



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

LEGISLATIVE, FINANCE, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

R-18-144
December 4, 2018

AGENDA ITEM 2

AGENDA ITEM

Addition of Section VI *Partner Recognition Signboard* to Board Policy 5.01 – *Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition*

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Review and consider forwarding to the full Board of Directors Section VI, *Partner Recognition Signboard*, as an addition to Board Policy 5.01 – *Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition* to establish a centralized, consistent, and cohesive approach for recognizing significant partner contributions at preserve trailhead locations.

SUMMARY

With the availability of Measure AA funding, outside grant funding, and partner support, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) is able to leverage its resources to acquire new lands, protect and restore sensitive habitat, develop new public access facilities, and open new Preserve areas to visitors. The District is profoundly appreciative of its partners who support the District's Mission, the Board-approved Strategic Plan goals, Vision Plan priority actions, and Measure AA funding priorities. Most recently, to highlight the role of partners, the District installed partner recognition signs at the Mount Umunhum Summit and lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. In addition, similar signage is planned at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve in time for the 2019 grand public opening.

In order to streamline and standardize the process of recognizing partner contributions, staff has drafted a policy framework with guidelines to consolidate this information into District-branded partner recognition signboards. The General Manager recommends adding Section VI, *Partner Recognition Signboards* for inclusion into Board Policy 5.01 – *Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition* and forwarding these recommendations to the full Board of Directors (Board) for approval.

DISCUSSION

Existing Partner Recognition Signs

Currently, District practice is to evaluate and develop partner signs on a case-by-case basis. Existing partner recognition signs vary in size, material and design. Existing sign types include a laminated 8.5-inch by 11-inch paper located in a signboard, a metal 12-inch by 24-inch sign mounted on a wooden post near a trailhead, and a signboard designated for partner content.

With voter approval of Measure AA, the District is able to leverage its resources using outside funds and partner contributions to acquire new lands, restore additional acres of habitat, and develop more public access and environmental programming. At the most recent Preserve openings, the District recognized partnerships and grant funding using different styles, sizes, materials, and placement of signs. La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve partners were recognized with their logos on the District's Measure AA sign that is mounted on the signboard. In addition, Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) has an 8-inch by 11-inch sign on the District's standard signboard at the parking area. To fulfill grant requirements at Sierra Azul, a Coastal Conservancy grant funder sign is located at the Mount Umunhum summit near the turnaround and at the Bald Mountain parking area, and a Bay Area Ridge Trail sign is located at the beginning of the Mount Umunhum Trail in the eastern Summit area. The Measure AA sign at the Summit parking lot does not include any partner logos. Upcoming public access projects at Bear Creek Redwoods and the Ravenswood Bay Trail connection will each have many key partnerships and grants that will need to be recognized.

Partner recognition signs provide an opportunity for the District to highlight and acknowledge significant partner contributions of cash, land, and/or time that were instrumental to the conservation, restoration, and/or public opening of a preserve. Policy guidelines can provide a framework to assist the District when considering and implementing partner recognitions. The proposed policy language includes guidelines clarifying what type of contributions would be eligible for recognition, and specifications to ensure recognition signage is visually cohesive, consistent, and follows District branding (Attachment 1).

Policy Research and Organizational Input

Staff contacted agencies similar to the District, including Marin County Parks, San Mateo County Parks, Santa Clara County Parks, and East Bay Regional Park District, and found that most do not have an official policy nor sign guidelines to recognize partners. The exception was Santa Clara County Parks, which provided their sign guidelines. The information collected from the agencies allowed staff to aggregate best management practices, goals, and guidelines. Internal staff meetings were held with multiple departments, including Real Property, Land & Facilities and Visitor Services to discuss the draft policy language. Staff also met with the Grant Specialist to discuss grant funding signage requirements. Partner agencies (POST, Santa Clara County Parks, San Mateo County Parks, and Committee for Green Foothills) also provided input on the draft guidelines.

The draft guidelines recommend the installation of a standalone, partner recognition signboard. The signboard would share the same design and height of standard District trailhead signboards, and the width would be the same or may be narrower, depending on the number of partners (Attachment 2). Matching the District's standard signboard will maintain a uniform look for the District and allow for expedited updating when a new partner is added. The intent is to centralize recognition signs for Board-approved partners, including grant funder signs, in a highly visible and accessible location, and reduce sign clutter in the preserves.

FISCAL IMPACT

The addition of Section VI, *Partner Recognition Signboards*, to Board Policy 5.01 will not result in a direct fiscal impact to the Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget.

If approved, the District would be responsible for future purchases and installations of new signboards. Costs associated with partner recognition signboards would be incorporated into future Capital Improvement and Action Plans and Budgets. Below is the FY2018-19 cost estimate for a new signboard, which is expected to increase over time with inflation. Recent costs have risen due to tariffs enacted by the federal government that have increased the cost of materials such as metal. Signboards have an average lifespan of more than 10 years.

Standard Partner Recognition Signboard Total Cost = \$5,098

- Metal Signboard: \$4,500; if ordering bulk (15 or more) price drops to \$2,490
- Redwood Frame: \$598
- Installation Cost: Crew Time

Existing partner signs will remain as is and may be replaced in the future on a case-by-case basis as additional partner recognitions for each Preserve are considered and approved by the Board.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. Organizations the District frequently partners with, such as POST, Santa Clara County Parks, San Mateo County Parks, and the Committee for Green Foothills have also been notified.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and no environmental review is required.

NEXT STEPS

If the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee supports the proposed Board Policy language, the General Manager will forward the item to the full Board for review and consideration.

Attachment(s)

1. Draft Policy 5.01 Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition with proposed changes
2. Signboard mockup

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Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Board Policy Manual

Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition	Policy 5.01 Chapter 5 – Historical/Cultural
Effective Date: 8/25/93	Revised Date: 9/12/18
Prior Versions: 8/25/93, 9/14/94, 6/24/98, 9/12/01, 10/8/08, 1/13/10, 10/27/10, 11/13/13	

I. SITE NAMING

All District site names and signs should be kept as simple and functional as possible. When a property is acquired, either as an addition to an existing preserve or for the establishment of a new preserve, a name will be recommended in the Preliminary Use and Management Plan. In most cases, "open space preserve" is appropriate as part of the name; however, there may be circumstances when another designation may be used. In some cases, a temporary name may be retained until the next Comprehensive Use and Management Plan review.

A. Open Space Preserves

The name given to each open space preserve should be general enough to remain suitable if the site is enlarged, but specific enough to give its location some significance. Properties added to an open space preserve may not always be contiguous with that preserve.

1. Preserves shall be named after:
 - a) Geographical features of broad, general significance to the preserve;
 - b) Historical persons, cultural names, uses, or events broadly associated with the locale.
2. Preserves shall not be named after any individuals other than historical persons as noted above.

B. Preserve Areas, Trails, Site Improvements, Historic Sites and Unnamed Natural Features

This designation refers to specific locations, land formations, trails, natural and physical features, staging areas and other site improvements, and areas of significance within open space preserves. Recognition of significant land gifts, including "bargain" purchases, will be negotiated at the time of the gift or bargain purchase.

1. Preserve areas, trails, site improvements including benches and bridges, historic sites and previously unnamed natural features shall ordinarily be named

after:

- a) Geographical, botanical or zoological identification;
- b) Historical persons, uses, or events associated with the site, or

persons and organizations listed in Section III: "Special Recognition".

2. Preserve areas, trails, site improvements, historic sites and unnamed natural features may in rare instances be named after a living individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the District, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

II. GIFT RECOGNITION

The purpose of the gift recognition policy is to provide an opportunity for the District to recognize and commend individuals or groups that have made significant contributions of cash, equipment, materials, goods or professional services toward the enhancement of the District, its programs, and its facilities.

A. Unsolicited Cash Gifts:

Up to \$25	Postcard of thanks
\$26 to \$499	Letter signed by General Manager
\$500 to \$1,999	Letter signed by President of the Board
\$2,000 to \$4,999	Letter signed by President of the Board and District gift item (note cards, etc.)
\$5,000 to \$9,999	Letter signed by President of the Board and framed photograph of favorite District preserve
\$10,000 or more	Letter signed by President of the Board and Resolution and framed photograph of District preserve and mention in a District publication*

*These items will be provided only if desired by the donor.

III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) shall be the committee designated to discuss all requests that meet the criteria of the policy for special recognition made by members of the Board of Directors, and after deliberation shall forward a recommendation to the full Board for a vote.

The General Manager or his/her designee will review constituent bench dedication requests to determine eligibility based on the policy guidelines outlined below in Section III D.

Constituent bench requests may be brought to LFPAC if there exists ambiguity regarding whether the request meets the requirements below.

The District places benches in its preserves for three distinct purposes:

A. District Rest Benches

These benches provide constituents with a place to rest. District staff places these benches without involving a District committee or the full Board. Regular benches must be either a backed or a backless standard bench as described in Section V below.

B. Constituent Bench Dedications

These are benches which have been requested by constituents in order to honor or memorialize a member of the public and are funded by the requestors who must pay \$5,000 for a 10-year term. Requests must be in reference to a significant supporter or a volunteer, as defined in Section III D below. The General Manager or his/her designee reviews requests to determine if they meet the eligibility definitions. Requests that are administratively declined because they do not meet the eligibility definitions may be appealed to the General Manager for a second review. Eligible requests will be administratively implemented.

a) Constituent bench dedications shall only be selected from and placed in locations that have been pre-determined by the District and/or approved by the Planning and Natural Resources Committee and/or by the full Board of Directors.

b) If a request for a constituent bench meets the eligibility requirements, the requestor(s) shall pay for the cost of constructing, installing and maintaining a bench and plaque by contributing \$5,000 to cover the 10-year dedication term of the bench.

c) Bench plaques will be 2 x 6 inches in size.

d) Benches must be one of the two District standard bench designs.

e) Constituent bench dedications will have a term limit of 10 years. After 10 years, the original donor will have the option to contribute an additional \$5,000 donation for each additional 10-year term. Should the original donor decline to renew an existing bench, the bench will be offered to the public for re-dedication.

C. District Bench Dedications

These are benches which are installed by the District in response to requests by members of the Board of Directors to honor "Founders," "Significant Supporters", and "Volunteers".

a) LFPAC can initiate a bench request and refer a decision to the full Board or individual Board members can initiate a bench request which will be referred to LFPAC for discussion before it is referred to the full Board for a final decision. Honorees must be "Founders", "Significant Supporters", and "Volunteers" (per policy Section III D below).

b) For these benches there are no design specification limits or limits on their location. The District will pay for the lifetime cost of the bench.

D. Founders, Significant Supporters, and Volunteers

"Founders", "Significant Supporters", and "Volunteers" are eligible for special recognition, including memorials.

"Founders" shall be defined as an individual or group of individuals who participated in the formation of the District, or were significant supporters of the formation of the District.

"Significant Supporters" shall be defined as individuals or group of individuals who have shown conspicuous or noteworthy support for the District through extraordinary contributions of time and effort to the advancement of the goals, philosophy and mission of the District.

"Volunteers" shall be defined as individuals or groups of individuals who donated a minimum of 250 volunteer hours and 5 years of service to the District by working for the District's docent or volunteer program.

IV. RECOGNITION OF HISTORIC SITES

A. A recognition monument, normally in plaque form, may be considered by the Board if it is in relation to a specific existing building or other remaining structure of significant historic value. In such cases, the plaque will be affixed or in close proximity to the structure itself. If there is no structure, then recognition may be considered for inclusion on District informational materials or trail signage. Such a site, in the absence of a building or structure, will ordinarily not be physically marked except as determined by the Board on a case-by-case basis as part of the Use and Management planning process for the corresponding open space preserve.

Any Board-approved memorial names shall be included in site brochures, maps, or other informational materials.

V. STANDARD BENCH DESIGN SPECIFICATION

A. District Rest Benches and Constituent Bench Dedications, described in III (A) and (B) above, are limited to either of the two following standard bench designs:

Backed bench:

Dumor - Bench 88, recycled plastic slates (color: CEDAR), steel leg supports (color: BLACK, IMBEDDED)
6' or 8' lengths

Backless bench:

Dumor - Bench 103, recycled plastic slates (color: CEDAR), steel leg supports (color: BLACK, IMBEDDED)
103-60PL 6' long, 3 supports
103-80PL 8' long, 3 supports

B. The General Manager or LFPAC can at any point bring designs to the Board that differ from the District's standard bench designs.

VI. PARTNER RECOGNITION SIGNBOARD

Partner recognition signboards provide an opportunity for the District to recognize and acknowledge significant partners who have made conspicuous or noteworthy contributions of cash, land, and/or time that were instrumental to the conservation, restoration, management,

and/or public opening of a preserve. Partners may include agencies, organizations, or individuals. Partner Recognition Signboards may also be used to satisfy recognition requirements specified in grant, purchase, or other funding agreements.

Excluding recognitions previously approved by the Board (e.g. recognitions required in Board-approved agreements and resolutions), LFPAC shall review and forward for Board approval the list of partner(s) to recognize on the Partner Recognition Signboard. Following Board approval, the General Manager or his/her designee will follow the guidelines and specifications listed below.

a. Guidelines and Specifications:

- a) Partner Recognition Signboards shall be standalone signboards that follow the same design specifications as the District's standard trailhead signboards to maintain District branding and visual cohesiveness.
- b) Partner Recognition Signboards shall normally be placed directly adjacent to existing preserve signboards to consolidate trailhead information and signboard placement.
- c) Recognition content shall include logos and/or names.
- d) The District will review recognition content with each partner for accuracy and completeness.
- e) The General Manager or his/her designee will approve the final recognition content.
- f) Exceptions to these guidelines and specifications will be forwarded to LFPAC for review and to the full Board for consideration of approval.

Sign structure: 53" x 39"
Signboard: 42" x 28"
Signs: 12.5" x 12.5" each

