

From: [Mike Liebhold](#)
To: [General Information](#)

Subject: to the Board: Subject: Chief Scientist, Open Space Habitats
Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 4:56:48 PM

To the full Board of Directors,

Dear Board,

Subject: Chief Scientist, Open Space Habitats

First thanks for initiating a updated deeper scientific review of pesticide use in the district. In the midst of that exchange a more important question I asked remains unanswered:

Will the district create the position Chief Scientist Open Space Habitats reporting directly to the Board of Directors?

Qualifications:

- * Highest scientific credentials (perhaps from one of the many recently depleted federal science agencies)
- * Exceptional demonstrated succes leading similar large scale wilderness research and conservation programs.

Responsibilities:

1. Create and manage world class research on Openspace habitats - on the health and human impact of all of complete district ecosystem, habitats and micro habitats of all flora, fauna, micro-flora, and microfauna.
2. Advise Open Space Board on present and future environmental challenges and opportunities ,and on any environmental decisions, policies and practices impacting sensitive habitats and populations.
3. Report the the Public:
 - Quarterly public reports on focused Disrtrict research, programs
 - Annual Report on the complete health of open space habitats and ecosystems.

Given the scale of district holdings, and the magnificence of the bio-diversity of district habitiats, It's high time to create mechanism to conserve and improve the long term health of all disrtict holdings,

Please let me know how to support an effort to attract a world class scientist to lead a world class program!

I really appreciate your kind consideration,

Mike Liebhold

Woodside, Ca 94062



Midpeninsula Regional
OpenSpace

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER
Ana M. Ruiz

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Pete Siemens
Yoriko Kishimoto
Jed Cyr
Curt Riffle
Nonette Hanko
Larry Hassett
Cecily Harris

May 23, 2018

Mike Liebhold
10 Durham Road
Woodside, CA 94062

RE: Request for Creation of Chief Scientist, Open Space Habitats

Dear Mr. Liebhold,

To begin with, let me apologize for the late response to your email, which we received again via our partners at Peninsula Open Space Trust. We appreciate your thoughtful engagement with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) and suggestions for improving the District's stewardship of the open space lands and natural resources. We have received and responded to your prior insightful comments on our programs. We also appreciate your latest suggestion for the Board of Directors (Board) to appoint a Chief Scientist for Open Space Habitats. You raise an interesting policy question for the Board to consider at our annual Strategic Plan Retreat, which we hold each January. This idea, or a similar construct, may be something that the full Board would like to explore as we think about the future development and evolution of this agency.

As part of this response, I would like to provide some background on the District and its organizational growth related to our natural resource program. The District was established in 1972 as a public land management agency with a mission to, in part, "protect and restore the natural environment." Our initial focus during the first 10 years was on the creation, early staffing, and development of a new open space agency. During the following two decades, we directed the majority of our resources to land preservation. In the last 10 years, we have made a deliberate shift to expand our focus on natural resource and land management. During this time, we established a new Natural Resources Department staffed by talented subject matter experts in ecology, water resources, archeology, biology, botany, among other disciplines.

We also adopted a suite of resource management policies, established a Resource Management Grants program to support academic research on District lands, and pursued a myriad of resource protection and enhancement projects. To communicate our more recent accomplishments in resource protection and restoration, please refer to our various annual accomplishment reports: <https://www.openspace.org/about-us/strategic-plan#AnnualReport>. These reports list our resource management projects, programs, and policies under the Natural Resources Protection

and Restoration section. To guide all of this work, the District has relied on a wide breadth of subject matter expertise. In addition to consulting internally with District experts, we seek and establish partnerships with scientists, researchers, and academia to develop, implement, and monitor the effectiveness of our land management actions. Moreover, as mentioned, the Board established the District's Resource Management Grants Program specifically to fund research studies to inform specific issues where we have determined that additional scientific knowledge can further enlighten our land management decision making.

I would also like to take this opportunity to describe the District's model for applying scientific information and research into our land management actions. The large variety of topics and issues we encounter in land management activities has built relationships with many scientists and researchers who have shared their expertise and knowledge to inform our actions. We are increasingly making every effort to provide the information and results of the research and monitoring findings so that our partners and other land management practitioners may benefit from our lessons learned, as well as enhance the body of scientific knowledge for land management in our larger region.

The Board invites you come in person to the public meetings held biweekly on Wednesday nights. I do believe that you would be most interested in attending on July 11, 2018 where an independent firm will provide an update on a toxicological evaluation of Glyphosate and additionally, the Natural Resource Department will provide the 2017 Annual IPM Report.

In closing, I want to again thank you for your suggestion and continued interest in resource management activities and your encouragement for the District to further its leadership role in the scientific understanding of land management actions. You raise important food for thought for the Board to consider as we look toward the future and the ongoing evolution of this organization.

Sincerely,

Jed Cyr
President, Board of Directors

cc: Ana Ruiz, Acting General Manager
Kirk Lenington, Natural Resources Manager
Coty Sifuentes-Winter, Senior Resource Management Specialist