approve use and management plans in the Coastal Annexation Area.

**Guideline  
G.6.1**

The District will develop a set of Basic Policies for the Coastal Annexation Area.

**Guideline  
G.6.2**

The District's existing Master Plan and Regional Open Space Study will be expanded to include the Coastal Annexation Area.

**Guideline  
G.6.3**

Inherent in the preservation of open space resources in the Coastal Annexation Area is the protection of: rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species; ecological systems; agricultural resources, water quality; visual resources; unique biological resources, including heritage and significant trees; and the unique cultural resources in the Coastal Annexation Area, including historic, archaeological and paleontological resources. Therefore, prior to making any lands available to low-intensity public recreational access, the District shall prepare and adopt a use and management plan, which, includes site-specific resource management and public access components for any lands acquired by the District or managed through contract for other public or private non-profit property owners. All lands acquired by the District within the Coastal Annexation Area will be inventoried to identify and prioritize resource management issues. Where there are critical issues, such as the presence of non-native invasive species which threaten the habitat of

endangered species or the economic viability of an adjacent agricultural operation, resource management plans will be prepared for these areas even if they remain closed to the public.

The use and management plan shall include an agricultural production plan for District-owned agricultural lands or District lands adjacent to agricultural lands. For district-owned lands, the plan shall describe the crop and/or livestock potential for the property together with the management actions required to protect existing agricultural production (e.g., growing seasons, water requirements, pesticide, manure, and waste management) and the agricultural potential of the land. The plan shall consider the following factors:

- h) Availability of labor, including farm labor housing;
- i) Availability of farm support services and goods;
- j) Necessary capital improvements (e.g. water storage, fencing, land leveling)
- k) Farm operations, including erosion control, the season(s) and times of pesticide or herbicide usage, manure and waste management;
- l) Water use and availability;
- m) Access to transportation and markets; and
- n) Promoting agricultural production on District-owned land.

In the case of District lands adjacent to agricultural production, the agricultural production plan shall develop site-specific measures to prevent activities on District lands from interfering with adjacent agricultural production.

The development of use and management plans will include consultation with the current owner or operator of any agricultural operations on the land, adjoining landowners, the San Mateo County Environmental Services Agency in addition to other opportunities for public involvement.

(Reference: Mitigation AGR-3h and BIO-3)

**Guideline  
G.6.4**

The following measures will be included in every future Use and Management Plan for parcels within the Coastal Annexation Area:

1. In areas where trail routes are immediately adjacent to private property, fencing shall be employed as necessary to deter users from leaving the trail. Specific fence, gate, and crossing designs will be determined in consultations with adjacent affected property owner(s) at the Use and Management Plan stage.

2. All new trails/facilities will be sited away from the edges of new preserves.
3. All new trails/facilities will be designed to preserve existing vegetation within new preserves and at the property lines so that preserve users will not be able to view land uses in adjacent properties.
4. Trail uses will be consolidated where safe within the same trail way, depending on the steepness, available right-of-way, safety, user frequencies, and other conditions. A type of use on a trail may be prohibited for safety or environmental reasons, such as erosion and water quality. Where a trail is restricted to a particular type of user, the trail shall be clearly designated as such and shall be equipped with use signs and appropriate barriers to discourage unauthorized use.

Trails shall be sited a minimum distance of 300 feet from occupied dwellings unless site-specific circumstances make this infeasible. Where a 300-foot setback is not feasible, Trails shall be set back a minimum distance of 50 feet. Potential noise and privacy impacts must be evaluated for any subsequent District action and shall be reduced by use of berms, fencing, landscaping, and other feasible and compatible means, if necessary.

(Reference: Mitigation LU-1b:)

**Guideline  
G.6.5**

The District will not permit access in places where the access would create a hazard due to a design feature such as a sharp curve or dangerous intersection.

(Reference: Mitigation PSI-1a)

**Guideline  
G.6.6**

A maximum speed limit of 15 miles per hour shall be placed on all trails that permit cyclists and other trail users (e.g., pedestrian, equestrian). Signs shall be located at trail entrances that indicate that a speed limit is in effect.

(Reference: Mitigation PSI-1b)

**Guideline  
G.6.7**

Where compatible with other trail characteristics, planners shall locate trail alignments and access points to allow trails to also serve as emergency access routes for patrol or emergency medical transport. Where feasible for more remote areas, emergency helicopter landing sites shall be provided.

(Reference: Mitigation HAZ-2b)

**Guideline  
G.6.8**

The District shall limit trail use to low-intensity hiking, bird watching, bicycling, equestrian use, environmental education and other similar low hazard uses, and prohibit smoking, camping, picnic areas, fireworks and off-road vehicle use.

(Reference: Mitigation HAZ-2e)

**Guideline  
G.6.9**

The District shall develop and maintain staging areas and trail heads to incorporate:

- a) Fenced parking areas paved with gravel or asphalt in a narrow configuration to discourage irresponsible vehicle use.
- b) Entrance and road shoulders designed to discourage parking and to facilitate emergency access.
- c) Gates that are at least 12 feet wide constructed of heavy materials with a protected locking system for District and fire service access.
- d) 10-foot radiuses paved with gravel around trailheads.
- e) Signage that describes prohibited uses and warns against fire hazards.
- f) Low ignition fuels, such as grasses, planted adjacent to trail heads and staging areas that shall be mowed annually as soon as 30 per cent of the light ground fuel is cured.
- g) Close trail access points on all predicted high fire response level days (Burn Index of 41, or higher) and post such closures on the District website.
- h) Periodic patrols by District staff.

(Reference: Mitigation HAZ-2f)

**Guideline  
G.6.10**

Trail alignments and their associated facilities shall be sited and designed to be in harmony with surrounding natural and cultural settings and to retain natural appearances and values.

(Reference: Mitigation AES-1a)

**Guideline  
G.6.11**

Trail alignments across the face of open hillsides and near the top of ridgelines shall be sited to avoid creating new, permanent, noticeably visible lines on the existing landscape when viewed from points looking up at or perpendicular to the trail. Conditions to be considered when siting trails include, but are not limited to, avoiding excessive cuts in slopes that could not be effectively revegetated, and presence of native soil to support revegetation.

(Reference: Mitigation AES-1b)

**Guideline  
G.6.12**

Screening berms, perimeter planting, and parking area trees that provide a canopy shall be used at major staging areas to visually buffer views into the staging area from sensitive view points.

(Reference: Mitigation AES-1c)

**Guideline  
G.6.13**

All structures proposed that are located in scenic corridors shall be screened using native landscaping with plants indigenous to the localized area.

(Mitigation AES-1d)

**Guideline  
G.6.14**

Any utilities constructed within a State scenic corridor for District facilities shall be underground.

(Reference: Mitigation AES-1e)

**Guideline  
G.6.15**

Any new lighting as part of the proposed project will have light shields and other devices to ensure that no new light or glare will impact sensitive receptors.

(Reference: Mitigation AES-2)

**Guideline  
G.6.16**

Trails shall be sited to minimize potential water pollution and stream bank erosion. Equestrian trails shall not be sited parallel to “blue line” streams (as mapped on USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle maps) and major drainages (determined during the preparation of individual trail design) within 150 feet of the streambank in such watersheds. Where equestrian trails must cross streams or major drainages in water supply watersheds, the trail shall be sited perpendicular to the stream (to the extent allowed by topography and vegetation) through the 300-foot buffer zone (150 feet on each side). Equestrian trails shall not be located within 150 feet of the high water line of a drinking water reservoir. These measures may be modified on a case-by-case basis upon the advice of a qualified biologist or water quality specialist and the concurrence of the applicable water agency.

(Reference: Mitigation HYD-1a)

**Guideline  
G.6.17**

When acquiring new property, the District shall carefully evaluate existing roads and trails before adopting a Preliminary Use and Management Plan and opening them to the public to ensure that their design is compatible with resource protection and recreational uses. In some cases, the District may close and restore poorly designed roads and trails to restore the land to its natural conditions. Where roads exist in areas of geologic sensitivity (areas prone to landslides or earth movement), the District may conduct a roads assessment to identify corrective actions necessary to reduce sediment input into streams.

Trail surfaces appropriate to intended use shall be selected so as to minimize runoff and erosion problems. Trail designs shall conform to the County Surface Runoff Management Plan, County Excavating, Grading, Filling, and Clearing Regulations Ordinance, and the County Topsoil Ordinance, as defined in this chapter. Surface water shall be diverted from trails by outsloping the trail tread 3% where feasible. Where necessary, shallow ditches or water bars shall be used to divert water on running slopes greater than 5%. Other trail drainage techniques may include rolling dips, culverts, or ditches on sides of trails. Erosion control plans shall comply with erosion control policies in the County General Plan and Local Coastal Program.

(Reference: Mitigation HYD-1c)

**Guideline  
G.6.18**

No large-scale grading shall be used for trail construction. The degree of cut allowed on a slope depends on the soil type, hardness, and surrounding natural resources. Ultimate cuts shall be contoured to blend with the natural slope. Steep areas shall be handled by limited terracing to avoid large-scale grading. Surface soil disturbance shall be kept to a minimum to reduce erosion and maintenance problems. Only those rocks, stumps, and roots that interfere with safe passage shall be removed.

(Reference: Mitigation HYD-1d)

**Guideline  
G.6.19**

Culverts shall be designed so that they do not limit the ability of debris to pass. Structures over water courses shall be carefully placed to minimize disturbance and should be located 2 feet above the 100-year flood elevation or 2 feet above the Flood Hazard Flood Insurance Rate Map flood elevation. Maintenance of culverts and drainage structures shall be performed as needed to ensure proper functioning.

(Reference: Mitigation HYD-2)



**Guideline  
G.6.20**

Biological resource assessments shall be conducted during preparation of Use and Management Plans. Assessments shall be conducted by a qualified biologist and will include surveys for sensitive habitats and special-status species in the appropriate seasons. These assessments will include recommendations to align potential trails to avoid impacts to sensitive habitats, special-status species, and heritage and significant trees. If any trail alignment may affect such resources, the District will consult with the appropriate agencies (e.g., California Department of Fish and game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, national Marine Fisheries Service) to ensure that impacts will be avoided or mitigation is adequate. (Reference: Mitigation BIO-1a)

**Guideline  
G.6.21**

The District shall protect sensitive habitat areas and other areas where special-status species may be adversely affected when planning trails and other facilities. To the maximum extent feasible, trail alignments and other improvements shall avoid impacts to sensitive habitats, including habitats for special-status plants and animals. All improvements shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by a qualified biologist to identify impact avoidance measures or mitigation measures for biotic impacts. Consideration shall be given to:

- Relocating trails or other improvements
- Periodic closures
- Revegetation prescriptions
- Buffer plantings
- Discrete barrier fencing that accommodates wildlife passage
- Other appropriate measures

Removal of native vegetation shall be avoided as much as possible. The appropriate resource agencies shall be contacted regarding any trail alignments or other improvements that may impact sensitive habitats, special-status species, or their habitat. Plant replacement shall be native to the area and suitable for the site conditions.

(Reference: Mitigation BIO-1b)

**Guideline  
G.6.22**

In special-status species habitat areas, trail use levels shall be limited as appropriate to ensure protection of resources. Techniques for limiting use may include, but are not limited to:

- Physical access controls
- Seasonal or intermittent closures

(Reference: Mitigation BIO-1c)

- Guideline  
G.6.23** Existing access routes shall be used wherever suitable to minimize impacts of new construction in special-status species habitats. Realignments will be implemented where necessary to avoid adverse impacts on resources.  
(Reference: Mitigation BIO-1d)
- Guideline  
G.6.24** Trail design shall include barriers to control trail use and prevent environmental damage. Barriers may include fences, vegetation, stiles, and/or fallen trees or branches.  
(Reference: Mitigation BIO-1e)
- Guideline  
G.6.25** When parallel to a stream or riparian zone, trails shall generally be set back from the top of bank or from the outside edge of the riparian zone, whichever is greater, except where topographic, resource management, or other constraints or management objectives make such a setback not feasible or undesirable. Riparian setbacks may be adjusted on a case-by-case basis based upon advice of a qualified biologist and with the concurrence of reviewing agencies, where applicable.  
(Reference: Mitigation BIO-1g)
- Guideline  
G.6.26** Trail crossings of streams and drainages shall be designed to minimize disturbance through the use of bridges, fords, or culverts, whichever is least environmentally damaging. Bridges and culverts shall be designed so that they visually and functionally blend with the environment and do not substantially interfere with the movement of native fish. Sufficient depth and velocity of water through the culvert shall exist in fish-bearing streams for passage of native fish and other native aquatic species during high and low flow conditions. All stream crossings shall be restricted at fish-bearing streams during critical times, such as during spawning, unless bridges and culverts are provided.  
(Reference: Mitigation BIO-1h)
- Guideline  
G.6.27** Trails and other improvements shall avoid wetlands and other jurisdictional waters, including seasonal wetlands, seeps, springs, and farm ponds, whenever possible. A wetlands biologist will conduct reconnaissance-level surveys of all proposed improvements in areas with potential wetlands. Any improvements adjacent to wetland areas will be constructed so that fills avoid wetland impacts and minimum setbacks are allowed. Where feasible, setbacks from wetlands and other jurisdictional waters shall be a minimum of 50 feet for trails and 100 feet for staging areas and other improvements. A formal wetland

delineation will be required for any improvements that may directly impact wetlands.

(Reference: Mitigation BIO-1i)

**Guideline  
G.6.28**

Existing native vegetation shall only be removed as necessary to accommodate the trail clearing width. The minimum horizontal clearing width from physical obstructions varies based on the type of trail but should be no less than two feet from the outer limits of the trail tread and shall be determined on a case by case basis to protect special natural features. Maximum vertical distance from overhanging branches shall be 12 feet on trails open to equestrian or bicycle use. Maximum vertical distance from overhanging branches shall be eight feet on hiking trails. Clearing shall be determined on a case-by-case basis to protect special natural features.

(Reference: Mitigation BIO-1m)

**Guideline  
G.6.29**

The District shall minimize fragmentation of interior habitat, reduce barriers to wildlife movement within preserves, identify and protect established wildlife crossings to allow movement across existing roads, remove unnecessary fences and barbed wire from preserves, and seek to reduce barriers to wildlife movement on a more regional basis. The construction of new fences constructed on District owned or managed lands shall not restrict wildlife movement. Fence rails shall be designed with openings large enough for native mammals to pass through.

(Reference: Mitigation BIO-2)

**Guideline  
G.6.30**

The protocol for determining if structures are of historic value is as follows:

1. The property and building types will be identified and evaluated by a qualified cultural consultant;
2. The cultural consultant will determine if the structures in question are currently included in a local register of historic resources, on the California Register of Historic Resources or on the National Register of Historic Places;
3. If it is determined that the structures in question are not currently included in a local register of historic resources, on the California Register of Historic Resources or on the National Register of Historic Places, a DPR 523 form issued by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will be completed by the cultural consultant and the structural and building data sent to a qualified architectural historian;
4. If it is determined that the structures in question are currently on

the California Register of Historic Resources or if the building has been determined to be of historic value, there are two options that would mitigate any impact to the historic values:

- a) Retain and rehabilitate the building, rehabilitate it according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (U.S. Department of Interior 1990). New construction near this building should be consistent with its historic character; or
- b) Move the building to a different location on its current parcel or to a different parcel appropriate to its historic character.

(Reference: Mitigation CUL-1a)

**Implementation Action G.6.A(i)** Upon completion of the annexation process and with public involvement through local groups, the District shall conduct hearings to develop its Basic Policies for the Coastal Annexation Area. These hearings shall address, at a minimum, the following topics: public participation; resource management; public access; recreational use; public safety; cultural resources; agriculture and timber production; inter-agency relationships; and public information.

See also Implementation Actions G.5.C(i) and G.5.E(i)

**Implementation Action G.6.B(i)** Following adoption of Basic Policies for the Coastal Annexation Area, the District shall complete an expansion of its Master Plan for the Coastal Annexation Area. The Master Plan shall include guidelines for District acquisitions and show the relative desirability of lands as potential open space, without establishing a priority for land acquisition.

See also Implementation Actions G.5.C(i) and G.5.E(i)

**Implementation Action G.6.C(i)** A District staff liaison will be assigned to the Coastal Annexation Area to work with local residents, property owners, government, and interest groups in developing recommendations to the District Board of Directors.

**Implementation Action G.6.D(i)** The District will open a field office and maintenance facilities within the Coastal Annexation Area once the District has the need and funding for permanent management presence in the area.

**Implementation Action G.6.E(i)** As a part of planning for public safety, the District will ensure that each preserve has adequate emergency access land and the paths and roadways of an open space area are documented and maps are

distributed to local fire and police stations prior to opening a preserve to the public.

(Reference: Mitigation PSI-2)

**Implementation  
Action  
G.6.F(i)**

During preparation of plans for specific facilities, the District shall:

- a) Review, in conjunction with the local fire protection services, available water resources. In consultation with the County of San Mateo Environmental Services Department and the California Department of Forestry, the District shall determine whether the construction of dry hydrants (as defined in the Final EIR at Page II-32) on specific lands acquired is feasible in order to provide additional remote area water supplies for fire suppression activities. The District shall purchase a 1,500 - 2,000-gallon maintenance -style water truck. The District-owned water truck shall be available for mutual aid calls during fire suppression activities.
- b) Select indigenous plant materials and/or seed mixes utilized at staging areas or along trails for their low maintenance and drought and fire resistant characteristics to minimize additional fuel available to wildland fires to the extent feasible.

(Reference: Mitigation HAZ-2a)

**Implementation  
Action  
G.6.G(i)**

In addition to continuing its current fuel management practices, as new lands are acquired, the District shall consult with the San Mateo County Fire Department and the California Department of Forestry in developing site-specific fuel modification and management programs for specific lands acquired, as part of its Use and Management planning process.

(Reference: Mitigation HAZ-2d)

**Implementation  
Action  
G.6.H(i)**

The District shall routinely monitor trails and provide regular maintenance to avoid public exposure to hazardous conditions. Trails or other facilities shall be closed for construction or repair, or when another hazardous condition exists (e.g. landslide during flooding or extremely wet weather) that renders trail use especially hazardous, or where adjacent land uses may present unsafe conditions that could affect open space users. Where use limitations or closures are in place, the area shall be clearly designated and shall be equipped with use signs and appropriate barriers to discourage unauthorized use. Missing or damaged signs, gates, fences, and barriers shall be repaired or replaced as soon as possible. Closure notices shall include the reason(s) for the closure, an estimate of how long the facility will be closed, and a telephone number to call for further information.

(Reference: Mitigation HAZ-3a)

**Implementation****Action****G.6.I(i)**

District preserve maps for the public shall be kept up-to-date to the extent feasible. Trail maps shall also provide trail use rules, emergency information, trail accessibility, other pertinent safety information and shall be available at all staging areas.

(Reference: Mitigation HAZ-3b)

**Implementation****Action****G.6J(i)**

The District shall insure that the following measures are included in all future construction contracts to control fugitive dust emissions:

- Water all active construction areas at least twice daily and more often during windy periods. Active areas adjacent to existing land uses shall be kept damp at all times, or shall be treated with non-toxic stabilizers or dust palliatives;
- Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand and other loose materials and/or require all trucks to maintain at least two feet of freeboard;
- Pave, apply water three times daily, or apply (non-toxic) soil stabilizers on all unpaved access roads, parking areas and staging areas for construction sites;
- Sweep daily (preferably with water sweepers) all paved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites;
- Sweep streets daily (preferably with water sweepers) if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent public streets;
- Hydroseed or apply non-toxic soil stabilizers to inactive construction areas;
- Enclose, cover, water twice daily or apply non-toxic soil binders to any exposed stockpiles (dirt, sand, etc.);
- Limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph.;
- Install sandbags or other erosion control measures to prevent silt runoff to public roadways;
- Replant vegetation in disturbed areas as quickly as possible;
- Suspend excavation and grading activity whenever the wind is so high that it results in visible dust plumes despite control efforts.

(Reference: Mitigation AIR-1)

**Implementation****Action****G.6K(i)**

Storm water quality BMPs as listed in this section shall be implemented to reduce potential water quality impacts. BMPs include:

1. Flow of runoff from drainage structures will be directed to vegetated areas, away from creeks and drainages as is practical.
2. Conduct any trail maintenance work during low flow periods
3. Use erosion and sediment control measures to minimize water quality impacts and ensure no sediment at heavily traveled trails

flows into creeks. These measures include:

- Silt Fences
- Straw Bale Barriers
- Brush or Rock Filters
- Storm Drain Inlet Protection
- Sediment Traps
- Sediment Basins
- Erosion Control Blankets and Mats
- The District shall prevent erosion on steep slopes by using erosion control material according to manufacturer's specifications.

4. If soil is to be stockpiled for any reason at creeksides, no run-off will be allowed to flow back to the creek.

(Reference: Mitigation HYD-1b)

**Implementation  
Action  
G.6L(i)**

A particular trail or other facility may need to be closed during seasonal periods critical to special-status species, where overuse threatens resource values, or for other reasons to protect biological resources.

Where a trail or surrounding habitat warrants special notice limiting trail use, the trail shall be clearly designated and should be equipped with use signs and appropriate barriers to discourage unauthorized use. Missing or damaged signs, gates, fences, and barriers shall be repaired or replaced as soon as possible. Closure notices shall include the reason(s) for the closure, an estimate of how long the facility will be closed, and a telephone number to call for further information.

(Reference: Mitigation BIO-1f)

**Implementation  
Action  
G.6M(i)**

Revegetation and/or enhancement shall be undertaken where any sensitive habitat or special-status species habitat will be disturbed or destroyed by facility construction. Revegetation work shall be implemented prior to or concurrently with the development. The design of an appropriate revegetation program shall fully compensate for the lost habitat, with no net loss of habitat functions and values. Riparian and wetland habitat impacts will typically be mitigated at a 3:1 ratio for high quality habitat areas and at lower ratios where lower habitat quality justifies a lower ratio. A lower ratio may also be justified if habitat mitigation is implemented and verified as successful prior to the occurrence of impacts. Mitigation shall be based on in-kind replacement of impacted habitat with habitat of equal or better biotic value. The revegetation program shall be designed by a qualified biologist or ecologist and submitted to the appropriate regulatory or trustee agency for approval. At a minimum, the revegetation program shall include a description of

project impacts, mitigation calculations, the mitigation site, revegetation techniques, maintenance measures, a long-term monitoring program, and contingency measures. Native plant materials suited to the site will be utilized in all mitigation work.

(Reference: Mitigation BIO-1j)

**Implementation  
Action  
G.6N(i)**

Periodic monitoring of known sensitive habitats adjacent to trails or other facilities shall be conducted to determine if unacceptable soil compaction or other adverse impacts are occurring. If monitoring reveals that undesirable soil compaction or impact to a sensitive habitat is occurring, barriers or other appropriate measures (such as trail rerouting) shall be employed as needed to discourage off-trail use. Brush or other aesthetically acceptable barriers can be used to cover illegal trails, abandoned trails, or shortcuts to discourage use until natural vegetation returns.

(Reference: Mitigation BIO-1k)

**Implementation  
Action  
G.6O(i)**

Should sensitive habitat be impacted such that it necessitates permanently closing a trail or staging area, a management program to rehabilitate the area will be developed. Such a program shall include discing and replanting or other techniques appropriate to the habitat type to return the site to a natural condition and sufficiently blocking the trail with barriers to effectively prohibit use. Management shall include monitoring the site to ensure that it returns to a natural condition without the intrusion of invasive exotic plants. Management shall also include design elements, maintenance, and monitoring to ensure that erosion is minimized.

Construction and maintenance of trails will require the trimming and/or removal of vegetation along the trail route and staging areas.

(Reference: Mitigation BIO-1l)

**Implementation  
Action  
G.6P(i)**

Good pruning practices should be followed when vegetation growth must be cleared. Ground cover plants and low shrubs should not be cleared beyond the original construction standards. The construction standard shall be defined as the trail tread width plus 1-2 feet from each side of the edge of the trail tread. Noxious plants (e.g., yellow star-thistle) shall be controlled along trails and the edges of staging areas in a timely manner.

(Reference: Mitigation BIO-1n)

**Implementation  
Action**

Short-Term/Construction activities may impact nearby historic properties. These impacts may include dust accumulation on building



**G.6Q(i)**

facades, and increased noise and vibration from construction equipment. Construction period impacts could be mitigated to a less-than-significant level by implementing the following mitigation measures:

1. Project specifications shall require the contractor(s) and any subcontractors to conform to the County's noise control requirements.
2. Project specifications shall require the general contractor and any subcontractors to control dust and exhaust emissions of particulates through water sprinkling during demolition and excavation activities; covering of stockpiles of soil, sand and other such materials; covering trucks hauling debris, soil, sand and other such materials; street sweeping of the streets surrounding excavation and construction sites; equipment maintenance to reduce emissions; and, prohibitions on idling engines when not in use.
3. Cleaning of the adjacent historic buildings may be necessary after construction activities to prevent long-term damage to the building fabric. The need for cleaning shall be determined by a qualified Historic Architect, shall follow the standards set by the Secretary of the Interior, and shall be completed in consultation with the Historic Architect.
4. A structural engineer shall inspect the buildings prior to construction to determine if the noise and vibration anticipated during construction will affect the buildings framework and fabric. The report, with any recommendations and mitigation measures, should be reviewed by a qualified Historic Architect

(Reference: Mitigation CUL-1b)

**Implementation Action****G.6R(i)**

Application of the Standard Protocol for Unexpected Discovery of Archaeological and Paleontological Cultural Materials (See Appendix A) will be applied.

(Reference: Mitigation CUL-2)

**Implementation Action****G.6S(i)**

Application of the Native American Burial Plan (See Appendix A) will be applied.

(Reference: Mitigation CUL-3)

**Implementation Action****G.6T(i)**

Surveys shall be conducted as part of trail route site planning to identify the occurrence of any potentially hazardous geologic conditions such as unstable slopes in landslide areas. Such areas shall be avoided or necessary construction design measures shall be incorporated into the trail design to assure that:

- Users will not be exposed to the identified hazard
  - Trails would not contribute to increasing the degree or extent of instability
  - Drainage from the trail would be routed away from the instability
- In no event shall a trail be routed across an instability that is actively supplying sediment directly into a channel within a watershed known to support anadromous fish species, unless the instability is stabilized.

(Reference: Mitigation GEO-1a)

**Implementation  
Action  
G.6U(i)**

The District shall routinely monitor trails and provide regular maintenance to avoid public exposure to hazardous conditions.  
(Reference: Mitigation GEO-1b)

**Implementation  
Action  
G.6V(i)**

Where structures are proposed, a geotechnical evaluation shall be conducted to identify engineering methods to reduce the potential for structural failure due to geological hazards. All buildings shall be designed in a manner that reflects the geologic hazards on the site, and shall be consistent with local and Uniform Building Codes.  
(Reference: Mitigation GEO-1c)

**Guideline  
G.7**

In implementing any specific management or public access plans, the District shall obtain all necessary permits from appropriate Federal, State, and local land and resource regulatory agencies. Such agencies include, but are not limited to, San Mateo County, the City of Half Moon Bay, and the California Coastal Commission.

**Implementation  
Action  
G.7.A(i)**

The District shall coordinate with appropriate agencies, such as the County and the California Department of Forestry to formalize mutual aid agreements.  
(Reference: Mitigation HAZ-2c)

**Partnerships**

The following guidelines recognize that the District can successfully acquire and manage open space resources and provide visitor-serving facilities for low-intensity recreation if the District works with others in the community in developing and implementing such programs. Potential local public partners include, but are limited to: the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Coastal Conservancy, the San Mateo County Department of Parks and Recreation, the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District, the City of Half Moon Bay, the Midcoast Community Council, the Pescadero Municipal Advisory

Council, and the San Mateo County Agricultural Advisory Committee. Potential private partners interested in land and resource conservation include, but are not limited to: the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), the Nature Conservancy, Save the Redwoods League, Save Our Bay, and the California Farm Bureau. The District could also benefit by working with individuals and groups of private property owners to develop site-specific stewardship programs.

The District would manage lands it acquires that are adjacent to land owned by another open space interest (e.g. POST, California Department of Parks and Recreation, San Mateo County Department of Parks), in a compatible way. This, for example, might involve developing trails where a logical trail connection exists or supporting other low-intensity recreation uses. However, the District would not permit intensive recreation development or active recreation on District property where it may exist on an adjacent open space property.

**Guideline  
G.8**

The District shall work with other public recreation and open space providers, conservation agencies, non-profit land trusts, and community organizations for the preservation and management of open space resources that are regionally significant. District participation, to the extent allowed by law, could include: partial financing for land acquisition; temporary receivership of property; coordination of technical planning and legal services relating to open space issues; joint grant proposals; co-sponsorship and participation in demonstration projects; and joint open space resource management training.

**Guideline  
G.9**

The District will encourage active public participation in: maintaining, restoring, and protecting natural resources; assisting in scientific research programs; and providing science and conservation education opportunities to the public.

**Land Use**

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is not a land use regulatory agency. There are no required changes in land use designations or land use controls if the annexation proceedings are completed. The purpose of the District presence in the Coastal Annexation Area is to acquire and manage open space resources and, where appropriate, provide low-intensity recreation opportunities for the general public.

As a property owner, the District must work within the context of existing County and City land use and zoning designations. It is likely that much of the land that may be acquired or managed by the District will be in one of the following San Mateo County General Plan land use designations:

- General Open Space
- Agriculture
- Timber Production

- Public Recreation

The following policy will direct District activities to assure that existing land use and zoning designations will be retained.

**Permanent Policy  
P.2**

Within the Coastal Annexation Area, the District will not initiate any activities that would require a General Plan amendment or zoning change  
(Reference: Mitigation LU-2; Mitigation AGR-2)

**Permanent Policy  
P.3**

The District shall secure County and other required agency permits on lands it owns or manages for open space and visitor-serving low-intensity recreation uses and for staff facilities. Such uses shall comply with all applicable County land use policies and regulations.

**DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES TO BE EXTENDED TO THE COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA (AFFECTED TERRITORY)**

Services of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to be extended to the Coastal Annexation Area will implement the policies, guidelines, and implementation actions set forth in the Service Plan and will fulfill the District's mission for the San Mateo Coastal Annexation Area

District actions within the Coastal Annexation Area would be similar to existing District actions within its current boundaries, modified by the Guiding Principles for the Coastal Annexation Area. Services would include:

- Acquisition of lands and/or easements subject to availability of funding, based upon negotiations with willing sellers, and without the use of eminent domain.
- Management of lands acquired by the District or management of lands through contract with other property owners (e.g. the Peninsula Open Space Trust, State of California, and the like) involving stewardship programs and visitor-serving low-intensity recreation access. Contracts for ranger patrol, maintenance, and improvements to manage other property owners' lands would be subject to available District resources such that no significant negative impact to existing District services would result.
- Development and approval by the District Board of Directors of long-range plans to guide District programs. These plans would be in the form of: (1) revision of the District Master Plan to include the Coastal Annexation Area; and (2) revision of the Regional Open Space Study to include the Coastal Annexation Area.
- Potential sale or lease of District-owned lands for: (1) agricultural uses after conservation or public access easements or conditions are applied to the property based on the site-specific resource characteristics of the property; and (2) appropriate recreation uses sponsored by

public agencies, such as San Mateo County Department of Parks and Recreation, that would be consistent with applicable general plan and zoning regulations.

- Preparation of site assessments or use and management plans for individual properties that are either acquired by the District or managed by the District for other public or non-profit landowners.
- District activities will not degrade the economic potential of prime agricultural lands. The District will strive to assure that all prime agricultural land and other lands suitable for agriculture and that are not needed for the protection and vital functioning of a sensitive habitat will be protected for economically viable agriculture.
- The District will carefully plan and conduct its land management practices to minimize impacts to adjacent property.
- Parcels of 40 or more acres will typically be considered for purchase, however some smaller parcels may be sought for acquisition. These may include parcels that are key habitat, trail routes, inholdings, or parcels needed for service access.
- The land acquisition program of the District will be limited by the District's fiscal capability to manage lands.
- Acquisition of conservation easements will be an important part of the District's open space preservation program.
- District land acquisition will tend to emphasize properties that are contiguous with District lands along and west of Skyline Ridge.
- Eventual improvements the District would likely develop include a ranger office, maintenance facilities and related facilities to support stewardship activities, and visitor-serving facilities for public low-intensity recreation.

Improvements for low-intensity public recreation on District-owned or managed lands will be similar to existing improvements and use patterns now typical throughout much of the Skyline area. It is anticipated that publicly accessible trails would be provided at a ratio of approximately 7 miles per 1,720 acres of District-owned or managed lands. It is not anticipated that new trails would be built on lands managed under contract. No trails are assumed to occur on easement lands. It is anticipated that approximately one-third would be new trails built by the District, with the remaining two-thirds being existing ranch roads, fire roads, or trails. Staging areas would be provided at the same per trail mile ratio as they are in existing District lands, which is approximately one staging area per 18 miles of trail.

For management of public access and stewardship programs, it is anticipated that an average of one field staff person would be provided to manage every 1,720 acres of land purchased or managed under contract. Additional personnel would be required to manage lands with more than 10 miles of trails per 1,720 acres. Staff will also be added as District holdings on the Coast increase to meet corresponding resource management needs for more planning and administrative service. One planning staff person would be provided at the outset. It is anticipated that additional planning or

administrative staff would be provided at a ratio of one for every 3,440 acres purchased or managed under contract, and one for every 5,160 acres of conservation easement.

In the near term, temporary field staff offices will be provided in existing buildings owned or acquired by the District. A full field staff office and maintenance facility would only be economically justifiable and would be developed once the District manages approximately 15,000 acres of land within the Coastal annexation Area.

### **LEVEL AND RANGE OF SERVICES**

District services can feasibly be extended to properties within the Coastal Annexation Area following final approval of annexation by the San Mateo County LAFCo. Financing for services would be from existing District revenues augmented by other government and private funding. District services will emphasize land stewardship and management programs working cooperatively with agencies active within the Coastal Annexation Area, interest groups, and individual property owners. The acquisition of land or conservation easements would be a modest part of the District's Basic Service Plan.

The extent and level of the expansion of services, and in particular acquisition programs, will be dependent on a number of factors including: opportunities to acquire land offered by willing sellers without the use of eminent domain; additional funding opportunities from public or private sources to complement existing District resources for land acquisition grants; requests by other public or private non-profit property owners for land management expertise and services; and the potential for expanded District revenues through a voter-approved funding measure.

### **EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS**

The District is most interested in obtaining and/or managing "open space" properties. These are properties that typically have few or very limited existing improvements. Municipal sewer or water services are not normally sought by the District unless already available to the property.

Should the District acquire lands that contain existing structures, these structures may be maintained and improved for uses such as staff or caretaker housing or for rental to others. Rental preference would be provided to other open space or recreation providers, such as the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Department, and other public service workers, including teachers, where use of such facilities would benefit public recreation or open space programs and the community. Structures may or may not be retained depending on their condition and potential for compatible use. If retained, structures would likely not be expanded. Dilapidated or dangerous structures and other hazardous structures not of historic or scenic value may be demolished.

### **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Financing for construction of low-intensity public access improvements and operation of District services has typically been provided from District general revenues augmented by Federal and State

grant programs. Entry fees for public recreational use of District lands are generally not charged. On a case-by-case basis, the District receives income from commercial or agricultural leases and residential rentals. Lessees are assessed a possessory interest tax by the County in lieu of property tax.

District operations, stewardship and interpretive programs are funded from District general funds and interpretive programs are supplemented by Docents and other volunteers.

Following annexation, the District will work cooperatively with its constituents to develop appropriate voter-approved District funding measures to provide a higher level of services within the Coastal Annexation Area.

### **TIMETABLE FOR SERVICES**

District services will be provided within the Coastal Annexation Area effective immediately upon final annexation and would be implemented in a phased program that is reflective of the District's Guiding Principles for the Coastal Annexation Area.

### **BASIC SERVICE PLAN**

Table 1 presents an overview of the District's Basic Service Plan for land and easement acquisition, development, and management programs for fifteen years after annexation. The Basic Service Plan for the Coastal Annexation Area is based on funding from only existing District revenue sources, including grants and gifts, and emphasizes managing land acquired by others. The Basic Service Plan assumes that the acquisition of lands or easements by the District would be from willing sellers only without the use of eminent domain. The Basic Service Plan presents a general projection of the amount of land that could reasonably be anticipated to be acquired and/or managed based on a program involving no additional voter-approved funding measure.

District expenditures by the Board for the Basic Service Plan would primarily be directed to managing open space resources and public access for low-intensity recreation. District land acquisition within the Coastal Annexation Area would be limited to those properties presented by willing sellers and to funding available from government grants and private sources. Some new acquisitions would occur in the Coastal Annexation Area through the District's ongoing program to add land to the west from the existing Skyline area Open Space Preserves. The District would work in partnership with other public agencies and private non-profit land trusts to provide land management expertise where the District has the ability to do so. The District would also work with local agencies and organizations to develop a long-term funding mechanism for voter approval that would complement existing District funding programs.

### **OPTIONAL SERVICE PLAN SCENARIOS**

In years 1-5 of the Basic Service Plan, the District may consider placing a voter-approved funding measure on the ballot. For study purposes, Appendix B presents two optional scenarios for expanded District Services should a voter-approved funding measure sponsored by the District be enacted.

**TABLE 1: BASIC SERVICE PLAN FOR THE COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA - LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT**

<b>Approximate Time Frame</b>	<b>Basic Service Plan Premise:</b> Funding for land acquisition principally from grants; emphasis on land management funded from existing sources. <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>Years 1-5</b>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused planning discussions with local interests to include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy Review for the Coastal Annexation Area</li> <li>- Update of the District Master Plan and Open Space Study to include the Coastal Annexation Area</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of existing District revenues; apply for public and private grants and gifts</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Land Acquisition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire approximately 1,000 to 1,200 acres / year via-existing District funding augmented by grants</li> <li>• Acquire approximately 130 to approximately 240 acres of easements / year via existing District funding augmented by grants</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Land Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screen partnership opportunities for resource and public access management</li> <li>• Limited program expansion of resource and public access management by approximately 100 to 200 acres / year based on partnership opportunities and existing District funding</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Improvements</b> <sup>(2)</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish District presence through ranger residency program in housing located on properties acquired by the District</li> <li>• Few areas open to public access</li> </ul>

**Cumulative Total: End of Year 5**

<b>Property</b>	<b>Low Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>High Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>5-Year Low Total in System</b>	<b>5-Year High Total in System</b>
Lands Acquired	1,000	1,200	<b>5,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>
Easements Acquired (or Monitored for Others)	130	240	<b>650</b>	<b>1,200</b>
Expansion of Lands Managed Under Contract	100	200	<b>500</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Cumulative Total All Lands</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>6,150</b>	<b>8,200</b>
<b>Facilities:</b>				
Existing Roads & Trails <sup>(3)</sup>			<b>14.3</b>	<b>19.0</b>
New Trails <sup>(3)</sup>			<b>2.4</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Staging Areas <sup>(3)</sup>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>



**TABLE 1: BASIC SERVICE PLAN FOR THE COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA - LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT**

<b>Approximate Time Frame</b>	<b>Basic Service Plan Premise:</b> Funding for land acquisition principally from grants; emphasis on land management funded from existing sources. <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>Years 6-10</b>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate land use and management plans for District-owned property for public access</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Land Acquisition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire approximately 100 to 200 acres / year based primarily on grants and gifts</li> <li>Acquire approximately 60 to 110 acres of easements / year based primarily on grants and gifts <sup>(1)</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Land Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited expansion of resource and public access management by up to 150 to 200 acres / year based principally on partnership opportunities and existing District funding</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Improvements</b> <sup>(3)</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand District presence through ranger residency program in housing located on properties acquired by the District</li> <li>Initiate public access by opening / constructing minor staging areas, trails and related facilities based on site-specific resource management and public access plans</li> </ul>

**Cumulative Total: Years 6-10**

<b>Property</b>	<b>Low Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>High Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>10-Year Low Total in System</b>	<b>10-Year High Total in System</b>
Lands Acquired	100	200	<b>5,500</b>	<b>7,000</b>
Easements Acquired (or Monitored for Others)	60	110	<b>950</b>	<b>1,750</b>
Expansion of Lands Managed Under Contract	150	200	<b>1,250</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Cumulative Total All Lands</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>10,750</b>
<b>Facilities:</b>				
Existing Roads & Trails <sup>(3)</sup>			<b>17.6</b>	<b>24.5</b>
New Trails <sup>(3)</sup>			<b>6.2</b>	<b>8.6</b>
Staging Areas <sup>(3)</sup>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

**TABLE 1: BASIC SERVICE PLAN FOR THE COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA - LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT**

<b>Approximate Time Frame</b>	<b>Basic Service Plan Premise:</b> Funding for land acquisition principally from grants; emphasis on land management funded from existing sources. <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>Years 11-15</b>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue land use and management plans for District-owned property</li> </ul> <p><b>Land Acquisition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire approximately 50 to 100 acres / year based primarily on grants and gifts</li> <li>Acquire approximately 8 to 10 acres of easements / year based primarily on grants and gifts <sup>(1)</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Land Management</b> <sup>(3)</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited expansion of resource and public access management by approximately 50 to 100 acres / year based principally on partnership opportunities and existing District funding <sup>(2)</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Improvements</b> <sup>(3)</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand District presence through Ranger residency program in housing on properties acquired by the District</li> <li>Expand public access by opening / constructing a major staging area, trails and related facilities based on site-specific resource management and public access plans</li> <li>Establish District field office and maintenance shop in facilities existing on properties acquired by the District</li> </ul>

**Cumulative Total: Years 11-15**

<b>Property</b>	<b>Low Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>High Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>15-Year Low Total in System</b>	<b>15-Year High Total in System</b>
Lands Acquired	50	100	5,750	7,500
Easements Acquired (or Monitored for Others)	8	10	990	1,800
Expansion of Lands Managed Under Contract	50	100	1,500	2,500
<b>Cumulative Total All Lands</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>8,240</b>	<b>11,800</b>
<b>Facilities:</b>				
Existing Roads & Trails <sup>(3)</sup>			18.9	27.0
New Trails <sup>(3)</sup>			6.8	9.7
Staging Areas <sup>(3)</sup>			2	2

- (1) Funding opportunities from grant programs for land acquisition vary significantly over time. Grant programs also vary in purpose, geographic area, and requirements for matching funds.
- (2) Assumes that preliminary use and management plans focus on site safety and resource protection, therefore few areas would be opened for public use and limited access would be provided to existing roads and trails.
- (3) Assumes the following:
- Approximately 7 miles of trail opened to public use per 1,720 acres of land owned or managed by the District; of these approximately 2/3 will be trails that either exist or are unpaved ranch/fire roads converted to trail use. Trails available for public use will not occur immediately upon the inclusion of lands into the District. Therefore trail mileages indicated are lower than the maximum that could be calculated based on the above formula; and
  - Staging areas are provided at a rate of one area per 18 miles of trails and will be evenly distributed between major and minor staging areas.

Note: For purposes of this plan, the cost of managing easements and managing fee title lands is equal.

## **APPENDIX A**

### ***SERVICE PLAN DEFINITIONS***

As used above, the following definitions apply:

**SAN MATEO COUNTY COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA:** is generally defined as follows:

- on the east by the existing District boundary and San Francisco Watershed Lands
- on the west by the Pacific Ocean
- on the north by the southern boundary of the City of Pacifica
- on the south by the San Mateo County / Santa Cruz County boundary

**AGRICULTURAL LAND:** means land currently used for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity for commercial purposes, land left fallow under a crop rotational program, or land enrolled in an agricultural subsidy or set-aside program.

source: SEC. 15. Government Code Section 56016 of the Government Code (Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000)

**PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND:** The term “prime agricultural land” as used in this Service Plan is based on the San Mateo County Local Coastal Plan definition and means:

- a) All land which qualifies for rating as Class I or Class II in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service Land Use Capability Classification, as well as all Class III lands capable of growing artichokes or Brussels sprouts.
- b) All land which qualifies for rating 80-100 in the Storie Index Rating.
- c) Land which supports livestock for the production of food and fiber and which has an annual carrying capacity equivalent to at least one animal unit per acre as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- d) Land planted with fruit or nut bearing trees, vines, bushes, or crops which have a non-bearing period of less than five years and which normally return during the commercial bearing period, on an annual basis, from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant production not less than \$200 per acre.
- e) Land which has returned from the production of an unprocessed agricultural plant product an annual value that is not less than \$200 per acre within three of the five previous years. The \$200 per acre amount in subsections d) and e) shall be adjusted regularly for inflation, using 1965 as the base year, according to a recognized consumer price index.

In addition to the above, prime agricultural land includes the Resource Agency categories of Unique Farmlands or Farmlands of Statewide Importance as mapped by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency.

Reference: Mitigation AGR-1d

**NOTE:** There are several different definitions of Prime Agricultural Lands used under various legislative programs. Those definitions are provided below for informational purposes.

**Williamson Act Definition:** California Government Code section 51201(c) provides that “Prime agricultural land” means any of the following:

- 1) All land that qualifies for rating as class I or class II in the Natural Resource Conservation Service land use capability classifications.
- 2) Land that qualifies for rating 80 through 100 in the Storie Index Rating.
- 3) Land that supports livestock used for the production of food and fiber and which has an annual carrying capacity equivalent to at least one animal unit per acre as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture.
- 4) Land planted with fruit- or nut-bearing trees, vines, bushes or crops which have a nonbearing period of less than five years and which will normally return during the commercial bearing period on an annual basis from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant production not less than two hundred dollars (\$200) per acre.
- 5) Land that has returned from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant products an annual gross value of not less than two hundred dollars (\$200) per acre for three of the previous five years.

**Cortese-Knox Hertzberg Act Definition:** California Government Code section 56064 provides that

“Prime agricultural land” means an area of land, whether a single parcel or contiguous parcels, that has not been developed for a use other than an agricultural use and that meets any of the following qualifications:

- 1) Land that qualifies, if irrigated, for rating as class I or class II in the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service land use capability classification, whether or not land is actually irrigated, provided that irrigation is feasible.
- 2) Land that qualifies for rating 80 through 100 Storie Index Rating.
- 3) Land that supports livestock used for the production of food and fiber and that has an annual carrying capacity equivalent to at least one animal unit per acre as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture in the National Handbook on Range and Related Grazing Lands, July, 1967, developed pursuant to Public Law 46, December 1935.
- 4) Land planted with fruit or nut-bearing trees, vines, bushes, or crops that have a nonbearing period of less than five years and that will return during the commercial bearing period on an annual basis from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant production not less than four hundred dollars (\$400) per acre.
- 5) Land that has returned from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant products an annual gross value of not less than four hundred dollars (\$400) per acre for three of the previous five calendar years.

**San Mateo County Local Coastal Plan:** Section 5.1 Definition of Prime Agricultural Lands  
Define prime agricultural lands as:

- 1) All land which qualifies for rating as Class I or Class II in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service Land Use Capability Classification, as well as all Class III lands capable of growing artichokes or Brussels sprouts.
- 2) All land which qualifies for rating 80-100 in the Storie Index Rating.
- 3) Land which supports livestock for the production of food and fiber and which has an annual carrying capacity equivalent to at least one animal unit per acre as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- 4) Land planted with fruit or nut bearing trees, vines, bushes, or crops which have a non-bearing period of less than five years and which normally return during the commercial bearing period, on an annual basis, from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant production not less than \$200 per acre.
- 5) Land which has returned from the production of an unprocessed agricultural plant product an annual value that is not less than \$200 per acre within three of the five previous years. The \$200 per acre amount in subsections d. and e. shall be adjusted regularly for inflation, using 1965 as the base year, according to a recognized consumer price index.

**BASIC POLICIES:** an existing set of general policies adopted by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors that define open space, the District's purpose, and strategic planning goals. Basic policies provide guidance to District activities in the areas of: open space acquisition; planning; resource management; public recreational use and improvements; public safety; cultural resources; agriculture and revenue-producing use; interagency relationships (including cooperation, participation, and joint projects); research activities; public involvement (including public information, meeting procedures, public input, neighbor relations, participation, and volunteerism); and administration.

**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP):** include:

- 1) Flow of runoff from drainage structures will be directed to vegetated area, away from creeks and drainages as is practical.
- 2) Conduct any trail maintenance work during low flow periods.
- 3) Use erosion and sediment control measures to minimize water quality impacts and ensure no sediment at heavily traveled trails flows into creeks. These measures include:
  - Silt Fences
  - Straw Bale Barriers\Brush or Rock Filters
  - Storm Drain Inlet Protection
  - Sediment Traps
  - Sediment Basins
  - Erosion Control Blankets and Mats
  - The District shall prevent erosion on step slopes by using erosion control material according to manufacturer's specifications.
- 4) If soil is to be stockpiled for any reason at creeksides, no run-off will be allowed to flow back to the creek."

**DRY HYDRANT:** water sources where engines can draft water from a standpipe connected to a pond, tank, or other forms of water storage. These can be stock watering holes, diverted water storage from creeks and water storage from active wells. The intent is to establish underground plumbing between the water storage and to a drivable area where the engine can back up to and draft water to fill its tank. The plumbing is usually a 2 1/2 –inch or 4-inch line connected to a 2 1/2 –inch standpipe that is placed above ground like a typical fire hydrant. These water sources can also be used as quail guzzlers and other wildlife drinking facilities. These sources should not be used in a case where groundwater supply would be affected

**IMPROVEMENTS:** Typical improvements the District might eventually develop within the Coastal Annexation Area would include a field office, maintenance facilities and related facilities to support stewardship activities, and visitor-serving facilities for public low-intensity recreation. Visitor-serving facilities typically would include: small, unpaved staging areas usually less than 1 acre in size; self-contained sanitary facilities; map boards; safety and regulatory signs; natural-surfaced trails; and patrol and emergency access routes. Minor staging areas would consist of 12 to 20 parking spaces. Major staging areas would consist of 40 to 60 parking spaces.

**LOW-INTENSITY RECREATION:** means recreation that avoids concentration of use, significant alteration of the land, and significant impact on natural resources or on the visitor’s appreciation of nature. Criteria for evaluating types, timing, and level of access for low-intensity public recreational use of open space lands include:

1. Protection of natural resources;
2. Preservation of the opportunity for tranquil nature study and observation;
3. Avoidance of significant user conflicts;
4. Availability of Board and staff time, funding, and/or other means, to plan and manage the use.

source: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Basic Policy, March 10, 1999

**MASTER PLAN; REGIONAL OPEN SPACE STUDY:** To guide the District's open space preservation efforts, the District maintains a Master Plan and a Regional Open Space Study. The Master Plan sets forth guidelines for District acquisitions and shows the relative desirability of potential open space preservation without establishing a priority for land acquisition.

The Regional Open Space Study shows the general extent of lands and public access improvements existing and under consideration by the District and other park and open space agencies to complete the District's mission. Both documents are subject to periodic review and modification by the Board of Directors after public hearings. The Regional Open Space Study is subject to periodic technical updates.

source: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Basic Policy, March 10, 1999

**NATIVE AMERICAN BURIAL PLAN (NABP)**

- 1) In the event of an inadvertent discovery of human remains and cultural items during project construction, the field crew supervisor shall take immediate steps, if necessary, to secure and

- protect any remains and cultural materials. This shall include but is not limited to such measures as (a) temporary avoidance by construction until the remains and items can be removed; (b) posting a security person; (c) placement of a security fence around the area of concern; or, (d) some combination of these measures. Any such measures employed will depend upon the nature and particular circumstances of the discovery.
- 2) The County Medical Examiner (Coroner) shall be notified by the field crew supervisor or other designated District manager and informed of the find and of any efforts made to identify the remains as Native American. If the remains are identified as a prehistoric Native American by either a professional archaeologist under contract to the District or the Medical Examiner's forensic archaeologist, the Medical Examiner is responsible for contacting the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours of notification of the find. The Medical Examiner may choose to document and remove the remains at his/her discretion depending on the circumstances of the discovery. The NAHC then designates and notifies a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD has 24 hours to consult and provide recommendations for the treatment or disposition, with proper dignity, of the human remains and grave goods [Note: Other culturally affiliated Native Americans [Indians] may be consulted by the MLD during the consultation and recommendation process to determine treatment of the skeletal remains].
  - 3) Each burial and associated cultural items shall be stored as a unit in a secure facility, which shall be accessible to the MLD and other Native American representative(s) or their designated alternates upon prior arrangement.
  - 4) The remains and associated cultural items shall be reburied in a secure location as near as possible to the area of their discovery or at an off-site location acceptable to the MLD that has minimal potential for future disturbance. The reburial shall be done in a manner that shall discourage or deter future disturbance. Reburial shall be conducted by persons designated by the MLD, with the assistance, if requested, of the District's field crew. The location shall be fully documented, filed with the NAHC and the California Historical Resources Information System, Northwest Information Center, California State University, Sonoma and treated as confidential information.
  - 5) If the NAHC is unable to identify a MLD, or the MLD fails to make a recommendation, or the District or designate rejects the recommendation of the MLD and mediation (as per Section 5097.94 subdivision (k)) fails, reinterment of the human remains and associated cultural items associated shall take place with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.
  - 6) For security reasons, no news releases, including but not limited to photographs, videotapes, written articles, or other such means that contains information about human remains or burial-related items of Native American origin shall be released by any party during the discovery, recovery and reburial unless approved by the MLD.
  - 7) Any disputes that arise among the MLD and representatives of affected Native American groups and/or between the District or designate and the MLD concerning cultural affiliation or the ultimate disposition of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects and unassociated funerary objects shall be resolved according to the dispute resolution procedures in Section 5097.94 of the State of California Public Resources Code.
  - 8) The Archaeological Data Recovery/Native American Burial Treatment Report(s) shall be prepared by professional archaeologists. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following: project overview; ethnographic section; previous archaeological research in the region

and on-site; circumstances of discovery; recovery procedures and techniques; artifact analysis; faunal analysis; osteological analysis and interpretation; and, conclusions. The MLD and other interested Native American representative(s) shall be provided an opportunity to review the report and submit comments within the same time period as accorded any other reviewers.

- 9) Objects not associated with the human remains and recovered from private land shall be transferred to the District. If curation of any objects is required, curation will be at repository approved by the District. Repositories can include the History Museums of San Jose collections, the Tiburon Archaeological Research Group, San Francisco State University and the Collections Facility, Department of Anthropology, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park.

**OPEN SPACE:** means any parcel or area of land or water which is substantially unimproved and devoted to an open-space use, and which is designated on a local, regional or state open-space plan as any of the following:

1. Open space for the preservation of natural resources including, but not limited to: areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species; areas required for ecological and other scientific study purposes; rivers, streams, bays and estuaries; and coastal beaches, lake shores, banks of rivers and streams, and watershed lands.
2. Open space used for the managed production of resources, including but not limited to: forest lands, rangeland, agricultural lands and areas of economic importance for the production of food or fiber; areas required for recharge of ground water basins; bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers and streams which are important for the management of commercial fisheries; and areas containing major mineral deposits, including those in short supply.
3. Open space for low-intensity outdoor recreation, including but not limited to: areas of outstanding scenic, historic and cultural value; areas particularly suited for recreation purposes, including access to lake shores, beaches, and rivers and streams; and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open-space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors.
4. Open space for public health and safety, including, but not limited to: areas which require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs; and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality.

sources: Government Code Sections 56059 and 65560

**PROTOCOL FOR UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL CULTURAL MATERIALS:** In the event that any cultural resources are exposed during construction, work at the location of the find will halt immediately within 10 meters (30 feet) of the find. If an archaeologist is not present at the time of the discovery, the District will contact an archaeologist for identification and evaluation in accordance with CEQA criteria. A reasonable effort will be made by the District and archaeologist to avoid or minimize harm to the discovery until significance is determined and an appropriate treatment can be identified and implemented. Methods to protect finds include fencing,



covering remains with protective material and culturally sterile soil or plywood. If vandalism is a threat, 24-hour security shall be provided. During this evaluation period, construction operations outside of the find location can continue preferably with an archaeologist monitoring any subsurface excavations.

If the resource cannot be avoided, the archaeologist will develop an appropriate *Action Plan* for treatment within 48 hours to minimize or mitigate the adverse effects. The District will not proceed with construction activities that could affect the discovery until the *Action Plan* has been reviewed and approved. The treatment effort required to mitigate the inadvertent exposure of significant cultural resources will be guided by a research design appropriate to the discovery and potential research data inherent in the resource in association with suitable archaeological field techniques and analytical strategies. The recovery effort will be detailed in a professional report in accordance with current archaeological standards. Any non-grave associated artifacts will be curated with an appropriate repository.

**SERVICE PLAN:** Whenever a local government agency submits an application for a change of organization to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), the local agency submits a plan for providing services within the affected territory. The plan for providing services includes all of the following information and any additional information required by the Commission or the LAFCo executive officer:

1. An enumeration and description of the services to be extended to the affected territory.
2. The level and range of those services.
3. An indication of when those services can feasibly be extended to the affected territory.
4. An indication of any improvement or upgrading of structures, roads, sewer or water facilities, or other conditions the local agency would impose or require within the affected territory if the change of organization or reorganization is completed.
5. Information with respect to how those services will be financed.

source: Government Code Section 56653 (Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000)

**SITE ASSESSMENT:** Prior to property acquisition or entering into management agreements with another public or private non-profit land owner, the District conducts basic research about legal and property conditions associated with the property. Using information that is gathered, issues that may affect use and management of the property are identified. This assessment would typically include, but not necessarily be limited to: resource management opportunities and constraints, public access opportunities and constraints; and the role of any prime agricultural lands on the site relative to current marketplace conditions. An assessment is then made about the District resources that would be needed to sustain a responsible level of use and management of the property and its resources.

**USE AND MANAGEMENT PLAN:** any Site Use and Management Plan, excepting the Preliminary Use and Management Plan, which is adopted at the time of acquisition and normally preserves the status quo site conditions pending adoption of a more detailed site Use and Management Plan for the property.

## **APPENDIX B**

### ***OPTIONAL SERVICE PLAN SCENARIOS***

This appendix presents two optional scenarios for District programs that may be possible but are not part of the District's Basic Service Plan. These scenarios are presented for general background information to the San Mateo LAFCo to characterize District activities should a voter-approved funding measure sponsored either within the Coastal Annexation Area alone (Optional Scenario #1) or District-wide (Optional Scenario #2) succeed. For purposes of analysis, the study assumes that a reasonably foreseeable tax rate would be approximately \$1 dollar per month or \$12 per household per year based on polling previously conducted by the District. This would generate an additional 300,000 to 400,000 dollars annually if limited to the Coastal Annexation Area only, or about 3 to 4 million dollars annually if the funding measure was approved District-wide.

**OPTIONAL SCENARIO #1** - Additional funding would be available from a voter-approved measure in the Coastal Annexation Area; emphasis on managing land acquired by others, plus a modest District acquisition program.

**Assumptions:** A new funding source is approved by a vote of Coastal Annexation Area residents. At a rate of \$1 per month or \$12 per year per parcel, \$300,000 to \$400,000 per year would be generated. The District could expand its program of managing land acquired by other agencies and organizations. In addition to current Skyline area acquisition and management programs, the District could have a modest acquisition program within the Coastal Annexation Area.

**OPTIONAL SCENARIO #2** - Additional funding from a voter-approved measure District-wide; emphasis of District programs balanced between managing land acquired by other agencies or organizations and on land acquisition by the District.

**Assumptions:** A new funding source is approved by a vote of District-wide residents. At a rate of \$1 per month or \$12 per year per parcel, \$3 to \$4 million per year would be generated. The Board would determine, with input from constituents, what proportion of the additional funding would be directed to Coastal Annexation Area programs. The District's program to manage lands, whether acquired by the District or by other agencies and organizations within Coastal Annexation Area, could be significantly expanded and the District could undertake a broader acquisition program of its own, in addition to ongoing acquisition activities in the Skyline area.

**TABLE B-1: OPTIONAL SERVICE PLANS FOR THE COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA - LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT**

<b>Approximate Time Frame</b>	<b>Optional Scenario #1</b> <b>Premise:</b> Funding for land acquisition principally from grants; land management funded from existing sources and new voter-approved funding from within Coastal Annexation Area. <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>Optional Scenario #2</b> <b>Premise:</b> Funding for land acquisition from grants and new District-wide voter-approved funding; emphasis balanced between land acquisition and management. <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>Years 1-5</b> Note: same as Basic Service Plan	<b>Planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused planning discussions with local interests to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy Review for the Coastal Annexation Area</li> <li>- Update of the District Master Plan and Open Space Study to include the Coastal Annexation Area</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused planning discussions with local interests to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy Review for the Coastal Annexation Area</li> <li>- Update of the District Master Plan and Open Space Study to include the Coastal Annexation Area</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<b>Funding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of existing District revenues; apply for public and private grants</li> <li>• Develop and place new District funding measure on ballot</li> </ul>	<b>Funding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of existing District revenues; apply for public and private grants</li> <li>• Develop and place new District funding measure on ballot</li> </ul>
	<b>Land Acquisition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire approximately 1,000 to 1,200 acres / year via-existing District funding augmented by grants</li> <li>• Acquire approximately 130 to 240 acres of easements / year via existing District funding augmented by grants</li> </ul>	<b>Land Acquisition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire approximately 1,000 to 1,200 acres / year via-existing District funding augmented by grants</li> <li>• Acquire approximately 130 to 240 acres of easements / year via existing District funding augmented by grants</li> </ul>
	<b>Land Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screen partnership opportunities for resource and public access management</li> <li>• Limited program expansion of resource and public access management by approximately 100 to 200 acres / year based on partnership opportunities and existing District funding</li> </ul>	<b>Land Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screen partnership opportunities for resource and public access management</li> <li>• Limited program expansion of resource and public access management by approximately 100 to 200 acres / year based on partnership opportunities and existing District funding</li> </ul>
	<b>Improvements</b> <sup>(2)</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish District presence through ranger residency program in housing located on properties acquired by the District</li> <li>• Few areas open to public access</li> </ul>	<b>Improvements</b> <sup>(2)</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish District presence through ranger residency program in housing located on properties acquired by the District</li> <li>• Few areas open to public access</li> </ul>

**TABLE B-1: OPTIONAL SERVICE PLANS FOR THE COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA - LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT**

<b>Approximate Time Frame</b>	<b>Optional Scenario #1</b> <b>Premise:</b> Funding for land acquisition principally from grants; land management funded from existing sources and new voter-approved funding from within Coastal Annexation Area. (1)	<b>Optional Scenario #2</b> <b>Premise:</b> Funding for land acquisition from grants and new District-wide voter-approved funding; emphasis balanced between land acquisition and management. (1)
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**Cumulative Total: Years 1-5**

<b>Property</b>	<b>Low Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>High Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>5-Year Low Total in System</b>	<b>5-Year High Total in System</b>	<b>Low Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>High Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>5-Year Low Total in System</b>	<b>5-Year High Total in System</b>
Lands Acquired	1,000	1,200	5,000	6,000	1,000	1,200	5,000	6,000
Easements Acquired (or Monitored for Others)	130	240	650	1,200	130	240	650	1,200
Expansion of Lands Managed Under Contract	100	200	500	1,000	100	200	500	1,000
<b>Cumulative Total All Lands</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>6,150</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>6,150</b>	<b>8,200</b>
<b>Facilities:</b>								
Existing Roads & Trails <sup>(3)</sup>			14.3	19.0			14.3	19.0
New Trails <sup>(3)</sup>			2.8	3.2			2.8	3.2
Staging Areas <sup>(3)</sup>			1	1			1	1

**TABLE B-1: OPTIONAL SERVICE PLANS FOR THE COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA - LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT**

<b>Approximate Time Frame</b>	<b>Optional Scenario #1</b> <b>Premise:</b> Funding for land acquisition principally from grants; land management funded from existing sources and new voter-approved funding from within Coastal Annexation Area. <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>Optional Scenario #2</b> <b>Premise:</b> Funding for land acquisition from grants and new District-wide voter-approved funding; emphasis balanced between land acquisition and management. <sup>(1)</sup>
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<b>Years 6-10</b>	<b>Planning</b> • Same as Basic Service Plan	<b>Planning</b> • Same as Basic Service Plan
	<b>Land Acquisition</b> • Acquire approximately 115-230 acres / year based on approved Coastside funding <b>Easement Acquisition</b> • Acquire approximately 65 to 110 acres of easements / year based on approved Coastside funding measure, augmented by grants	<b>Land Acquisition</b> • Acquire approximately 200 to 400 acres / year based on approved District-wide funding measure, augmented by grants <b>Easement Acquisition</b> • Acquire approximately 90 to 150 acres of easements / year based on approved District-wide funding measure, augmented by grants
	<b>Land Management</b> • Moderate expansion of resource and public access management by approx. 100 to 200 acres / year based on partnership opportunities with others and lands acquired by the District	<b>Land Management</b> • Expansion of resource and public access management by up to approximately 100 to 200 acres / year based on partnership opportunities with others and lands acquired by the District
	<b>Improvements</b> <sup>(3)</sup> • Similar to Basic Service Plan except with proportionally more staffing and low-intensity recreation facilities provided	<b>Improvements</b> <sup>(3)</sup> • Similar to Basic Service Plan except with proportionally more staffing and low-intensity recreation facilities provided

**Cumulative Total: Years 6-10**

<b>Property</b>	<b>Low Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>High Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>10-Year Low Total in System</b>	<b>10-Year High Total in System</b>	<b>Low Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>High Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>10-Year Low Total in System</b>	<b>10-Year High Total in System</b>
Lands Acquired	115	230	6,575	7,150	200	400	7,000	8,000
Easements Acquired (or Monitored for Others)	65	110	1,525	1,150	90	150	1,650	1,950
Expansion of Lands Managed Under Contract	100	200	1,500	2,000	100	200	1,500	2,000
<b>Cumulative Total All Lands</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>9,600</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>10,150</b>	<b>11,950</b>
<b>Facilities:</b>								

**TABLE B-1: OPTIONAL SERVICE PLANS FOR THE COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA - LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT**

<b>Approximate Time Frame</b>	<b>Optional Scenario #1</b> <b>Premise:</b> Funding for land acquisition principally from grants; land management funded from existing sources and new voter-approved funding from within Coastal Annexation Area. <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>Optional Scenario #2</b> <b>Premise:</b> Funding for land acquisition from grants and new District-wide voter-approved funding; emphasis balanced between land acquisition and management. <sup>(1)</sup>
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Existing Roads & Trails <sup>(3)</sup>		22.0	25.0		23	27.0
New Trails <sup>(3)</sup>		8.4	8.6		8.6	9.0
Staging Areas <sup>(3)</sup>		1	1		1	2

<b>Years 11-15</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Planning</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Basic Service Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Basic Service Plan</li> </ul>
	<b>Land Acquisition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire approximately 75 to 150 acres / year based primarily on grants and gifts</li> </ul> <b>Easement Acquisition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire approximately 8 to 10 acres / year based primarily on grants and gifts</li> </ul>	<b>Land Acquisition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce acquisitions to approximately 175 to 350 acres / year based primarily on grants and gifts</li> </ul> <b>Easement Acquisition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce easement acquisitions to approximately 40 to 50 acres / year based primarily on grants and gifts</li> </ul>
	<b>Land Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate expansion of resource and public access management by approximately 50 to 100 acres / year based on partnership opportunities with others and lands acquired by the District</li> </ul>	<b>Land Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion of resource and public access management by approximately 50 to 100 acres / year based on partnership opportunities with others and lands acquired by the District</li> </ul>
	<b>Improvements <sup>(3)</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Similar to Basic Service Plan except with proportionally more staffing and low-intensity recreation facilities provided</li> </ul>	<b>Improvements <sup>(3)</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Similar to Basic Service Plan except with proportionally more staffing and low-intensity recreation facilities provided</li> </ul>

**Cumulative Total: Years 11-15**

<b>Property</b>	<b>Low Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>High Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>15-Year Low Total in System</b>	<b>15-Year High Total in System</b>	<b>Low Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>High Yearly Acreage</b>	<b>15-Year Low Total in System</b>	<b>15-Year High Total in System</b>
Lands Acquired	75	150	6,950	7,900	175	350	7,875	9,750
Easements Acquired (or Monitored for Others)	8	10	1,575	1,800	40	50	1,850	2,200
Expansion of Lands Managed Under Contract	50	100	1,950	2,500	50	100	1,750	2,500

**TABLE B-1: OPTIONAL SERVICE PLANS FOR THE COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA -  
LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT**

<b>Approximate Time Frame</b>	<b>Optional Scenario #1</b> <b>Premise:</b> Funding for land acquisition principally from grants; land management funded from existing sources and new voter-approved funding from within Coastal Annexation Area. <sup>(1)</sup>				<b>Optional Scenario #2</b> <b>Premise:</b> Funding for land acquisition from grants and new District-wide voter-approved funding; emphasis balanced between land acquisition and management. <sup>(1)</sup>			
<b>Cumulative Total All Lands</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>10,475</b>	<b>12,200</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>11,475</b>	<b>14,450</b>
<b>Facilities:</b>								
Existing Roads & Trails <sup>(3)</sup>			<b>24.3</b>	<b>28.5</b>			<b>26.9</b>	<b>33.0</b>
New Trails <sup>(3)</sup>			<b>9.2</b>	<b>9.9</b>			<b>9.9</b>	<b>11.5</b>
Staging Areas <sup>(3)</sup>			<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

- (1) Funding opportunities from grant programs for land acquisition vary significantly over time. Grant programs also vary in purpose, geographic area, and requirements for matching funds.
- (2) Assumes that preliminary use and management plans focus on site safety and resource protection, therefore no areas would be opened for public use and no access facilities developed.
- (3) Assumes the following:
- Approximately 7 miles of trail opened to public use per 1,720 acres of land owned or managed by the District; of these approximately 2/3 will be trails that either exist or are unpaved ranch/fire roads converted to trail use. Trails available for public use will not occur immediately upon the inclusion of lands into the District. Therefore trail mileages indicated are lower than the maximum that could be calculated based on the above formula; and
  - Staging areas are provided at a rate of one area per 18 miles of trails and will be evenly distributed between major and minor staging areas.



Mid Coast







Half Moon Bay

South Coast

P A C I F I C  
O C E A N

# COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA

## Coastal Annexation Area

-  MROSD Preserves
-  City of Half Moon Bay
-  Coastal Annexation Area
-  County Boundary
-  Other Open Space Lands
-  Coastal Zone

**Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District  
(MROSD)**



May 2017



While the District strives to use the best available digital data, this data does not represent a legal survey and is merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.

Path: G:\Projects\04\GIS\Coastal\Coastal\ProjectionArea\_Before\After\CoastalProjectionArea\_Current\_20170605\_v2.mxd  
Created By: Robinson



## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *SERVICE PLAN*'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA (CAA)

### Land Acquisition

#### Prohibition on the Use of Eminent Domain

Under the Guiding Principles, the *Service Plan* outlined a policy for Land Acquisition that set the foundation for all District actions within the CAA:

Permanent Policy P1: *“Within the Coastal Annexation Area, the District shall only acquire lands or interests in lands from willing sellers. The power of eminent domain will not be exercised by the District within the Coastal Annexation Area. This policy is a Basic Policy for the Coastal Annexation Area.”*

When the Board adopted the *Service Plan* in June 2003, they also adopted Ordinance No. 03-01, prohibiting acquisition of property by the use of eminent domain in the CAA (Report R-03-54). District-sponsored legislation in 2004 (Assembly Bill 1195) added language to the State Public Resources Code to prohibit the use of eminent domain in the CAA. This legislation was also included in the MOU between the San Mateo County Farm Bureau and the District, dated January 28, 2004:

*“Notwithstanding Section 5540, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District shall not exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire any real property or any interest in real property in the San Mateo County Coastal Annexation Area, as defined in the Resolution of Application for Annexation Proceedings No. 03-20, which was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on June 6, 2003.”*

#### Land and Easement Acquisition

The *Service Plan* outlines three scenarios for land and easement acquisition in the CAA. The first, known as the Basic *Service Plan*, was based upon funding from District revenue sources that existed in 2003, grants, and gifts. The *Service Plan* contemplated two additional scenarios where either the voters in the CAA or voters District-wide would pass a funding measure within the first five years after implementation. The table below summarizes the open space and agricultural lands purchased over the last 13 years in the CAA, of which the last three years has been with the benefit of additional funding from Measure AA:

<b>SERVICE PLAN ACQUISITION TARGETS</b>		
	Basic Service Plan targets Year 15	Actual Totals in Current Year 13
Total Acres Acquired in Fee	7,500	10,083
Total Acres Acquired in Easement	1,800	356
Lands managed under contract	2,500	(914 in fee above)
Total Acres	11,800	10,439

Since 2004, the District has purchased two conservation easements totaling 356 acres. Unexpectedly, the District has found that private owners interested in selling their property typically are more interested in selling fee title than entering into conservation easements. The *Service Plan* also identified opportunities for land management agreements with land-holding partners such as Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and State Parks. In the last 13 years, the District entered into four management agreements on POST properties totaling 914 acres, which the District later purchased. These agreements allowed the District to secure grant funding for two properties, complete the cleanup of a dumpsite on a third property, and defer acquisition of a fourth property until Measure AA funding became available. These agreements also allowed POST to complete restoration work on these lands while being relieved of land management responsibilities. Continuation and possible expansion of this program has value.

#### Land Acquisition Grants, Gifts and Partnership Funding

Of the 25 land purchases in the CAA since 2004, the District has partnered with POST on fifteen purchases and partnered with the Sempervirens Fund on two purchases. One (1) large purchase in 2006 (Driscoll Ranch) received grant funding from the Living Landscape Grant Program and San Mateo County Parks. In addition, the California Coastal Conservancy provided \$15,550,000 in grant funding for three (3) land purchases, and the State Habitat Conservation Grant Fund provided \$2,287,500 in grant funding for five land purchases.

<b>COASTAL ANNEXATION AREA PURCHASES 2004-2017</b>					
Transactions	Acres	Fair Market Value	District Funds expended	Grants received	Gift Value received
25	10,439	\$108,256,600	\$58,927,735	\$20,641,865	\$27,932,000

The overall ratio between coastal land purchase expenditures by the District and coastal land purchase costs offset by grants/gifts is 54% to 46%. Since voter approval of Measure AA (MAA) in 2014, the District has expended \$11,887,500 in MAA funds on coastal land purchases. MAA funding provided 20% of the total coastal land purchase cost of \$58,927,735.

#### Land Acquisition Projections for 2017 and 2018

During the next two years, the District is planning to focus its attention on the following proposed land conservation projects in the CAA (all are subject to future Board approval):

- Transfer of the 242-acre Purisima Uplands property to complete the Purisima-to-the-Sea corridor, which would extend from the Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve at Skyline Boulevard to Verde Road (MAA# 3).
- A conservation easement to further protect the Lobitos Creek watershed (MAA#3).
- Purchase of the 191-acre Conley property as an addition to Long Ridge Open Space Preserve to protect redwood forests and upper Pescadero Creek watershed (MAA#15).
- Property purchases with potential future connections between the City of Half Moon Bay and Miramontes Ridge Open Space Preserve (MAA#1).
- Protection and restoration of riparian and fisheries habitat, and preservation of agricultural lands in the San Gregorio Creek watershed in partnership with POST and the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District

- Evaluation of the 6,500-acre Cloverdale Ranch property for potential purchase to understand agricultural uses, assess natural resources, identify restoration and infrastructure improvements, and understand community interests (MAA#13).
- Assist POST, San Mateo County Parks, State Parks, and the Coastside Land Trust to identify a long-term manager (not the District) and funding for the Cowell Coastal Trail.

In years 14 and 15 of the *Service Plan*, the District anticipates to conserve an additional 1,100 acres of open space and agricultural land, which is consistent with the *Service Plan's* projection of 11,800 acres of total acquisition by Year 15.

## Services and Funding

Two Guidelines for Services and Funding in the *Service Plan* assures that the District would only acquire lands or enter into management agreement where such actions would not result in any significant impact to existing services, and prior to making lands available for public access, that sufficient management would exist to protect natural and agricultural resources. Within Services and Funding, the *Service Plan* also directed the District develop funding measures to augment fund sources. Passage of Measure AA in 2014 provides over \$126 million in funding for the following seven Priority Actions Portfolios included the CAA:

Portfolio*	Portfolio	MAA Allocation**	MAA Remaining Funds***
1	Miramontes Ridge: Gateway to the Coast Public Access, Stream Restoration, and Agricultural Enhancement	\$27,774,000	\$27,724,310
3	Purisima Creek Redwoods: Purisima-to-the Sea Trail, Watershed Protection, and Conservation Grazing	\$7,608,000	\$7,187,085
7	La Honda Creek: Driscoll Ranch Public Access, Endangered Wildlife Protection and Conservation Grazing	\$14,825,000	\$4,093,830
9	Russian Ridge: Public Recreation, Grazing, and Wildlife Protection	\$5,560,000	\$5,488,125
13	Cloverdale Ranch: Wildlife Protection, Grazing and Trail Connections	\$15,712,000	\$15,712,000
14	Regional: Trail Connections and Campgrounds	\$3,966,000	\$3,966,000
15	Regional: Redwood Protection and Salmon Fishery Conservation	\$50,728,000	\$48,211,756
	Total	\$126,173,000	\$112,383,105

\* Portfolio number references the Measure AA Expenditure Map, not priority action's ranking

\*\*Allocations estimated in 2014 dollars. Actual costs may change in implementation

\*\*\*All Measure AA funding allocations calculated on 5/16/17

## Agriculture

There are two primary goals for the District's agricultural program in the CAA:

- Preserving agricultural operations to keep prime agricultural lands and other lands suitable for agricultural uses in agricultural production.
- Minimizing conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural land uses that may occur on District owned or managed lands.

Given the District's open space mission, implementation of the *Service Plan's* agricultural preservation program has focused on conservation grazing to support grassland preservation and the coast's agricultural heritage rather than on prime agricultural row crops. Row crops require more hands-on resources and infrastructure. The District's partner, POST, has been supporting various programs for the protection of farmland on the San Mateo Coast for 30 years. In 2015, POST started its Farmland Futures Initiative to protect prime agricultural lands by purchasing farms, funding infrastructure, and entering into leases with local farmers with options to purchase properties subject to affirmative agricultural easements. As a private organization, POST has considerable experience in cultivated agricultural land preservation. In comparison, the District has placed significant focus on conservation grazing, resource and watershed protection, and habitat restoration. The District and POST are combining their respective areas of expertise to work together in the San Gregorio Creek watershed to preserve agricultural lands as well as protect and restore riparian and fisheries habitat. This symbiotic working relationship and division of focus areas with POST has served the District well and is an approach that the General Manager recommends continue.

### Acreage of Lands under Agricultural Leases

In total, 8,040 acres of District land in the CAA are under grazing leases and 33 acres are under row crop leases:

<b>ACRES OF LAND UNDER AGRICULTURAL LEASES</b>		
<b>Property/Grazing</b>	<b>Preserve</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Blue Brush	Purisima Creek Redwoods	260
Lobitos Ridge	Purisima Creek Redwoods	340
UC Elkus Uplands	Purisima Creek Redwoods	471
October Farm	Purisima Creek Redwoods	270
Tunitas Creek	Tunitas Creek	707
Toto Ranch	Tunitas Creek	952
Driscoll Ranch	La Honda Creek	3681
Apple Orchard	La Honda Creek	292
Cunha Trust	La Honda Creek	20
Mindego Ranch	Russian Ridge	1047
	Total	8040
<b>Agriculture-Row Crops</b>		
Madonna Creek Ranch	Miramontes Ridge	24
Lobitos Ridge	Purisima Creek Redwoods	7
Sare Christmas Trees	Miramontes Ridge	2
	Total	33

### Agricultural Infrastructure Investments

The District has supported grazing operations through significant investment in infrastructure. Most of the grazing lands acquired by the District required investment in fencing, pond restoration, water infrastructure, corrals, and site cleanup. Major infrastructure investments are planned for next fiscal year as well as an expansion of grazing into a currently ungrazed pasture in the Mindego area of Russian Ridge Preserve.

### Managing Agriculture While Meeting Resource Protection and Public Access Goals

The District has taken several measures to minimize conflicts between agriculture and other land uses.

- To reduce natural resource impacts of agricultural land uses, additional fencing has been added to keep cattle out of sensitive creeks, stock ponds have been restored and improved to extend their water holding capacity to allow for successful breeding of sensitive species, and grazing management plans have been implemented to ensure proper livestock numbers to support healthy grasslands. Moreover, leases on prime agricultural lands define setbacks from creeks to protect riparian areas.
- To manage conflicts with public access, the District conducts extensive outreach with grazing tenants, partner agencies with established grazing programs, and the Farm Bureau to identify best management practices for the introduction of public access onto grazing properties. On the first grazing property opened to public use, Mindego, the practices implemented included educational signing, a web video, self-closing gates, separation of cattle and visitors by siting infrastructure away from trails, and hardening trail surfaces where necessary. Signing and infrastructure, including ten self-closing gates, are planned for installation on the former Driscoll area of La Honda Creek Preserve prior to its public opening in the late fall of 2017.

Permanent Policies and Guidelines under the Guiding Principles for Agriculture in the CAA *Service Plan* ensure that after acquisition by District, agricultural land uses continue and are supported. The *Service Plan* includes many specific policies and guidelines, including:

- *When acquiring lands in agricultural use, the acquisition shall be subject to continued use by the owner or operator until such time as it is sold or leased pursuant to the use and management plan adopted for the property.* Consistent with this policy, the District has continued grazing and agricultural uses on land purchased by entering into 10 leases on 8,040 acres of land that is primarily used for grazing, and three leases on 33 acres of cultivated agricultural lands
- *Agricultural land not needed for recreation or sensitive habitat protection will be offered for sale when feasible.* The 24 acres of irrigated and dry-farmed row crops at Madonna Creek Ranch were excluded from a Habitat Conservation Fund grant for the 369-acre upland area of the Madonna Creek Ranch property, which included a deed restriction requirement, so that it can be sold in the future, if desired.
- *The District will work with lessees and owners to facilitate farm labor housing.* Three existing residential houses have been kept as agricultural housing. Planning is underway

for a proposal to rebuild farm labor housing on the former Driscoll property in La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.

- *The District will seek grant funding for agriculture.* The District has supported tenant’s applications for Resource Conservation District grants. The District has applied for and received grants to improve ranch roads and stock ponds. In addition to grant funding, Measure AA funding has also funded infrastructure improvements.
- *The District will provide technical assistance to secure water rights.* The District has hired a Water Resources Specialist specifically to work on water rights.
- *The District will pursue agricultural leases and easements.* The District has focused on leases while our partner POST has focused on agricultural easements.
- *The District will prepare agricultural plans for agricultural lands.* The District has prepared eight (8) grazing management plans or agricultural management plans. The District is in the process of preparing one (1) additional grazing management plan and two (1) additional agricultural management plan for row crops.
- The remainder of the agricultural guidelines restrict the District from siting infrastructure or conducting land management actions that interfere with agriculture or require public access improvements to be done in a manner that reduces conflicts with agriculture. The District has complied with these guidelines. For example, most infrastructure improvements are not allowed on prime agricultural lands. District planning for a coastal office and public staging areas have avoided prime agriculture lands. An additional example is a requirement to handle pesticides in a manner not to interfere with agriculture and in accordance with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. The District complies with pesticide regulations and coordinates with tenants on pesticide spraying activities.

### **Forestry**

The *Service Plan* does not contain any Policies regarding forestry, relying instead upon Guidelines that describe the District’s intent regarding timberland management. The overall intent of the Guidelines establishes that the District will not propose commercial timber harvests on District-owned properties, except if such actions are shown to be in the best interest of managing the ecological values, protecting public safety, or controlling disease. In these instances, commercial sale of timber would be permitted.

A subsequent Forest Management Policy was adopted by the Board in 2012. This policy, which is consistent with the Guidelines established in the *Service Plan*, further clarified the District’s goals in managing its forested habitats. The Goal of the Forest Management Policy is to “*manage District land to retain and promote biologically diverse, dynamic forest conditions; maintain and enhance high quality forest and aquatic habitat; encourage and enhance the development of late-seral conifer forest; provide for visitor experiences within diverse forest habitat; and promote District and regional fire management objectives.*”

Policy FM-4 of the Forest Management Policy directly relates to commercial timber, which in the Santa Cruz Mountains region is conifer forests, and identifies:

Manage District conifer forests to sustain and encourage the development of late-seral habitat conditions.

- Prepare Forest Management Plans for high priority District forests to establish habitat goals and appropriate management treatments. Utilize restoration ecologists, forest ecologists, Registered Professional Foresters, or other resource management professionals to prepare plans, as appropriate.
- Restore degraded forest habitats to promote the development of late-seral habitat, forest habitat complexity, and to enhance biodiversity, where existing stand conditions and access permit. Utilize state of the art silvicultural (forestry) practices to restore degraded forests.
- Protect existing residual old growth trees and stands, mature oaks, and most large, older Douglas fir trees. The conservation of these areas will take precedence over other uses and management practices that are determined to have an adverse effect on these resources.
- Maintain and/or create large snags and downed wood for wildlife habitat where not a safety hazard.
- Foster relationships with educational institutions, forest scientists and forest professionals to inform District forest management decisions based upon sound, current science, and to contribute opportunities for continuing research of late-seral focused management. Seek grant opportunities and partnerships for forest research and monitoring.

Implementing Forest Management Plans and restoration forestry practices may require the commercial sale of timber. In these instances, the Forest Management Policy identifies that: *“Restoration forestry practices may result in timber that would be available for commercial sale. Revenue derived from commercial timber sales conducted in conjunction with restoration activities will be used for resource management activities (such as road upgrade projects, weed abatement projects, and long-term monitoring).”*

### **Representation**

The Service Plan relies upon one Guideline, G.5.1, and five (5) Implementation Actions to describe the District’s intent regarding consultations with numerous existing agencies and government-sponsored community forums, as well as with residents within the CAA, to consider all local viewpoints in all significant District planning and decision-making related to the CAA (*Service Plan, pp.20-21*). For all proposed actions related to land acquisitions, use and management plans, rangeland management plans, and other planning activities, the District has established an interested parties list for Coastal Area residents and has notified adjacent landowners for properties contiguous to District-owned lands. The District has held meetings of the Real Property Committee, Planning and Natural Resources Committee, and Board of Directors within the CAA for proposed coastal property acquisitions, Use and Management plans, and Master Plans, such as La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan.

Moreover, the District amended the *District’s Rules of Procedure* on May 26, 2004 to require meetings with matters concerning the CAA be conducted in locations within the CAA (also fulfills *LAFCO Condition #8*). The District revised the *District Ward Boundaries* to include the

CAA for elected representation to the District Board of Directors in November 2004. An *Ombudsperson Appointment Procedure* was adopted July 2004, a District Ombudsperson was appointed October 2004 (also fulfills *LAFCO Condition #6*), and *Ombudsperson Communication Guidelines* were adopted January 2005. The most recent appointment of a District Ombudsperson occurred in 2017.

## **Planning and Development**

The *Service Plan* relies upon 31 Guidelines and 23 Implementation Actions to describe the District's intent regarding the preparation of use and management (U&M) plans and trail route planning for District lands in the CAA (*Service Plan*, pp. 23-38). The District has fulfilled the intent of these Guidelines with all of the U&M plans prepared for the coastal properties. In addition, the District has incorporated these Guidelines in siting new public access trails and staging areas at Mindego and the former Driscoll Ranch, and will continue to do so in the preparation of future public access plans.

### Update to the Basic Policy

There is one Guideline that remains to be implemented. Guideline G.6.1 states that the District will develop a set of Basic Policies for the CAA. This item has been included as an upcoming future priority for the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Action Plan and Budget process.

### Update to the District Master Plan, Regional Open Space Study, and other Policy Documents

The *Service Plan* calls for revisions to the District Master Plan and Regional Open Space Study to include the CAA. The District reviewed the 1992 Master Plan and used the regional trails from the 1998 Regional Open Space Study (ROSS) map during the 2012-2014 open space vision planning process. The Board approved the Vision Plan in part as an update to the District's 1998 ROSS and 1992 Master Plan, fulfilling one of the 2004 San Mateo County LAFCo conditions of approval for the CAA. When approved by the Board in 2014, the Vision Plan identified 20 priority actions within the CAA.

Since 2004, the District has amended the following specific policies in the 1992 Master Plan to include District lands in and specific policies established for the CAA:

- *District Open Space Use and Management Plan Process Policy* (Policy 4.01) adopted July 27, 1977, subsequently amended after annexation in May 2009;
- *District Resource Management Policies* adopted 2012; and
- *Improvements on District Lands Policy* (Policy 4.02) adopted February 22, 1978, subsequently amended in March 1983, October 1984, July 2007, November 2013, March 2016 and most recently February 8, 2017.

### Site Assessments and Plans

The *Service Plan* also calls for the preparation of site assessments or use and management plans for individual properties that are either acquired by the District or managed by the District for other public or non-profit landowner.

For all coastal property acquisitions, the District prepares a Preliminary Use and Management Plan (PUMP) that is consistent with the policies and procedures contained in CAA for the Board's approval at the time of acquisition. The principal purpose of the PUMP is to establish a



status quo approach to land management to be effective in the interim between purchase and the completion of a subsequent long-term plan. This plan outlines the uses that can occur on this property in the near term and the management methods for ensuring their compatibility with each other and with neighboring properties. It also outlines actions to protect and balance the agricultural and natural resource potential, and initiate activities needed to inform long term planning and management. Since 2004, the District has completed and approved PUMPs, U&M Plans/Amendments, and Rangeland Management (RM) Plans for almost all new coastal properties. Moreover, the District has fulfilled the guidelines requiring consultation with onsite grazing tenants or agricultural operators, adjoining landowners, and San Mateo County Farm Bureau on proposed PUMPs, U&M Plans, and RM Plans.

<b>PUMPS, U&amp;M PLANS AND RM PLANS FOR COASTAL PROPERTIES</b>			
<b>Coastal Property</b>	<b>Preserve</b>	<b>PUMPs and U&amp;M Plans</b>	<b>RM Plans</b>
Blue Brush	Purisima Creek Redwoods	August 22, 2012 U&M Amendment	August 22, 2012
Lobitos Ridge	Purisima Creek Redwoods	November 10, 2010 U&M Amendment November 9, 2011 U&M Amendment	November 10, 2010 RMP November 9, 2011 Agricultural Lease and Farming Grounds Management Plan
UC Elkus Uplands	Purisima Creek Redwoods	November 10, 2010 U&M Amendment	November 10, 2010
October Farm	Purisima Creek Redwoods	March 14, 2012 PUMP	April 26, 2017
Tunitas Creek	Tunitas Creek	March 25, 2008 U&M Amendment	March 25, 2008
Toto Ranch	Tunitas Creek	November 14, 2012 PUMP	Anticipated in Q2 FY17-18
Driscoll Ranch	La Honda Creek	August 22, 2012 LHC Master Plan	December 13, 2006 Amended Dec. 11, 2013
Apple Orchard	La Honda Creek	July 22, 2015 Amended PUMP December 11, 2013 PUMP	December 11, 2013
Cunha Trust	La Honda Creek	March 9, 2016 PUMP	March 9, 2016 (included in Apple Orchard lease area)
Mindego Ranch	Russian Ridge	January 22, 2014 U&M Amendment	January 22, 2014
Madonna Creek Ranch	Miramontes Ridge	February 8, 2012 PUMP	N/A
Sare Christmas Trees	Miramontes Ridge		N/A

#### Public Access Planning and Consultations with Agricultural Community

The District has consulted with stakeholders and the community along the coast during the preparation of public access plans for La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (2012) and Mindego Ranch at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve (2014).

### *La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan*

In August 2012, the District Board approved the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan (Master Plan) as the comprehensive U&M plan for the former Driscoll Ranch, Weeks Ranch and Dyer Ranch areas. The approved Master Plan guides the implementation of land stewardship and public access actions, including the creation of over 25 miles of new trail, habitat restoration for threatened and endangered species, wildfire risk reduction, and the reintroduction and management of grazing on historic pastureland, for the next 30 years.

The former Driscoll Ranch portion of the Preserve (Southern La Honda Creek Area) is part of the CAA, while the northern portion of the Preserve is not. For the former Driscoll Ranch portion, all mitigation measures and analysis contained in the CAA Environmental Impact Report (CAA EIR) apply to the Preserve. In order to ensure that mitigation measures are appropriately implemented as part of the Master Plan, all applicable measures are included in the Master Plan as Environmental Protection Guidelines. The CAA EIR Mitigation Measures that apply to the former Driscoll Ranch Area are being applied and implemented for the entire Preserve (including the Central and Northern La Honda Creek Areas) unless otherwise specified in the Environmental Protection Guidelines.

A number of public outreach meetings were held at the coast for the La Honda Creek Master Plan from 2004 through 2007. In addition to this extensive public engagement, the District conducted focused interviews with the Farm Bureau and other stakeholders in 2004, presentation of the Draft Master Plan to the Farm Bureau in 2009, and consultation with the grazing tenant in 2007.

In June 2016, the District held a site visit with the Farm Bureau Executive Board to provide an update on the grazing infrastructure improvements, riparian habitat protection, pond restoration projects, watershed protection and road improvements, site clean-up, structures demolition and bridge repairs, and the new forthcoming Sears Ranch Road parking area and public access trails.

### *Mindego Ranch Use and Management Plan*

The Mindego Ranch Use & Management (U&M) Plan and Mitigated Negative Declaration for Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve was completed in November 2013. The Board of Directors approved the U&M Plan on January 22, 2014. The Mitigated Negative Declaration included applicable mitigation measures incorporated directly from the CAA EIR. To minimize potential impacts to the highly sensitive San Francisco garter snake, the U&M Plan limits the expansion of additional public access to the existing POST Donor Circle via the existing ranch driveway and donor circle path. The POST Donor Circle path is open to hiking only. The U&M amendment incorporated input from the public and stakeholders, which included trail users and the agricultural community, such as the Farm Bureau (site visit held September 14, 2012, formal presentation given November 6, 2012). The District held a site visit with the Farm Bureau Executive Board on October 20, 2014 to provide an update on the grazing infrastructure improvements, reintroduction of grazing, protected species, opening of public trail and status of structures demolition on the property.

### Basic Service Plan Requirements for Public Recreation

The Basic *Service Plan* requirements for low-intensity public recreation is intended to open limited areas to public use, primarily using existing ranch roads and trails and constructing lesser miles of new trails. By the end of 2017, the District would have restored or constructed approximately 8.0 miles of public access trails (Mindego Ranch at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve and the former Driscoll Ranch and former Event Center area at La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve). In addition, the District would have constructed three (3) new staging areas for public use (Mindego Gateway, Sears Ranch Road Parking Area, and Event Center interim equestrian parking area) by end of 2017.

**Prior to the passage of Measure AA in June 2014, the District had focused on land acquisitions with District General Funds and grant funding. Measure AA now provides much needed additional funding to implement the planned trails, staging areas and other public access capital improvements. Measure AA funding is allowing the District to complete the road and trail improvements in Lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve to open the preserve to the public. The Basic *Service Plan* requirements for low-intensity public recreation and and accomplishment of those requirements is summarized below:** Basic Service Plan Requirements for Public Access Trails and Staging Areas (Year 11-15)

	Low Yearly Average	High Yearly Average	5-Year Low Total in System	5-Year High Total in System	2017 Status	ACCOMPLISHMENTS Year 11-15 (2014 – 2018)
<b>FACILITIES</b>						
Existing Roads & Trails			18.9 mi	27.0 mi	6 mi	Restored six (6) miles of existing main ranch road for trail access (former Driscoll Ranch) to open by end of 2017.
New Trails			6.8 mi	9.7 mi	2 mi	Two (2) miles of new trails (Mindego Ranch, former Driscoll Ranch/ Event Center) by end of 2017
Staging Areas			2	2	3	Constructed and opened one (1) new staging area at Russian Ridge. Target completion of one (1) new staging area at former Driscoll Ranch by end of 2017, and one (1) interim permit-only, equestrian parking area at the Driscoll Ranch Event Center.

### Future Public Access Priorities

The District's Measure AA funds and General Funds will facilitate the planning, construction and opening of additional trails and staging area along the coast in the future. During the next two years, the District is planning to focus its attention on the following proposed public access projects in the CAA (all are subject to future Board approval):

- La Honda Creek Red Barn Public Access Site Plan
- La Honda Creek Phase II trails connecting the Red Barn area to former Dyer Ranch area and former Driscoll Ranch area
- La Honda Creek White Barn historic and structural assessment

- Purisima-to-the-Sea Public Access Plan

In future years of the *Service Plan*, the District anticipates constructing an additional 2.6 miles of existing roads/trails and 5.4 miles of new public access trails within La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, as part of the Master Plan Phase II implementation. By 2020, the estimated total miles of public access trails within the CAA would be 8.6 miles of existing roads/trails and 7.4 miles of new trails. The 8.6 miles of existing roads/trails would not reach the targeted low-end range of 18.9 miles of existing roads/trails within the 15-year projection. However, the 7.4 miles of new trails are expected to be within the range of 6.8 miles to 9.7 miles of new trails within the 15-year projection. While the District would fulfill the *Service Plan* requirements for new staging areas in the CAA by 2017, there will be a new staging area at the Red Barn (former McDonald Ranch) and an existing, permitted staging area (Allen Road parking area) that would be improved for public use in upper La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.

#### *District Coastal Field Office and Maintenance Shop*

As new coastal properties are acquired, new areas planned, and new public access facilities constructed and open, the District has been evaluating staff facility needs and potential opportunities for a Coastal Area field office. In the interim, the District is working towards opening a small field office at Lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (former Driscoll Ranch Event Center) and an interim maintenance storage facility off Sears Ranch Road (former Cunha property). A future permanent Coastal Area field office would include a ranger office, maintenance facilities, and related facilities to support stewardship and land management.

### **Partnerships and Consultations**

#### Farm Bureau

In 2004, the District entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the San Mateo County Farm Bureau. As a partner, the Farm Bureau represents a wealth of agricultural and land stewardships experience, history and knowledge. In accordance with the MOU, the District consults with and provides site tours for the Farm Bureau on new land purchases, grazing and agricultural plans and leases, and planned public trail uses and improvements on grazing and agricultural lands. The District's consultation with the Farm Bureau has been extensive. District staff attend monthly meetings where they provide updates and receive input on all coastal activities. Of particular interest to the Farm Bureau has been the introduction of public access on to grazing properties. The District held tours and received input on Mindego and former Driscoll Ranch property prior to finalizing public access plans, toured successful grazing operations on other public lands, and met with the Farm Bureau to discuss concerns related to liability. The Farm Bureau continues to be one of the District's most important coastal partners.

On regional open space planning efforts, the District consulted with the Farm Bureau, Agricultural Advisory Committee, and Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council as part of the 2015 public review of the proposed Priority Conservation Areas (PCA) along the San Mateo County Coast. These consultations were held prior to submitting the District's PCA application to the Association of Bay Area Governments.

### County of San Mateo

For proposed land purchases, the District is required to seek a General Plan Conformity determination from the County of San Mateo Planning Department that is then reviewed and approved at a regularly scheduled County Planning Commission meeting. On properties with grazing or agricultural uses, the District makes a presentation to the County's Agricultural Advisory Committee, and the committee makes a recommendation to the County. The General Plan determination takes into consideration the properties' General Plan land use and zoning designations, compliance with the California Coastal Zone Local Coastal Plan for San Mateo County, the County's Parks and Recreation Resource Policies, and District's *Service Plan*.

For regulatory permitting, the District consults with San Mateo County Planning, Public Works and Parks Department. The District held a pre-application consultation and field visit with the County Planning, Public Works, County Fire, and Parks Department staff on June 1, 2016 to discuss streamlined permitting process for the Sears Ranch Road Parking Area in Lower La Honda Creek. The County appreciated the District's efforts to engage staff at the planning stage of improvements and supported efforts to provide public access at this location. Subsequently both the Planning and the Engineering Department have worked closely with the County to ensure that District needs are met while County requirements are clearly addressed. Permits to construct the new Sears Ranch Road parking area are expected in June 2017.

District staff also engaged the County in a similar process when evaluating sites for farm labor housing and when seeking recent permits for demolitions at La Honda Creek. Permits for demolitions were expedited and work was completed in a timely manner in late 2016. The County Planning Department has expressed support for the sites under consideration for replacement farm labor housing and will be familiar with the projects when the District is ready to submit applications to construct. The County has committed funding of \$150,000 for the construction of a residence if the District dedicates the housing permanently for farm labor housing.

For regional open space planning, the District consults with the San Mateo County Planning Department and County Parks & Recreation Department. In 2015, the Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission supported the District's 10 proposed Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) in San Mateo County, which included two PCAs with the Coastal Area for Miramontes Ridge and Southern San Mateo County Coast.

District staff regularly attend and present information at the County's Agricultural Advisory Committee meetings to update the committee on agricultural activities and receive input.

### California Rangeland Coalition

District staff regularly attend meetings of the California Rangeland Coalition to learn from ranchers and public agencies with grazing programs.

### San Mateo County Resource Conservation District

The District has partnered with the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) on several resource management projects within the CAA. The RCD has a very complementary

mission to the District, working with private and public landowners on conservation projects and supporting agricultural operations on the San Mateo Coast. At the former Apple Orchard and Event Center areas of La Honda Creek, the District and the RCD partnered on securing grant funding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program to improve breeding and rearing habitat for steelhead and Coho salmon within San Gregorio Creek, totaling over \$300,000 in work. Additionally, the RCD has partnered to control invasive weeds within the San Gregorio Creek watershed and has assisted the District to streamline San Mateo County permitting of restoration projects.

#### Real Property Committee

For proposed land purchases within the CAA, the District's Real Property Committee consisting of three District Board members holds a public meeting on subject property. The public meeting includes a staff presentation about the property, including physical characteristics, resource values, use and management considerations, and proposed terms of the purchase. These meetings typically are attended by neighbors, and interested parties. The Committee's submits their recommendation on acquisition of the subject property to the full Board of Directors.

#### **Land Use**

The *Service Plan* relies upon two Permanent Policies, P.2 and P.3, to guide the District's actions regarding Land Use. These policies direct the District to ensure that existing San Mateo County land use and zoning designations are retained for any District activities within the CAA.

#### Compliance with County Land Use Policies and Permitting

The District complies with the *Service Plan's* Land Use policies prior to each new acquisition in the CAA by submitting an application to the San Mateo County Planning Department requesting a General Plan Compliance Review of the proposed acquisition. The County's review also considers future identified uses such as low intensity recreation. Upon completion of their review, County staff then submits a report to the San Mateo County Planning Commission for approval. All acquisitions in the CAA have complied with the San Mateo County General Plan.

Regarding permits for construction in the CAA, the District continues to secure appropriate San Mateo County planning permits (Resource Management or Coastal Development) and building permits for the construction of new recreational and staff facilities. Most recently for the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, the District submitted a planning permit package for the Sears Ranch Road parking area to the County for review. The District will present the building permit package for the new vault toilet to the County Planning hearing officer in May 2017 for final review and issuance of permits. Construction is targeted for late summer 2017.

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