



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

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

Administrative Office
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022

**Tuesday, December 4, 2018
2:00PM**

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Director Hassett called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Nonette Hanko, Larry Hassett, Curt Riffle

Members absent: None

Staff present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Engineering and Construction Manager Jason Lin, Natural Resources Manager Kirk Lenington, Acting Public Affairs Manager Cydney Bieber, Planning Manager Jane Mark, Planner I Melissa Borgesi, Governmental Affairs Specialist Joshua Hugg, Public Affairs Assistant Jordan McDaniel

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No speakers present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Riffle moved, and Director Hanko seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

VOTE: 3-0-0

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approve the October 30, 2018 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee meeting minutes

Public comment opened at 2:01 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 2:01 p.m.

Motion: Director Hanko moved, and Director Riffle seconded the motion to approve the October 30, 2018 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

VOTE: 3-0-0

2. Addition of Section VI Partner Recognition Signboard to Board Policy 5.01 – Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition (R-18-144)

Planner I Melissa Borgesi presented the staff report proposing the addition of Section VI Partner Recognition Signboard to Board Policy 5.01 – Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition. Ms. Borgesi provided the draft partner recognition signboard policy guidelines to standardize the District’s approach for recognizing significant partner contributions at preserve trailhead locations.

Public comment opened at 2:13 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 2:13 p.m.

Motion: Director Riffle moved, and Director Hanko seconded the motion to forward 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

VOTE: 3-0-0

3. Legislative Proposals for 2019 (R-18-146)

Governmental Affairs Specialist Joshua Hugg reviewed the District’s legislative proposals for the upcoming 2019-20 legislative session.

Director Riffle asked if legislative priority “Local and County Permit Exemptions” would apply to other organizations in addition to Midpen.

General Manager Ana Ruiz explained it is still early in the process and conversations with partner agencies may influence the scope of this legislation.

Director Hanko questioned whether the language of legislative priority “Local and County Permit Exemptions” can be adjusted to fit specific scenarios, such as tree removal.

Ms. Ruiz stated that the level of specificity the District would need to provide that could limit the exemptions would be determined based on future conversations.

Director Riffle asked if legislative priority “Local and County Permit Exemptions” would allow the District to have the same rights as California State Parks or to tailor the legislation to the needs of the District.

Natural Resources Manager Kirk Lenington reported California State Parks’ exemption from local or county jurisdiction primarily stems from the management of state-owned lands. Mr. Lenington added the District may benefit from exemptions due to its expertise in land management and would seek out legislation that fits the District’s specific needs.

Director Riffle questioned whether the District would also seek state-level permit exemptions.

Mr. Lenington explained California State Parks is subject to other state laws and regulations and expressed that it may not be a successful pursuit for the District.

Ms. Ruiz stated future conversations around legislative priority “Local and County Permit Exemptions” may spur additional avenues for streamlining of, if not exemption from, permit processes if a bill is not successful.

Director Hassett expressed full support of legislative priority “Local and County Permit Exemptions” and recommended the District pursue any potential legislation in earnest.

Director Hanko expressed concern regarding legislative priority “Local and County Permit Exemptions” about the District’s incorporated cities and their ability to provide public input.

Director Hassett confirmed that legislative priority “Local and County Permit Exemptions” would not eliminate or interfere with the District’s public planning process.

Ms. Ruiz confirmed the District has a robust public planning process and will work with cities and other partners while developing legislation to strike a balance and gain support.

Director Riffle asked regarding legislative priority “Phytophthora Regulations” if the District is attempting to establish state-wide methodologies.

General Counsel Hilary Stevenson reported the District has dedicated many resources to identify best practices and helped local nurseries to develop those practices in addition to requiring District contractors to implement these practices.

Mr. Lenington reported the District has difficulty obtaining clean plants, despite the District’s required protocol, due to the pernicious nature of the pathogens.

Director Riffle questioned whether legislative priority “Phytophthora Regulations” would require neighboring land management agencies to purchase plants from restricted nurseries only.

Mr. Hugg confirmed this particular bill would not place restrictions on neighboring land management agencies.

Mr. Lenington stated there are multiple routes of infection and movement across the hundreds of Phytophthora species.

Director Riffle requested the inclusion of language in this legislation which would require nurseries to follow regularly updated best practices.

Public comment opened at 2:46 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 2:46 p.m.

Motion: Director Riffle moved, and Director Hanko seconded the motion to forward the legislative proposals to the full Board of Directors for approval.

VOTE: 3-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

Director Hassett adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 2:48 p.m.

Jordan McDaniel
Public Affairs Administrative Assistant