



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-19-33
Meeting No. 19-08
March 27, 2019

AGENDA ITEM 6

AGENDA ITEM

Legislative Action Recommendations

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve the recommended list of legislative actions for the 2019 state legislative session.

SUMMARY

On March 12, 2019, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (District) Governmental Affairs Specialist presented to the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) the District's list of high-interest 2019 State Legislation items (Tracking matrix, Attachment 1). This list identifies specific bills that merit follow-up action by the District in 2019. LFPAC asked clarifying questions and provided feedback on the priority bills, and recommended that the Board of Directors consider approving the list as the District's legislative priorities for 2019.

Important Note: Most bills will change over the course of the legislative session. The legislative process is fluid and often fast moving. Based upon its guiding documents – Board Policy 1.11 (Attachment 2) and the Board adopted Legislative Program (Attachment 3) – the General Manager and staff will pursue an appropriate position for each bill and ensure that District interests remain protected.

DISCUSSION

The 2019 Legislative Program, which the Board approved at its January 9 meeting, reflects Board policy positions on issues affecting the District, its mission, and annual strategic goals. The 2019 Legislative Program identifies priority legislation to track this year. Staff and the District's legislative consultants actively use the Board-approved Legislative Program to communicate District positions on bills, budget recommendations, and other legislative items to the respective authors and/or legislative committees, as appropriate (See Attachments 1 and 4). Throughout the session, staff fields time-sensitive requests from partners and monitors evolving pieces of legislation based on Board Policy 1.11. Legislation deemed a priority by the Board, pursuant to Board Policy 1.11 and described in Attachment 5, are tracked and, when appropriate, either supported or opposed. The General Manager keeps the Board notified of actions taken via separate memo (Attachment 6). Please refer to Attachment 1 for an overview of the initial list of bills for District priority action in the 2019-20 legislative session.

February 22, 2019, was the submittal deadline for new bills by State Assemblymembers and Senators (See Attachment 7). District legislative consultants Public Policy Advocates (PPA) and

Environmental and Energy Consulting (EEC) reviewed every bill submitted to determine whether it had the potential to affect District interests, recommending a position and priority.

Priority definitions:

- **Priority 1:** Bills with major importance and direct impact to the District, and/or have the potential to set a critical precedent. These bills receive active attention by the Public Affairs Department and the affected department(s), which may include extensive testimony in committee, meetings with the Legislature, discussions with partner organizations and public/media education, as appropriate.
- **Priority 2:** Bills with significant impact on the District and/or have the potential to set a critical, relevant precedent. The District sends a position letter or signs on to a coalition letter, and may discuss the item with the Legislature and provide testimony in committee, as time permits.
- **Priority 3:** Bills with a potential notable effect on the District, and/or that may set a meaningful precedent, but are determined to be of lower priority for District resources. Public Affairs Department staff, in collaboration with the appropriate department(s), may sign on to a coalition letter. Committee testimony or discussions with the Legislature may also be conducted.

Appropriate department managers have assisted with a review of all the potential bills of interest and provided a recommended position and priority for each bill. Approximately 140 bills are currently tracked, though only bills that would initiate action by the District at this time – Priorities 1 and 2 – are presented. At this time, four bills are deemed Priority 1 and 18 bills are Priority 2. As the legislative session progresses, each bill may change (sometimes substantially), which warrants further consideration and disposition concurrent with Board Policy 1.11.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this briefing.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

On March 12, 2019, LFPAC reviewed the submitted list of bills, along with their associated position and priority recommendation, asked clarifying questions, and recommended referral to the full Board. No changes to the list were requested.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. No additional notice is required.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

NEXT STEPS

The Governmental Affairs Specialist will bring legislative updates and proposals to LFPAC throughout the state legislative session.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – MROSD Legislative Tracking Matrix
- Attachment 2 – Board Policy 1.11 - Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy
- Attachment 3 – MROSD Legislative Program for 2019
- Attachment 4 – MROSD Bill Disposition Process
- Attachment 5 – MROSD Legislation Position and Priorities
- Attachment 6 – General Manager Memo Regarding Interim Legislative Actions
- Attachment 7 – State Legislative Calendar – 2019

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MROSD Legislative Tracking Matrix

Updated: 3/6/2019

Measure	Author	Category	Topic	Brief Summary	Recommended Position	Priority
SB 45	Allen D	Climate Change	Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020.	Would enact the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of \$4,300,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects to restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources.	Support	1
ACA 1	Aguiar-Curry D	Finance	Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval.	The California Constitution prohibits the ad valorem tax rate on real property from exceeding 1% of the full cash value of the property, subject to certain exceptions. This measure would create an additional exception to the 1% limit that would authorize a city, county, or city and county to levy an ad valorem tax to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure or affordable housing, if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of the voters of the city, county, or city and county, as applicable, and the proposition includes specified accountability requirements.	Support	1
AB 1190	Irwin D	Safety	Unmanned aircraft: state and local regulation: limitations.	Would, among other things, prohibit a state or local agency from adopting any law or regulation that bans the operation of an unmanned aircraft system. The bill would include the operation of small unmanned aircraft systems within the definition of hazardous recreational activity for purposes of public entity liability. The bill would authorize a state or local agency to adopt regulations to enforce a requirement that a small unmanned aircraft system be properly registered under existing federal regulations.	Oppose	1
AB 1788	Bloom D	Stewardship	Pesticides: use of anticoagulants.	Current law regulates the use of pesticides and authorizes the Director of Pesticide Regulation to adopt regulations to govern the possession, sale, or use of any pesticide, as prescribed. Existing law prohibits the use of any pesticide that contains one or more of specified anticoagulants in wildlife habitat areas, as defined. Current law exempts from this prohibition the use of these pesticides for agricultural activities, as defined. Current law requires the director, and each county agricultural commissioner under the direction and supervision of the director, to enforce the provisions regulating the use of pesticides. A violation of these provisions is a misdemeanor. This bill would expand this prohibition to the entire state.	Support	1



MROSD Legislative Tracking Matrix

Updated: 3/6/2019

AB 293	Garcia, Eduardo D	Climate Change	Greenhouse gases: offset protocols.	Current law, until January 1, 2031, establishes the Compliance Offsets Protocol Task Force to provide guidance to the state board in approving new offset protocols for a market-based compliance mechanism for the purposes of increasing offset projects with direct environmental benefits in the state while prioritizing disadvantaged communities, Native American or tribal lands, and rural and agricultural regions. This bill would require the task force to consider the development and adoption of additional offset protocols, including, but not limited to, protocols for the enhanced management or conservation of agricultural and natural lands, and for the enhancement and restoration of wetlands.	Support	2
AB 65	Petrie-Norris D		Coastal protection: climate adaption: project prioritization.	Would require specified things of the State Coastal Conservancy when it allocates any funding appropriated pursuant to the The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, including that it prioritize projects that use natural infrastructure to help adapt to climate change. The bill would require the conservancy to provide information to the Office of Planning and Research on any projects funded pursuant to the above provision to be considered for inclusion into the clearinghouse for climate adaption information.	Support	2
SB 168	Wieckowski D		Climate change: Chief Officer of Climate Adaptation and Resilience.	Would establish the Chief Officer of Climate Adaptation and Resilience in the Office of Planning and Research to serve as the statewide lead for planning and coordination of climate adaptation policy and implementation in California, and would specify the duties of the chief officer. The bill would make the chief officer, or the chief officer's designee, a member of the advisory council and would designate the chief officer, or the chief officer's designee, as the chair of the advisory council. The bill would include additional expertise members of the advisory council are to have. The bill would specify that members of the advisory council serve staggered 4-year terms, except as provided.	Support	2
AB 968	Garcia, Cristina D	Education	Naturalist Pathway Pilot Program.	Would, on or before the start of the 2020–21 academic year, require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop and implement a pilot program, at a voluntarily participating community college located in a disadvantaged community, that provides a pathway for participating students to become naturalists and achieve careers providing public access to, or preserving, restoring, or enhancing outdoor areas. The bill would require the chancellor to submit a report on the pilot program to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2024, and would repeal the pilot program on July 1, 2025.	Support	2
SB 367	Hueso D		State Coastal Conservancy: grants: educational projects and programs.	Current law establishes the State Coastal Conservancy and prescribes the membership, functions, and duties of the conservancy with regard to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of specified coastal lands in the state. Current law authorizes the conservancy to fund and undertake plans and feasibility studies and to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for these purposes. This bill would additionally authorize the conservancy to provide technical assistance, and award grants for that purpose.	Support	2



MROSD Legislative Tracking Matrix

Updated: 3/6/2019

AB 1486	Ting D	Government	Local agencies: surplus land.	Current law prescribes requirements for the disposal of surplus land by a local agency. This bill would expand the definition of "local agency" to include sewer, water, utility, and local and regional park districts, joint powers authorities, successor agencies to former redevelopment agencies, housing authorities, and other political subdivisions of this state and any instrumentality thereof that is empowered to acquire and hold real property, thereby requiring these entities to comply with these requirements for the disposal of surplus land.	Oppose	2
AB 510	Cooley D		Local government records: destruction of records.	Current law authorizes the head of a department of a county or city, or the head of a special district to destroy recordings of telephone and radio communications maintained by that county, city, or special district after 100 days if that person receives approval from the legislative body and the written consent of the agency attorney. This bill would exempt the head of a department of a county or city, or the head of a special district from these recording retention requirements if the county, city, or special district adopts a records retention policy governing recordings of routine video monitoring and recordings of telephone and radio communications.	Support	2
AB 707	Kalra D		Santa Clara Valley Water District: contracts.	Current law prescribes competitive bidding procedures for any improvement or unit of work not performed by the personnel of the Santa Clara Valley Water District if the district estimates the work to cost over \$25,000. This bill would raise that competitive bidding threshold to work estimated to cost over \$50,000 and would authorize the district board of directors to further raise the threshold amount, as prescribed. The bill would define terms for purposes of current law.	Support	2
AB 825	Mullin D		San Mateo County Flood Control District.	Current law, the San Mateo County Flood Control District Act, establishes the San Mateo County Flood Control District for the purpose of controlling the floodwater and stormwater of the County of San Mateo. The act makes the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo the board of supervisors of the district, and assigns specified powers and duties to the district. This bill would make nonsubstantive changes in the section naming the act.	Support	2
AB 7	Chu D	Public Access	Daylight Saving Time	This bill would set California's standard time to year-round daylight saving time after the federal government authorizes the state to do so, as specified.	Support	2
AB 556	Carrillo D		Outdoor experiences: community access program: grant program.	Would require the Natural Resources Agency to develop and implement a community access program focused on engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities, to natural or cultural resources, community education programs, or recreational amenities. The bill would authorize the agency to develop a grant program for innovative transportation projects that provide disadvantaged and low-income youth with access to outdoor experiences, as specified.	Support	2



MROSD Legislative Tracking Matrix

Updated: 3/6/2019

SB 127	Wiener D		Transportation funding: active transportation: complete streets.	Would establish a Division of Active Transportation within the Department of Transportation and require that an undersecretary of the Transportation Agency be assigned to give attention to active transportation program matters to guide progress toward meeting the department's active transportation program goals and objectives. The bill would require the California Transportation Commission to give high priority to increasing safety for pedestrians and bicyclists and to the implementation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.	Support	2
AB 782	Berman D		California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: public agencies: property transfers.	Would exempt from CEQA the acquisition, sale, or other transfer of property by a public agency for certain purposes, or the funding of that acquisition, sale, or other transfer by a public agency, if the public agency conditions those transactions on compliance with CEQA before making physical changes to the transferred property.	Support	2
AB 933	Petrie-Norris D		Ecosystem resilience: watershed protection: watershed coordinators.	Would authorize the Department of Conservation, to the extent funds are available, to establish and administer the Ecosystem Resilience Program to fund watershed coordinator positions, and other necessary costs, throughout the state for the purpose of achieving specified goals, including the goal of developing and implementing watershed improvement plans aligned with multiple statewide and regional objectives across distinct bioregions. The bill would authorize the department to develop performance measures and accountability controls to track progress and outcomes.	Support	2
SB 226	Nielsen R		Watershed restoration: grant program.	Current law authorizes the Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency to jointly develop and submit to the Legislature a plan for forest and water restoration investments for the drainages that supply specified reservoirs. This bill would require the agency to develop and implement a watershed restoration grant program, as provided, for purposes of awarding grants to private property land owners to assist them with watershed restoration on watersheds that have been affected by wildfire, as specified. The bill would require the agency to provide technical resources to the private property land owners seeking assistance with watershed restoration, as provided.	Support	2
AB 448	Garcia, Eduardo D	Water	Water rights: stockponds.	Would provide that the owner of a stockpond built prior to January 1, 2019, that does not have a capacity greater than 10 acre-feet has a valid water right for the principal purpose of watering livestock if that person files a claim for a water right with the State Water Resources Control Board accompanied by a fee not later than December 31, 2021.	Support	2



MROSD Legislative Tracking Matrix

Updated: 3/6/2019

AB 454	Kalra D	Wildlife	Migratory birds: Migratory Bird Treaty Act.	Would make unlawful the taking or possession of any migratory nongame bird designated in the federal act as of January 1, 2017, any additional migratory nongame bird that may be designated in the federal act after that date, or any part of those migratory nongame birds, except as provided by any provision of the Fish and Game Code, or any rule, regulation, or order made or adopted pursuant to the code, that is consistent with, or more protective than, rules and regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of the Interior under the federal act. Under existing law, a violation of the Fish and Game Code is a crime.	Support	2
SB 1	Atkins D		California Environmental, Public Health, and Workers Defense Act of 2019.	Essentially, this bill seeks to maintain parity with existing federal law through state law in the face of threats to weaken certain provisions. Current state law regulates the discharge of air pollutants into the atmosphere. The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act regulates the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the state. The California Safe Drinking Water Act establishes standards for drinking water and regulates drinking water systems. The California Endangered Species Act requires the Fish and Game Commission to establish a list of endangered species and a list of threatened species, and generally prohibits the taking of those species. This bill would require specified agencies to take prescribed actions regarding certain federal requirements and standards pertaining to air, water, and protected species, as specified.	Support	2

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Board Policy Manual

<p>Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy</p>	<p>Policy 1.11 Chapter 1 – Administration and Government</p>
<p>Effective Date: 4/13/16</p>	<p>Revised Date: N/A</p>
<p>Prior Versions: N/A</p>	

Purpose

To establish a policy governing positions on local and state ballot measures/propositions and state and federal legislative advocacy. It is intended to cover all matters before the Legislature and the voters.

Definitions

For the purposes of the *Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy* policy, the following terms and definitions shall be used:

Measure – may be included on a municipal, county, or district ballot and includes ordinances, initiatives, referenda, advisory measures, issuance or refunding of bonds, city or county charter amendments, or any other measure or proposition a legislative body may submit to the voters within the body’s jurisdiction.

Ballot Proposition – can be a referendum or an initiative measure that is submitted to the electorate for a direct decision or direct vote. Propositions may be placed on the ballot by the California State Legislature or by a qualifying petition signed by registered voters.

Initiative – power of the electors to propose legislation, and to adopt or reject them. Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the legislative body by means of a petition.

Referendum – applies to the process for repealing newly enacted legislation. Within specified time limits, the electors may file a petition protesting the adoption of that legislation.

Local Legislation – typically ordinances, which are the laws of a city, charter, or district, often having the force of law, but only within the local jurisdiction.

State or Federal Legislation – bills or proposed legislation under consideration by the legislature at the state or federal level.

Policy

1. Positions on Matters Before the Voters
 - a. From time to time the Board of Directors may be asked or may desire to take a position on local or state measures. The Board may consider taking a position on the measure/proposition if the measure/proposition:
 - i. Would directly impact the District's finances, responsibilities, legal authority, or operations; AND
 - ii. Is in line with or inconsistent with the District's mission and/or commitment to preserve open space within its boundaries and sphere of influence.

The Board, by majority vote, may direct the General Manager to research the measure/proposition and return to the Board at a future meeting with information and a General Manager recommendation. At that time, the Board may vote to take a position on a measure/proposition.
 - b. Measures/propositions determined to not impact District business may nonetheless be analyzed by the General Manager when directed by a majority vote of the Board, of which the analysis report would include possible alternatives for Board action, but no position recommendation.

2. Local, State, and Federal Legislative Advocacy
 - a. The Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) receives periodic updates regarding the District's legislative program. When LFPAC determines that proposed legislation may affect District business, it may direct the General Manager to prepare a recommendation for consideration by the full Board or where there is not adequate time to convene the full Board, may direct the General Manager to take action to support or oppose the legislation without full Board approval. In such cases, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose legislation at or before the next Board meeting.
 - b. When time is so short that neither the full Board nor LFPAC can be convened to consider positions to support or oppose local, state or federal legislation, the General Manager is authorized to take a position on behalf of the District if the legislation:
 - i. Is related to the District's mission; AND
 - ii. Would directly impact the District's business, such as project delivery, operations, finances, legal authority, or other District responsibilities; AND
 - iii. The position being taken is consistent/inconsistent with existing District policy, past action, or District Strategic Plan; OR
 - iv. The legislation carries other considerations that make it contrary to the District's interests.

In such instances, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose the legislation at or before the next Board meeting.
 - c. Full Board action is required regarding legislation that is not clearly within the criteria listed above under Section 2.b. or guided by direction previously given by LFPAC.

3. Full Board action is required to support or oppose any type of grassroots advocacy action, such as social, political, or economic movements, that are not legislation.
4. Board members representing the District in their official capacity on regional or other bodies may, at his or her discretion, take actions based on the principles above consistent with previously approved Board positions and policies.
5. This policy is not intended to limit the prerogative of individual Board members from expressing their individual support for or opposition to any local ballot measure, State proposition, State or Federal legislation, or grassroots advocacy actions. However, in doing so, the member should clearly state they are speaking for themselves, and not in an official capacity on behalf of the Board or the District. Individual Board Members who take a position in support or opposition to ballot measure or legislation for which the Board has not previously taken a position are encouraged as a professional courtesy to include the language *for identification purposes only* parenthetically following their signature referencing their position on the Board.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Legislative Session Program 2019

Adopted January 9, 2019

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Introduction:

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Mission:

To acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

In addition, as part of the District's 2004 annexation of the San Mateo County coast area, a Coastal Protection Area Service Plan was adopted as well. The 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.

To further the agency's mission, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (the District) annually reviews its opportunities and challenges, and establishes priorities and policy statements prior to the start of each legislative year, typically late in the calendar year, to guide its advocacy activities at the regional, state, and federal levels. The 2019 Legislative Session Program outlines the District's priorities in the coming year and details the District's legislative policies—providing general direction for advocacy. It reflects the District's commitment to the mission, the goals outlined in the 2014 Vision Plan, and the District's Strategic Plan, along with the Board-approved Capital Improvement and Action Plan.

Advocacy of the District's Interests

While this document attempts to cover a wide variety of legislative issues that may impact the District, it is not comprehensive, complete, or final. Throughout the state and federal legislative sessions, the District will review and take positions on various policies and state or federal budget items.

Per Section 2.0 of Board Policy 1.11, legislative advocacy are considered in the following manner:

Section 2.0: Local, State, and Federal Legislative Advocacy

- a. The Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) receives periodic updates throughout the year regarding the District's legislative program. When LFPAC determines that proposed legislation may affect District business, it may direct the General Manager to prepare a recommendation for consideration by the full Board or, when there is not adequate time to convene the full Board, may direct the General Manager to take action to support or oppose the legislation without full Board approval. In such cases, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose legislation at or before the next Board meeting.

- b. When time is so short that neither the full Board nor LFPAC can be convened to consider positions to support or oppose local, state or federal legislation, the General Manager is authorized to take a position on behalf of the District if the legislation:
 - i. Is related to the District's mission; AND
 - ii. Would directly impact the District's business, such as project delivery, operations, finances, legal authority, or other District responsibilities; AND
 - iii. The position being taken is consistent/inconsistent with existing District policy, past action, or [District Strategic Plan](#); OR
 - iv. The legislation carries other considerations that make it contrary to the District's interests.

In such instances, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose the legislation at or before the next Board meeting.

- c. Full Board action is required regarding legislation that is not clearly within the criteria listed above under Section 2.b. or guided by direction previously given by LFPAC.

All legislation on which the District takes a position will be closely tracked by the General Manager's Office (GMO) and reported to the Board of Directors and departments. Contracted state and federal advocacy teams will represent the District interests based upon the policies contained in the Board-approved Legislative Session Program. In addition to District position letters, Board members and District staff may be asked to testify or meet with relevant legislators or members of the Executive branch to advocate on issues requiring heightened advocacy. If this is the case, District staff must first notify and/or confirm approval of the GMO to ensure that positions taken are consistent with the District's Board-approved Legislative Session Program.

Legislative Priorities:

The following are the top legislative priorities for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in the first year of the 2019-20 State Legislative Session. They are categorized by the Board's Strategic Plan Goals/Strategy areas (<https://www.openspace.org/about-us/strategic-plan>) to provide a clear connection to organizational priorities:

Promote, establish, and implement a common environmental protection vision with partners

1. **Watershed Protection:** The District supports legislative or regulatory efforts that enhance the ability to protect watershed land, as well as restore and maintain associated habitats.
2. **Regional Conservation:** The District supports legislation that enhances and funds regional collaboration and coordination of conservation efforts.
3. **Wildlife Corridors:** The District supports efforts to bring greater funding opportunities and permit streamlining to conservation related to wildlife corridors.
4. **Anticoagulant Rodenticides:** The District supports efforts to eliminate the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides to protect raptors, large mammals, and other non-target wildlife.

Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision

1. **Equitable Access:** The District supports efforts to enhance funding eligibility and access to greenspace for underserved communities in high-cost regions like the Bay Area. Low-income areas in and around the District's purview are under increasing cost pressures due to the continuing tech boom in Silicon Valley. These communities also have difficulty accessing state funding due to formulas that fail to recognize their status relative to other parts of the state that accommodate similar populations with economic struggles.
2. **Every Kid in a Park Initiative:** The District supports national and state efforts to mobilize children and parents to visit and enjoy America's outdoor spaces to encourage the next generation to discover America's public lands and waters.
3. **Trail Corridors:** The District supports policy that helps link preserve trails to other regional trails and ultimately to the places where people live and work.

Position the District for long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the District's mission on behalf of the public

1. **Proposition 68 Implementation:** The District supports efforts to ensure that parks bond funds are allocated in a timely, equitable, and responsible manner, and that resulting grant programs are designed appropriately to benefit the District.
2. **Cap and Trade/Climate-related Funding:** The District supports efforts to emphasize and increase the recognition for the use of natural and working land (NWL) for the purposes of carbon sequestration and subsequent allocations of Cap and Trade funding. With the passage of SB 32 (Pavely, 2016) there is increased pressure to not only eliminate sources of greenhouse gas generation, but also find ways to capture emissions as well. This further promotes the recognition of the region's greenbelt as its "life support system."
3. **Regional Benefits:** The District supports efforts to work with regional and statewide partners to ensure that relevant statewide funding sources are optimized and made available for Bay Area needs, and to ensure that underserved communities in the region benefit from these state resources.

District Legislative Policy Positions:

The ability of the District to deliver its mission and remain a sustainable organization can be impacted by legislation proposed on the local, state, or federal level. To this end, proactive, Board-approved policy positions taken by the District on a variety of relevant issue areas help to not only crystalize thinking among Board members and staff, but also ensures consistency in advocacy. To be consistent with other District processes and performance metrics, these policy positions have been broken down by areas specified in the annual Fiscal Year Major Accomplishments report (<http://www.openspace.org/about-us/public-information/accomplishments-15>).

Vision Plan Implementation

Entrusted by taxpayers in 2014 with the passage of its \$300 million Measure AA bond, the District supports legislation that:

1. Streamlines project timelines and reduces delivery costs to implement the Priority Action portfolio of the Vision Plan (<https://www.openspace.org/our-work/projects/vision-plan>)

Public Access and Education

The District supports legislation that:

1. Protects cultural resources

2. Increases public access to preserved land region-wide
3. Helps link preserve trails to other regional trails and ultimately to the places where people live and work
4. Helps provide educational opportunities for preserve visitors about natural and cultural resources and the benefits of open space
5. Keeps preserves safe, clean, accessible, and inviting for healthy exercise and enjoyment
6. Promotes involvement and engagement of communities in ongoing conservation
7. Funds and enables programs that hires youth to work in parks and open space and encourages them to consider careers in conservation
8. Creates or augments grant programs to enhance public access, provide fire clearance, and enable housing rehabilitation on District holdings
9. Helps fund and streamline emergency repairs to District infrastructure
10. Funding that supports partnership approaches to environmental education and public outreach efforts on local and state levels. For example, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), California Education and the Environment (<http://www.californiaeei.org/>) and ChangeScale (<http://changescale.org/who-we-are/>)
11. Streamlines permits for trail maintenance and construction, including grading
12. Improves and streamlines the permitting and CEQA review and compliance process
13. Provides parks and open space districts the authority to utilize a variety of contracting methods to construct projects, including design-build methodologies
14. Legislation that promotes implementation and education of sustainable design and construction; including but not limited to LEED buildings, stormwater treatment and runoff reduction, local (within 150-mile radius of project) contractor/consultant hiring and construction materials, reuse and recycle materials, renewable energy, and landscaping
15. Transportation measures that enhance community member opportunities to access open space preserves and state parks
16. Improves local transportation, which enables better connectivity between the built and natural environment, i.e. Transit to trails
17. Enables Native American community involvement in cultural and land management practice awareness
18. Increases environmental education access opportunities, including volunteer opportunities, for underserved and non-English speaking communities

19. Enhances the ability to engage and involve a diverse team of Bay Area volunteers in the protection, conservation, restoration, and enhancement of the District's natural resources, trails, and facilities.
20. Provides prevailing wage exemptions for volunteers
21. Limits public use of drones (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles), consistent with Board policies, and allows for agency use of drones for land management and visitor safety purposes
22. Helps eradicate marijuana growing on public lands and restore lands damaged by its growth.
23. Aids enforcement of marijuana laws related to the implementation of Prop 64 (2016)
24. Provides funding to implement Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and other accessibility standards in District preserves
25. Promotes awareness and access to programs and activities that increase outdoor physical activity, i.e., Healthy Parks, Healthy People (HPHP)

Natural Resources Protection and Restoration

The District supports legislation that:

1. Supports working farms and ranches
2. Supports farm labor housing
3. Enhances management of water quality for all priority watersheds
4. Protects local and regional watershed holdings and water quality protection
5. Enables Cal Fire to continue inmate work programs.
6. Promotes expedited tree and brush removals by public agencies for fire protection and public access.
7. Ensures reasonable setback requirements that allow minimum defensible space clearances to be met by private property owners.
8. Supports wildfire management to become a more natural component of the ecosystem, and minimize negative effects on the community and environment
9. Connects habitats that support a diverse array of native plants and animals
10. Supports maintaining state and federal lists of endangered species justified through conclusive biological evidence
11. Incentivizes agricultural operations to invest in energy efficient irrigation technologies that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and water use

12. Provides funding to local partners to provide technical support for agriculture and natural resources enhancement
13. Creates or enhances new funding sources to implement local or state government programs that benefit the environment such as: watershed protection, groundwater recharge and sustainability, water conservation, GHG reduction, Areas of Special Biological Significance compliance, Rare, Threatened, and Endangered species management and recovery
14. Expands funding for:
 - a. Wetland restoration projects that provide carbon sequestration benefits.
 - b. Forest health programs that reduce GHG emissions through fuel reduction.
 - c. Wildlife Corridor projects that improve wildlife habitat connectivity
15. Ensures maintenance of adequate open space through increased funding for development easements, needed restoration, and rehabilitation activities
16. Encourages public road management agencies to control invasive plant populations, and incorporates safe pedestrian and wildlife crossings across roadways and highways.
17. Emphasizes the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices that aligns with the District's program
18. Reduces/further regulates the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides
19. Supports increased knowledge, management, and ultimately the eradication, of Sudden Oak Death disease.
20. Ensures "Open Space" zoning for permanently protected lands that allow for typical maintenance and construction activities.
21. Furthers implementation of Senate Bill 32 (Chapter 249, Statutes of 2016), the Global Warming Solutions Act that establishes a GHG reduction target for the state of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.
22. Enhances wildland fire management and promotes climate adaptation planning
23. Promotes the development of new mechanisms for sustainable and environmentally responsible economic development and redevelopment of housing, neighborhood, and commercial properties to minimize the carbon footprint of the built environment and reduce the pressure to sprawl into open space lands.
24. Helps efforts to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the natural resources of the District, its coast and adjacent waters for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations
25. Recognizes and incentivizes the use of natural and working lands for the purpose of carbon sequestration

26. Supports the development of effective and comprehensive Districtwide, regional, and statewide measures to adapt to sea level rise, community resilience, and other effects of climate change
27. Enhances or streamlines the identification, creation, and maintenance of wildlife corridors both within District lands and adjacent entities, which may extend to statewide and international linkages
28. Promotes advance mitigation programs and wildlife corridor networks
29. Enhances regulatory permit and closer collaboration and coordination between regulatory agencies

Land Acquisition and Restoration

The District supports legislation that:

1. Expands protected land, to enhance biodiversity, climate change resilience and scenic, rural character
2. Protects watershed lands
3. Promotes the use of urban infill to reduce greenhouse gas generation and protect natural and working lands and enables a balance between jobs and housing
4. Enhances the District's ability to purchase or otherwise acquire regional and strategic open space lands and connect District lands to federal, state, county, city, and other protected open space, parklands, bay lands, watershed lands, wildlife corridors, and agricultural lands.
5. Enhances the District's ability to create and pursue opportunities to acquire an integrated greenbelt of protected open space, trails, and habitat corridors throughout our jurisdiction
6. Facilitates the protection of the District and the public's open space, park, and natural resources, property rights, interests, and easements
7. Preserves prime and sustainable agricultural lands through State Budget proposals that provide funding for long-term protection of these lands.
8. Ensures that urban growth boundaries do not expand further than their current limits.

General/Midpen-wide Support of Mission

The District supports legislation that:

1. Preserves existing tax revenues and tax authority.

2. Lowers the vote threshold for locally imposed special taxes, from two-thirds to fifty-five percent.
3. Maximizes funding flexibility for use within the designated programs
4. Preserves tax-exempt status for municipal bonds on a state and federal level
5. Expands state and federal incentives that promote the issuance of green bonds
6. Enables statewide efforts to increase broadband connectivity to public agency infrastructure in remote areas
7. Preserves and promotes cost-effective, fair, and efficient contracting practices that give taxpayers the best value for their dollar
8. Preserves and promotes managerial discretion in effective and productive recruiting, hiring, firing, and day-to-day oversight of staff at all levels
9. Preserves and promotes open, transparent, accountable government administrative practices that promote the efficient and timely delivery of public services, facilitates public involvement, and supports effective and timely decision-making
10. Enables streamlining of contracting and bidding processes and attracts greater contractor and vendor competition

2019 Federal Legislative Priorities

Given the tumult and outcomes of the 2016 federal elections, very little progress has been made forwarding a pro-environmental agenda at the national level. It is necessary for active advocacy to occur to defend existing environmental priorities and regulations. Statements made by both the Governor of California and the State Legislature have made clear that an active effort to preserve environmental regulations, with California at the lead, is necessary.

Priority Areas:

In 2019, the District will remain focused on federal policy relevant to the following:

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The District supports full funding of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LCWF).

Infrastructure Investment

The District supports the inclusion of active transportation and parks-related projects in federal funding allocations for infrastructure.

National Monument Preservation

The District supports the protection and the designation of national monuments within our region that are important to fulfilling the District's mission.

2019 Regional/Local Priorities

Local land use authority predominates California planning processes even though there is a growing recognition of the importance of regional planning and coordination of efforts. This is true for both the built as well as the natural environment.

Priority Areas:

In 2019, the District supports:

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA), Measure AA Implementation

The District supports guideline development for SFBRA's Measure AA funds that enables implementation of District priority projects.

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), Measure B Implementation

The District supports advance mitigation allocation guideline development for VTA's recently passed Measure B funds that enables implementation of District priority projects.

San Mateo County Transit District, Measure W Implementation

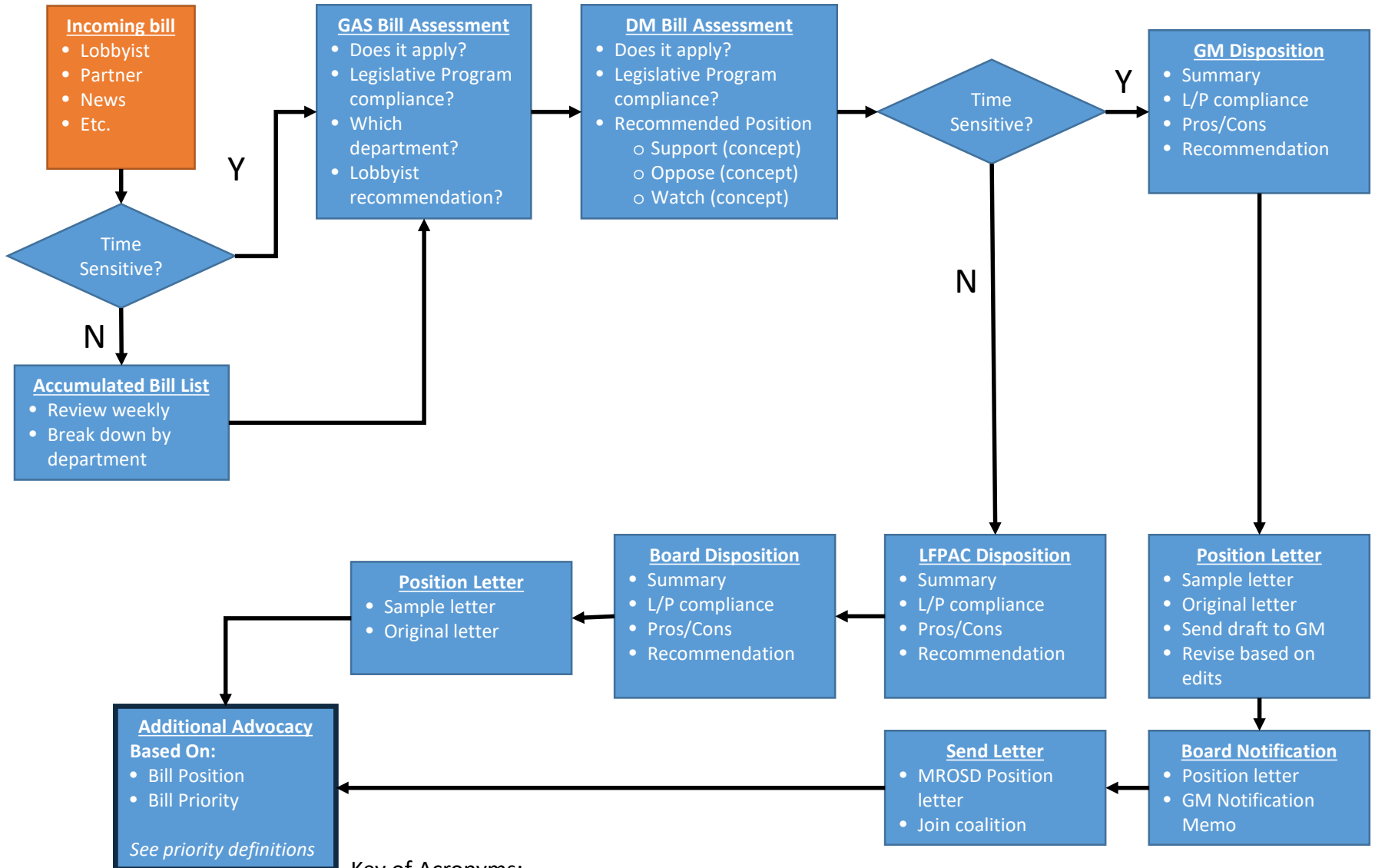
The District supports allocation guideline development that enables regional bicycle/pedestrian network connectivity with District projects and regional trail plans.

Regional Collaboration

The District supports efforts to enhance and fund regional collaboration and coordination of conservation plans.

MROSD Legislative Bill Disposition Process

Board Policy 1.11



Key of Acronyms:

- GM: General Manager
- GAS: Governmental Affairs Specialist
- DM: Department Manager
- L/P: Legislative Program

MROSD Bill Positions and Priorities

Support:

- **Support** – A position given to bills and propositions that would be a benefit to Midpen’s ability to serve its communities.
- **Support if Amended** – A position given to bills that may be a benefit to the Districts’ ability to serve its communities, so long as specific amendments are taken to the bill. If the requested amendments are taken by the author, Public Affairs Department staff may recommend changing MROSD’s position to support.
- **Recommend Support**– Position recommended by Legislative Consultant, along with a potential priority number, prior to staff review.

Oppose:

- **Oppose** – A position given to bills and propositions that would be a detriment to Midpen’s ability to serve its communities.
- **Oppose unless Amended** – A position given to bills that may impede the Districts’ ability to serve its communities, so long as specific amendments are taken to the bill. If the requested amendments are taken by the author, Public Affairs Department staff may recommend changing MROSD’s position to support.
- **Concerns** – A position given to bills that could be a detriment to the District, but for political, policy, or other reasons do not warrant or lend themselves to a full oppose position.
- **Recommend Oppose** – Position recommended by Legislative Consultant, along with a potential priority number, prior to staff review.

Watch:

- **Watch** – A position given to bills that may directly affect MROSD, but does not provide a significant benefit or impose a significant detriment to the District. Also includes bills that are in spot bill form on a subject area that concerns special districts and bills that are of notable interest to special districts, but do not warrant an active position or expenditure of MROSD resources. No position is taken, however, the progress and outcome of the bill is tracked. A position may be considered at a later date.
- **Recommend Watch** – Position recommended by Legislative Consultant.

Investigate:

- **Investigate** – More information is needed before a position can be taken.

Remove:

- **Remove** – Legislation is of no interest to the District or does not apply.

Priority:

Priority 1: Bills given a “1” priority have a major importance and directly affects the District, and/or may set a critical precedent. These bills will receive active attention by the Public Affairs Department and the affected department. This may include extensive testimony in committee, meetings with the Legislature, discussions with partner organizations, and public/media education, as appropriate.

Priority 2: Bills given a “2” priority have a significant impact on the District and/or set a critical, relevant precedent. The District sends a position letter or signs on to a coalition letter, and may discuss the item with the Legislature and provide testimony in committee as time permits.

Priority 3: Bills given a “3” priority may have a notable effect on the District, and/or set a meaningful precedent, but are determined to be a lower priority for District resources. Public Affairs Department staff, in collaboration with the appropriate department, may choose to not write a position letter on these bills, but may sign on to a coalition letter. Committee testimony or discussions with the Legislature may be conducted.



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Memorandum

DATE: March 27, 2019
MEMO TO: MROSD Board of Directors
FROM: Ana M. Ruiz, General Manager
SUBJECT: Legislative Actions Update

BACKGROUND

Board Policy 1.11 titled “Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy,” Section 2.0b, provides the General Manager the ability to take position on pending legislation in time-sensitive situations. More specifically:

- b. When time is so short that neither the full Board nor LFPAC can be convened to consider positions to support or oppose local, state or federal legislation, the General Manager is authorized to take a position on behalf of the District if the legislation:
 - i. Is related to the District’s mission; AND
 - ii. Would directly impact the District’s business, such as project delivery, operations, finances, legal authority, or other District responsibilities; AND
 - iii. The position being taken is consistent/inconsistent with existing District policy, past action, or District Strategic Plan; OR
 - iv. The legislation carries other considerations that make it contrary to the District’s interests.

In such instances, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose the legislation at or before the next Board meeting.

DISCUSSION

On behalf of the District, the General Manager has taken the following time-sensitive action:

- **SB 45 (Allen): Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020.**

Action: At the behest of the statewide Wildlife Corridors Working Group and open space legislative consultants, Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and signed onto a group letter addressed to the Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on March 6, 2019, ahead of their March 12 hearing.

Bill Summary: Would enact the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of \$4,300,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects to restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources.

Consistency with Legislative Program:

- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Cap and Trade/Climate-related Funding:** The District supports efforts to emphasize and increase the recognition for the use of natural and working land (NWL) for the purposes of carbon sequestration and subsequent allocations of Cap and Trade funding. With the passage of SB 32 (Pavely, 2016) there is increased pressure to not only eliminate sources of greenhouse gas generation, but also find ways to capture emissions as well. This further promotes the recognition of the region's greenbelt as its "life support system."
- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Watershed Protection:** The District supports legislative or regulatory efforts that enhance the ability to protect watershed land, as well as restore and maintain associated habitats.
- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Wildlife Corridors:** The District supports efforts to bring greater funding opportunities and permit streamlining to conservation related to wildlife corridors.
- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Regional Benefits:** The District supports efforts to work with regional and statewide partners to ensure that relevant statewide funding sources are optimized and made available for Bay Area needs, and to ensure that underserved communities in the region benefit from these state resources.
- **Natural Resources Protection and Restoration #8** – Supports wildfire management to become a more natural component of the ecosystem, and minimize negative effects on the community and environment.
- **Natural Resources Protection and Restoration #14b** – Forest health programs that reduce GHG emissions through fuel reduction.
- **Natural Resources Protection and Restoration #14c** – Expands funding for wildlife corridor projects that improve wildlife habitat connectivity.
- **AB 209 (Limón): Parks: environmental education: grant program.**

Action: At the behest of the California State Parks Foundation, Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and signed onto a group letter to the Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on March 5, 2019, ahead of their March 12 hearing.

Bill Summary: Would require the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish the Outdoor Equity Grants Program, to increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences at state parks and other public lands where outdoor environmental education programs take place. The bill would require the director to, among other things, give priority for funding to outdoor environmental education programs that primarily provide outreach to and serve students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, or pupils of limited English proficiency, as provided.

Consistency with Legislative Program:

- **District Priority: Every Kid in a Park Initiative:** The District supports national and state efforts to mobilize children and parents to visit and enjoy America's outdoor spaces to encourage the next generation to discover America's public lands and waters.

- **ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry): 55% Vote for Local Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure**

Action: At the behest of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and sent a letter to the bill author. The District's Legislative, Finance, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) also endorsed this bill as a Priority 1 SUPPORT at their March 12, 2019 meeting.

Bill Summary: ACA 1 will lower the necessary voter threshold from a two-thirds supermajority to 55 percent to approve local general obligation (GO) bonds and special taxes for affordable housing and public infrastructure projects. ACA 1 is targeted to the urgent needs of local communities. This measure gives local governments a more realistic financing option to fund an increase in the supply of affordable housing, and to address the numerous local public infrastructure challenges cities, counties, and special districts are facing.

Consistency with Legislative Program:

- **General/Midpen-wide Support of Mission #2:** Lowers the vote threshold for locally imposed special taxes, from two-thirds to fifty-five percent.

- **AB 1788 (Bloom): Pesticides: use of anticoagulants.**

Action: In preparation for the March 19 District Legislative Advocacy Day to meet with its legislative delegation, Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and sent a letter to the bill author. The District's Legislative, Finance, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) also endorsed this bill as a Priority 1 SUPPORT at their March 12, 2019 meeting.

Bill Summary: AB 1788 seeks to take stronger measures to protect children, pets, and wildlife from unintentional rodenticide poisoning by banning the use and sale of 2nd generation anticoagulant rodenticides statewide and the use of 1st generation anticoagulant rodenticides on state-owned property.

Consistency with Legislative Program:

- **District Priority:** Anticoagulant Rodenticides: The District supports efforts to eliminate the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides to protect raptors, large mammals, and other non-target wildlife.

- **AB 7 (Chu): Daylight Savings Time.**

Action: At the behest of Assemblymember Kansen Chu, Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and sent a letter to the bill author. The District's Legislative, Finance, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) also endorsed this bill as a Priority 2 SUPPORT at their March 12, 2019 meeting.

Bill Summary: This bill would set California's standard time to year-round daylight saving time after the federal government authorizes the state to do so, as specified.

Consistency with Legislative Program:

- **Public Access and Education #2:** Increases public access to preserved land region-wide. Through later sunset times, the public has the ability to access preserves after work.
- **AB 556 (Carillo): Outdoor experiences: community access program: grant program.**

Action: At the behest of the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS), Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and signed onto a group letter to the Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on March 15, 2019, ahead of their March 26 hearing. The District's Legislative, Finance, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) also endorsed this bill as a Priority 2 SUPPORT at their March 12, 2019 meeting.

Bill Summary: Would require the Natural Resources Agency to develop and implement a community access program focused on engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities, to natural or cultural resources, community education programs, or recreational amenities. The bill would authorize the agency to develop a grant program for innovative transportation projects that provide disadvantaged and low-income youth with access to outdoor experiences, as specified.

Consistency with Legislative Program:

- **District Priority:** Every Kid in a Park Initiative: The District supports national and state efforts to mobilize children and parents to visit and enjoy America's outdoor spaces to encourage the next generation to discover America's public lands and waters.
- **AB 707 (Kalra): Santa Clara Valley Water District: contracts.**

Action: At the behest of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and sent a letter to the bill author. The District's Legislative, Finance, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) also endorsed this bill as a Priority 2 SUPPORT at their March 12, 2019 meeting.

Bill Summary: AB 707 increases Valley Water's cost threshold above which a formal bidding process is required from \$25,000 to \$50,000, and authorizes the agency's the elected board to increase the threshold by 2 percent per year, by an action adopted in a public and open meeting, thereby keeping up with inflation over time.

Consistency with Legislative Program:

- Not included in the District Legislative Program, but assists partner jurisdiction to execute their environmental objectives.
- **AB 782 (Berman): California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: public agencies: property transfers**

Action: At the behest of the Trust for Public Land, Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and signed on to a group letter. The District's Legislative, Finance, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) also endorsed this bill as a Priority 2 SUPPORT at their March 12, 2019 meeting.

Bill Summary: Would exempt from CEQA the acquisition, sale, or other transfer of property by a public agency for certain purposes, or the funding of that acquisition, sale, or other transfer by a public agency, if the public agency conditions those transactions on compliance with CEQA before making physical changes to the transferred property.

Consistency with Legislative Program:

- **Land Acquisition and Restoration #4:** Enhances the District's ability to purchase or otherwise acquire regional and strategic open space lands and connect District lands to federal, state, county, city, and other protected open space, parklands, bay lands, watershed lands, wildlife corridors, and agricultural lands.
- **AB 1111 (Friedman): Outdoor recreation: Office of Outdoor Recreation: California Outdoor Recreation Account.**

Action: At the behest of the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS), Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and signed onto a group letter to the Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on March 15, 2019, ahead of their March 26 hearing.

Bill Summary: This bill would establish the Office of Outdoor Recreation in state government. The bill would require the office to undertake certain activities, including supporting the outdoor recreation economy and working toward equitable access to outdoor areas of the state by engaging in specified activities. The bill would also require the office to create an advisory committee to provide advice, expertise, support, and service to the office.

Consistency with Legislative Program:

- **District Priority: Equitable Access:** The District supports efforts to enhance funding eligibility and access to greenspace for underserved communities in high-cost regions like the Bay Area.

Attachments:

1. SB 45 Support Letter
2. AB 209 Support Letter
3. ACA 1 Support Letter
4. AB 1788 Support Letter
5. AB 7 Support Letter
6. AB 556 Support Letter
7. AB 707 Support Letter
8. AB 782 Support Letter
9. AB 1111 Support Letter

Prepared by: Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Specialist



March 6, 2019

The Honorable Henry Stern, Chair
 Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
 State Capitol Building
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 45 (Allen) – SUPPORT: Wildfire, Drought and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020

Dear Chair Stern,

The undersigned organizations are respectfully requesting your favorable consideration of the subject bill when it appear before your committee on Tuesday, March 12th, 2019.

As you know, this measure would place a funding mechanism before the voters in 2020 that is designed to invest in nature-based, solution oriented projects that begin to armor California’s landscapes and population centers from the effects of climate change. Californians are all too aware of the recent effects of climate change and its impacts on our eco-systems, our economy, the health of our citizens, and the omnipresent risks that are borne by inaction. Fires, floods, mudslides, and drought are becoming the new normal and California needs to make a comprehensive and sustained investment in reversing these phenomena. While it goes without saying that such phenomena are presenting challenges to the continued health of our natural infrastructures (forests, watershed, and coastlines), investments in our outdoor, park and trail infrastructures, and infrastructure that supports the state’s burgeoning \$93 billion outdoor economy, is also imperiled as many of these lands and the amenities they support are often at the intersect between our natural and active landscapes.

SB 45 in its current iteration, while skeletal in form, will provide for a portfolio of investments to serve as a blueprint for the planning, management, and implementation of projects that offer regional solutions to adapt to climate change by building more resiliency in our landscapes.

Having said that, while the undersigned support SB 45, we appreciate and would like to reserve the opportunity to work further with the author to flesh-out the language of the measure to better accommodate the priorities and needs to everyone’s satisfaction.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stephens, Executive Director
California Park & Recreation Society

Robert E. Doyle, General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District

David Polivy, Owner
Tahoe Mountain Sports

Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Sean Barclay, General Manager
Tahoe City Public Utility District

Jeff Darlington, Executive Director
Placer Land Trust

Bridget Fithian, Executive Director
Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Jenny Hatch, Executive Director
Sierra Nevada Alliance

Perry Norris, Executive Director
Truckee Donner Land Trust

Kay Ogden, Executive Director
Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Erika Seward, Co-Executive Director
Bear Yuba Land Trust

Kevin Tatsugawa, PhD, Associate Professor
Westfield State University

Ann Van Leer, Executive Director
Escondido Creek Conservancy

Bert Whitaker, Director
Sonoma County Regional Parks

Matt Lyon, Chair of Board of Directors
California Outdoor Recreation Partnership (CORP)

Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Specialist
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Rachel Norton, Executive Director
California State Parks Foundation

Amy Lethbridge, Executive Director
Community Nature Connection

Marissa Christiansen, Executive Director
Friends of the LA River

David Weinstein, State and Local Policy Director
Outdoor Industry Association (OIA)

Shelana deSilva, Director of Government Affairs
& Public Funding
Save the Redwoods League

John Wentworth, Board President
Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access
Foundation

Tori Kjer, Executive Director
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Rico Mastrodonato, Senior Government Relations
Manager
The Trust for Public Land

Cc: The Honorable Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
Senator Ben Allen
Kip Lipper, Chief Policy Advisor, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins
Tina Andolina, Senior Policy Consultant, Office of Senator Ben Allen
Bill Craven, Chief Consultant Senate Natural Resources Water Committee
Patty Hanson, Committee Assistant, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
Todd Moffitt, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



March 5, 2019

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
 State Capitol, Room 4140
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 209 (Limón) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Garcia,

On behalf of our collective organizations, we urge you to support Assembly Bill (AB) 209.

We believe we have a responsibility to advocate for park and environmental policies and resources that enhance the health and happiness of our children - and by doing so, we will foster the next generation of empowered parks stewards who, in return, have an appreciation for the significant benefits of the outdoors and parks.

California is home to some of the most unique and world-famous natural resources and state and national parks that draw thousands of tourists annually. Parks offer incredible places for play – to explore, gain appreciation for the treasures around them, imagine and peek curiosity.

Yet many Californians, especially those from disadvantage communities, do not experience these treasures in their own backyard.

As you know, unfortunately not all Californians who reflect the diversity of the state are experiencing and visiting state parks. This is especially true of the younger generations who are spending more and more time indoors. At a national level, children are spending less time outside than prison inmates, with the average child playing freely outside for just four to seven minutes a day, according to the recent report *The Path Ahead*. Additional research shows that children are spending half as much time outside today as they did 20 years ago. Couple that with the fact that 40% of U.S. School Districts have eliminated recess, and outdoor education programs and field trips have declined significantly over the years.

AB 209 works to give more of California's youth the opportunity to have enriched, meaningful experiences in the outdoors, fostering the future generation of empowered park stewards.

For the above reasons, we are proud to support AB 209 and urge your support.

Sincerely,

Rachel Norton
Executive Director
California State Parks Foundation

Kay Ogden
Executive Director
Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Katie Goodwin
California Regional Director
Access Fund

Martin Lowenstein
Executive Director
Friends of China Camp State Park

Erika Seward
Co-Executive Director
Bear Yuba Land Trust

John Lauretig
Executive Director
Friends of Joshua Tree

Matt Lyon
Chair of Board of Directors
California Outdoor Recreation Partnership,
Inc. (CORP)

Marissa Christiansen
Executive Director
Friends of the Los Angeles River

Stephanie Stephens
Legislative Chair
California Park & Recreation Society

Tori Kjer
Executive Director
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Anthony J. Tannehill
Legislative Representative
California Special Districts Association

Jenny Heckerath
Executive Director
Mendocino Area Parks Association

Amy Lethbridge
Executive Director
Community Nature Connection

Elizabeth Cameron
Director of Development
Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association

Robert E. Doyle
General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District

Joshua Hugg
Governmental Affairs Specialist
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Saundra Holloway
Owner
Monarch Ranch

Geoff McQuilkin
Executive Director
Mono Lake Committee

Brenda Holmes
Executive Director
Mountain Parks Foundation

Austin McInerney
President
National Interscholastic Cycling Association

David Weinstein
State and Local Policy Director
Outdoor Industry Association

Ben McCue
Executive Director
Outdoor Outreach

Jeff Darlington
Executive Director
Placer Land Trust

Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Katherine O'Dea
Executive Director
Save Our Shores

Steve Frisch
President
Sierra Business Council

Bridget Fithian
Executive Director
Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Jenny Hatch
Executive Director
Sierra Nevada Alliance

Bert Whitaker
Director
Sonoma County Regional Parks

Michele Luna
Executive Director
Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Perry Norris
Executive Director
Truckee Donner Land Trust

Rico Mastrodonato
Senior Government Relations Manager
Trust for Public Land

Mark Stanley
Executive Officer
Watershed Conservation Authority

Kevin Tatsugawa, PhD
Wilderness Leadership Program
Coordinator
Westfield State University, Movement
Science Sport & Leisure Studies



Midpeninsula Regional
OpenSpace

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

GENERAL MANAGER
Ana M. Ruiz

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Pete Siemens
Yoriko Kishimoto
Jed Cyr
Curt Riffle
Karen Holman
Larry Hassett
Zoe Kersteen-Tucker

March 18, 2019

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Assemblymember, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry) Local government financing - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen)**, I am writing to express our support for ACA 1. Comprised of over 63,000 acres of acquired and protected open space on the San Francisco Peninsula, Midpen is one of the largest regional open space districts in California. Our mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

ACA 1, which will lower the necessary voter threshold from a two-thirds supermajority to 55% to approve local general obligation (G.O.) bonds and special taxes for affordable housing and public infrastructure projects. ACA 1 is targeted to the urgent needs of local communities. This measure gives local governments a more realistic financing option to fund an increase in the supply of affordable housing, and to address the numerous local public infrastructure challenges cities, counties, and special districts are facing.

The California Constitution currently requires a two-thirds vote at the local level for both G.O. bonds and special taxes, regardless of what the city, county, or special district proposes for which to use the funds. However, local school districts can seek approval for bonded indebtedness with only a 55% vote threshold for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of schools.

ACA 1 will level the playing field and create parity with school districts so that cities, counties, and special districts have a viable financing tool to help address important community needs for affordable housing and public infrastructure. Local voters would still need to overwhelmingly support a bond or special tax (with 55%) in order for it to be approved, thus protecting voters' control over how their tax dollars are spent. The bill also provides specific requirements for voter protection, public notice, and financial accountability.

Cities, counties, and special districts face numerous challenges in funding important public infrastructure and housing projects for their communities. According to the Department of Housing & Community Development, in the last 10 years California has built an average of 80,000 homes per year when the need is approximately 180,000 per year to keep up with growth. The status of infrastructure in our state is similarly challenged, with storm water

management, transit development, park facilities, streets and roads, and broadband expansion all underfunded with limited options. Local officials must have a greater role in proposing and funding local needs that often do not rise to the top of regional, state, or federal funding lists. Attachment 6

If approved by the Legislature, the proposal would then have to achieve voter approval during a statewide election. This would further solidify the fact that voters support this change. Californians want to have an impact on their communities, because they know best what their families and neighbors need.

For these reasons, the **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District** respectfully supports ACA 1.

Sincerely,



Ana M. Ruiz
General Manager

cc:

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors
The Honorable Assemblymember Marc Berman
The Honorable Assemblymember Evan Low
The Honorable Assemblymember Kevin Mullin
The Honorable Assemblymember Mark Stone
The Honorable State Senator Jim Beall
The Honorable State Senator Jerry Hill
The Honorable State Senator Bill Monning



Midpeninsula Regional
OpenSpace

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

GENERAL MANAGER
Ana María Ruiz

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

March 18, 2019

The Honorable Bill Quirk, Chair
Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 1788 (Bloom) ---- California Ecosystems Protection Act ---- Support

Dear Chair Quirk:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen), I am writing to express our support for AB 1788 (Bloom).

Comprised of over 63,000 acres of acquired and protected open space, Midpen is one of the largest regional open space districts in California. Our mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

AB 1788 would ban second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) in California—the most toxic, “one-feeding kills” poisons—as well as first generation anticoagulants (FGARs) on state-owned properties. These products are having widespread impacts on our state’s ecosystems, in particular, California’s treasured wildlife, as well as creating unnecessary risk to the health and safety of our state’s children and pets.

This bill allows for common sense controls on anticoagulant rodenticides by only banning the most toxic rodenticides throughout the state, while providing exemptions for agricultural activities and true public health emergencies. California has the opportunity to continue to be a world leader on environmental protection and animal welfare through the passage of AB 1788.

For these reasons, Midpen respectfully supports AB 1788. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ana M. Ruiz
Acting General Manager

cc:

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors
The Honorable Assemblymember Marc Berman
The Honorable Assemblymember Evan Low
The Honorable Assemblymember Kevin Mullin
The Honorable Assemblymember Mark Stone
The Honorable State Senator Jim Beall
The Honorable State Senator Jerry Hill
The Honorable State Senator Bill Monning



Midpeninsula Regional
OpenSpace

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

March 18, 2019

The Honorable Adam Gray, Chair
Assembly Governmental Organization Committee
1020 N Street, Room 360A
Sacramento, California 95814

GENERAL MANAGER
Ana M. Ruiz

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Pete Siemens
Yoriko Kishimoto
Jed Cyr
Curt Riffle
Karen Holman
Larry Hassett
Zoe Kersteen-Tucker

RE: AB 7 (Chu) ---- Daylight Saving Time ---- Support

Dear Chair Gray:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen), I am writing to express our support for AB 7 (Chu).

Comprised of over 63,000 acres of acquired and protected open space, Midpen is one of the largest regional open space districts in California. Our mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

AB 7 will help conserve energy, protect the environment, and encourage outdoor recreation. Pending federal government approval, this bill would set California Daylight Saving Time year-round, allowing Californians more time in the light during the evening for outdoor activities thereby improving outdoor access and physical fitness for all ages.

Twenty-eight states have already introduced legislation related to eliminating the time change this year; we hope that California will join these efforts and lead the way in passing such legislation.

For these reasons, Midpen respectfully supports AB 7. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ana M. Ruiz
Acting General Manager

cc:

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Board of Directors
The Honorable Assemblymember Marc Berman
The Honorable Assemblymember Evan Low
The Honorable Assemblymember Kevin Mullin
The Honorable Assemblymember Mark Stone

The Honorable State Senator Jim Beall
The Honorable State Senator Jerry Hill
The Honorable State Senator Bill Monning



March 15, 2019

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Chair
 Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
 State Capitol Building
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 556 (Carrillo) – SUPPORT: Outdoor Experiences: Community Access Program: Grant Program

Dear Chair Garcia:

On behalf of the above signatories, we are writing to respectfully urge your favorable consideration of the above referenced bill when it is heard before your committee. This bill calls for the creation of a grant program housed within the California Natural Resources Agency to promote innovative transportation projects seeking to transport disadvantaged youth to wilderness and nature experiences. This bill is critical for the following reasons:

- According to the Outdoor Foundation, youth participation rates in the outdoors and outdoor activities over the past ten years have declined or remained flat. Ease of access continues to be a barrier.
- Nature Deficit Disorder (NDD) as cited by Richard Louv in his book, “Last Child in the Woods,” has contributed to behavioral patterns such as depression and societal alienation and has also been linked to obesity. Reinvesting in reliable and available transportation amenities to shuttle disadvantaged youth to heretofore unrealized or under-experienced outdoor opportunities will help to stem the tide of NDD.
- California has and will continue to invest in outdoor space infrastructure to serve changing and emerging demographics and the children that lack access to quality open-space experiences. Often these spaces are underutilized or unrealized by disadvantaged youth due to transportation difficulties.

Acculturating our youth with positive and meaningful outdoor engagement will promote an appreciation for nature and amass stewards among our future generations to protect and preserve our public lands and the environment. If you have any questions, please contact Doug Houston at 916-447-9884.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stephens, Executive Director
California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS)

Robert E. Doyle, General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District

Rue Mapp, Founder and CEO
Outdoor Afro

Austin McInerney, President
National Interscholastic Cycling Association

Katie Goodwin, California Regional Director
Access Fund

Kevin Tatsugawa, PhD, Associate Professor
Westfield State University

Jeff Darlington, Executive Director
Placer Land Trust

Perry Norris, Executive Director
Truckee Donner Land Trust

Steve Frisch, President
Sierra Business Council

Bridget Fithian, Executive Director
Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Erika Seward, Co-Executive Director
Bear Yuba Land Trust

Kay Ogden, Executive Director
Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Jenny Hatch, Executive Director
Sierra Nevada Alliance

Matt Lyon, Chair of Board of Directors
California Outdoor Recreation Partnership (CORP)

Joshua Hugg, Government Affairs Specialist
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Marissa Christiansen, Executive Director
Friends of the LA River

Bert Whitaker, Director
Sonoma County Regional Parks

John Lauretig, Executive Director
Friends of Joshua Tree

John Wentworth, Board President
Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access
Foundation

Rachel Norton, Executive Director
California State Parks Foundation

David Polivy, Owner
Tahoe Mountain Sports

cc: The Honorable Members of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Assembly Member Wendy Carrillo
Catherine Freeman, Chief Consultant, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Chinook Shin, Committee Secretary, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Calvin Rusch, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus



Midpeninsula Regional
OpenSpace

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

GENERAL MANAGER
Ana M. Ruiz

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Pete Siemens
Yoriko Kishimoto
Jed Cyr
Curt Riffle
Karen Holman
Larry Hassett
Zoe Kersteen-Tucker

March 12, 2019

The Honorable Ash Kalra
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2196
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 707 (Kalra): Santa Clara Valley Water District: contracts - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Kalra:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen)**, I am writing to express our support for AB 707 (Kalra). Comprised of over 63,000 acres of acquired and protected open space on the San Francisco Peninsula, Midpen is one of the largest regional open space districts in California. Our mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

The bill will increase the cost threshold above which a formal bidding process is required, from \$25,000 to \$50,000, and allow Valley Water's Board of Directors to modestly increase the threshold to keep up with inflation. These changes not only will enable Valley Water to more efficiently contract for minor public works, but also will provide more opportunities for small businesses and for women and minority-owned businesses to compete for these minor public works projects.

Last updated more than 20 years ago, Valley Water's cost threshold for formal bid contracting has eroded to the point where very small projects now trigger a formal process intended for larger public works contracting. This mechanism is too costly and time-consuming for small projects, requiring highly structured offer, bidding, and contract award procedures that are cumbersome for many potential bidders. By increasing the cost threshold, more small projects will be contracted using an informal bid process in which quotes are requested from known responsible contractors that comply with labor and wage requirements, and the company best suited to do the work is selected.

Many small businesses and minority and women-owned businesses lack the administrative staff and expertise to participate in the formal bid process. The higher threshold for the formal bid process will enable Valley Water to diversify its pool of bidders and award more contracts to these small business enterprises. Better still, small projects will be delivered faster with lower administrative costs while yielding competitive pricing that serves the public interest.

For these reasons, the **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District** supports AB 707.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ana M. Ruiz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ana" being the most prominent.

Ana M. Ruiz
General Manager

cc:

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors

The Honorable Assemblymember Marc Berman

The Honorable Assemblymember Evan Low

The Honorable Assemblymember Kevin Mullin

The Honorable Assemblymember Mark Stone

The Honorable State Senator Jim Beall

The Honorable State Senator Jerry Hill

The Honorable State Senator Bill Monning



March 17th 2019

The Honorable Marc Berman
 California State Assembly
 State Capitol, Room 6011
 Sacramento, CA 90814

Re: AB 782 (Support)

Dear Assemblymember Berman,

The undersigned organizations are pleased to support your AB 782, a bill that would clarify the timing for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the acquisition, sale, or other transfer of property by a public agency for certain purposes, or the funding of that acquisition, sale, or other transfer by a public agency, if the public agency conditions those transactions on compliance with CEQA before making any physical changes to the transferred property.

Under existing CEQA regulations as reflected in Section 15325 of the CEQA Guidelines, there is a categorical exemption for transfers of ownership interests in land in order to preserve open space, agriculture, habitat, or historical resources. This exemption has made it possible to conserve and protect countless acres of valuable resource lands by allowing state and local agencies and land trusts to purchase private property 'as is', without the expense and delay of prior CEQA review in a competitive, fast-paced real estate market.

However, a recent series of lawsuits has created significant hurdles and uncertainty for public agencies seeking to acquire sensitive and threatened lands for open space and other conservation purposes. The courts in these cases have held that public agencies violated CEQA simply by agreeing to purchase—or in some cases, simply applying for funds to help purchase—property without first analyzing the environmental impacts of potential future preservation, restoration and public park activities. In particular, courts have used the agencies' applications for grant funding, which must specify the purposes of the funding, as evidence that the agency has already committed to specific restoration and preservation activities that could affect the environment. In reality, at the

time the agencies apply for funding, they typically have not committed to any particular restoration activities and frequently do not have sufficiently detailed restoration plans to allow for meaningful CEQA review.

These recent cases are in tension with a long line of earlier court decisions, and several CEQA Guideline provisions, which provide that public agencies may conduct environmental review *after* acquiring property, so long as the agency fully complies with CEQA before committing to undertake any specific restoration or development activities.

The tension between these two lines of cases has created substantial uncertainty and confusion about the timing for CEQA compliance by public agencies that are considering acquiring property for conservation purposes. This uncertainty has, in turn, put all public conservation transactions at risk, as acquiring agencies and funding sources alike are hesitant to move forward with these transactions under threat of litigation. By contrast, private parties seeking to purchase land for future development are not required to first comply with CEQA, and thus the uncertain state of the law is making it more difficult to preserve threatened lands.

The proposed bill (AB 782) would end this uncertainty by clarifying that public agencies may acquire land for conservation purposes—including the critical process of obtaining grant funding for the acquisition—without first conducting environmental review, but only so long as the public agency has committed to fully comply with CEQA *prior to commencing any physical change to the environment*. This bill would thus restore the intent of the existing regulatory exemption and the common practice prior to the more recent line of cases and would provide a bright line rule for courts, land trusts, public agencies, and the public to follow.

AB 782 would not create a new CEQA exemption or expand any existing exemption. Rather, it would simply codify the regulatory guidance already provided in CEQA Guidelines section 15325 (Class 25 Exemption for “Transfers of Ownership in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources”) and section 15004 (“Time of Preparation”). In combining the application of these two Guidelines into a single statutory provision, the author of AB 782 has also made grammatical changes to avoid redundancy and to clarify that applying for and accepting funding for qualifying acquisitions may occur prior to conducting environmental review, as many acquisitions rely on public grant funding.

Because the bill partially codifies the Class 25 regulatory (or “categorical”) exemption by specifying the timing of CEQA compliance for the circumstances covered by this Guideline, the Guidelines “exceptions” to the exemptions would no longer apply. Critically, however, the bill achieves the same purposes as these exceptions by ensuring that full CEQA compliance *must* occur prior to the agency commencing any physical change in the environment. Any private activities on the property that could potentially impact the environment would remain fully subject to CEQA and would not be affected by the bill.

We would like to thank Assemblymember Berman for his leadership on this issue, and for all the above stated reasons strongly support AB 782.

Sincerely,

Ane Deister
California Council of Land Trust (Sponsor)

Rico Mastrodonato
The Trust for Public Land

Howard Penn
Planning and Conservation League

Jay Ziegler
The Nature Conservancy

Melissa Romero
California League of Conservation Voters

Marissa Christiansen
Friends of the LA River (FOLAR)

Claire Schlotterbeck
Hills for Everyone

Dan Silver
Endangered Habitats League

Joe Edmiston
Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority

Juan Altamirano
Audubon California

Paul Mason
Pacific Forest Trust

Flojaune Cofer
Public Health Advocates

Erika Seward
Bear Yuba Land Trust

Rachel Norton
California State Parks Foundation

Kim Kolpin
Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Steve Frisch
Sierra Business Council

Bridget Fithian
Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Andrea Mackenzie
Santa Clara Open Space Authority

Laurie Oberholtzer
Sierra County Land Trust

Melanie Winter
The River Project

Bryan Largay
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County

Mike Meador
California Greenworks

Steve Evans
California Wilderness Coalition

Walter T. Moore
Peninsula Open Space Trust

Shelana DeSilva
Save The Redwoods League

Melinda Booth
South Yuba River Citizens League

California ReLeaf
Chuck Mills

Jeanette Tuitele-Lewis
Big Sur Land Trust

Joshua Hugg
Midpeninsula Open Space District

Ron Sundergill
National Parks Conservation Association

Jeff Darlington
Placer Land Trust

Perry Norris
Truckee Donner Land Trust

Jenny Hatch
Sierra Nevada Alliance

Kay Ogden
Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Mark Hennelly
California Waterfowl

Edward Sortwell Clement Jr.
Save Mount Diablo

Melissa Von Mayhauser
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Drew Becher
San Francisco Parks Alliance



March 15, 2019

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Chair
 Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
 State Capitol Building
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SUPPORT AB 1111 (Friedman)**: Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

Dear Chair Garcia,

On behalf of the millions of Californians and tourists who utilize outdoor recreation opportunities in our state, the undersigned public entities, private companies and businesses and nonprofit organizations are writing to express our emphatic support for AB 1111 and the creation of the Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation. According to a 2017 report conducted by the Outdoor Foundation, the outdoor industry in our state supports over 690,000 California jobs and makes other significant contributions toward the goal of healthy communities and healthy local/regional economies. The outdoor economy represents more than \$92 billion in economic benefit statewide and generates \$6.2 billion in state and local taxes.

This bill serves to underscore the importance of outdoor recreation sector in California and its substantial network of nonprofits, public agencies, companies, brands, community-based organizations, and education systems working to connect and re-connect our residents with outdoor spaces. As Californians, we benefit from our vast and impressive public lands, natural resources, and outdoor spaces that draw Californians to the state's outdoor landscapes. Although there are many departments, agencies, boards, and commissions focused on different aspects of land management, park creation, or outdoor access, California government does not have one office or position that is tasked with this intersection of the outdoor recreation sector and celebrating the benefits of the outdoors in all settings - urban, suburban, and rural.

Offices of outdoor recreation or executive-level positions focusing on the outdoor sector have been established in ten other states, including Washington, Colorado, Utah, Oregon, Montana, Vermont,

North Carolina, and Wyoming. The Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation created by AB 1111 will foster collaboration between those creating, manufacturing, and selling outdoor recreation goods, and providing programming and outdoor experiences to help all Californians – especially youth and communities of color access the outdoors in an equitable way. That dual mission of the office envisioned in AB 1111 is what makes this vehicle unique and necessary for California’s outdoor economy to thrive and compete for outdoor dollars against neighboring states.

The funding needed to establish and house the new Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation (Roughly \$250,000 annually) is a modest investment in light of the significant economic benefit the state accrues through diverse and robust outdoor engagement. California needs to focus greater energies on the economic and society-creating engine that is the outdoors. We can do more to harness the opportunities inherent in our landscapes to the benefit of all Californians.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support for AB 1111.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stephens, Executive Director
California Park & Recreation Society

Robert E. Doyle, General Manager
East Bay Regional Park District

David Polivy, Owner
Tahoe Mountain Sports

Katie Goodwin, California Regional Director
Access Fund

Rich Meyer, Co-Founder
Tahoe Backcountry Alliance

Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Specialist
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Amy Lethbridge, Executive Director
Community Nature Connection

Marissa Christiansen, Executive Director
Friends of the LA River

Sean Barclay, General Manager
Tahoe City Public Utility District

Jeff Darlington, Executive Director
Placer Land Trust

Perry Norris, Executive Director
Truckee Donner Land Trust

Steve Frisch, President
Sierra Business Council

Bridget Fithian, Executive Director
Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Erika Seward, Co-Executive Director
Bear Yuba Land Trust

Kay Ogden, Executive Director
Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Jenny Hatch, Executive Director
Sierra Nevada Alliance

Emily Teitsworth, Executive Director
GirlVentures

Austin McInerney, President
National Interscholastic Cycling Association

Rue Mapp, Founder and CEO
Outdoor Afro

Luis Villa, Executive Director
Latino Outdoors

Adam Cramer, Executive Director
Outdoor Alliance

Karen Cowe, CEO
Ten Strands

Rachel Norton, Executive Director
California State Parks Foundation

John Wentworth, Board President
Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access
Foundation

Shelana deSilva, Director of Government
Affairs & Public Funding
Save the Redwoods League

Dani Reyes-Acosta, Principal, Brand Strategist
Nomad Creativa

cc: The Honorable Members of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Assembly Member Laura Friedman
Catherine Freeman, Chief Consultant, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Chinook Shin, Committee Secretary, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Calvin Rusch, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Consultant

2019 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK
October 31, 2018 (revised)

DEADLINES

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		<u>1</u>	2	3	4	5
6	<u>7</u>	8	9	<u>10</u>	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	<u>21</u>	22	23	24	<u>25</u>	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- [Jan. 1](#) Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- [Jan. 7](#) Legislature **reconvenes** (J.R. 51(a)(1)).
- [Jan. 10](#) Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- [Jan. 21](#) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- [Jan. 25](#) Last day to submit **bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	<u>18</u>	19	20	21	<u>22</u>	23
24	25	26	27	28		

- [Feb. 18](#) Presidents' Day.
- [Feb. 22](#) Last day for **bills to be introduced** (J.R. 61(a)(1)), (J.R. 54(a)).

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	<u>29</u>	30
31						

- [Mar. 29](#) Cesar Chavez Day observed.

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	<u>11</u>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	<u>22</u>	23	24	25	<u>26</u>	27
28	29	30				

- [Apr. 11](#) **Spring recess** begins upon adjournment of this day's session (J.R. 51(a)(2)).
- [Apr. 22](#) Legislature **reconvenes** from Spring recess (J.R. 51(a)(2)).
- [Apr. 26](#) Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to **fiscal committees** **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(2)).

MAY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	<u>3</u>	4
5	6	7	8	9	<u>10</u>	11
12	13	14	15	16	<u>17</u>	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	

- [May 3](#) Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the Floor **nonfiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(3)).
- [May 10](#) Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 3 (J.R. 61(a)(4)).
- [May 17](#) Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(5)). Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to June 3 (J.R. 61(a)(6)).
- [May 27](#) Memorial Day.
- [May 28-31](#) **Floor Session Only.**
No committees, other than conference or Rules committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(a)(7)).

- [May 31](#) Last day for bills to be **passed out of the house of origin** (J.R. 61(a)(8)).

*Holiday schedule subject to Rules committee approval.

2019 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK
October 31, 2018 (revised)

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	<u>3</u>	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	<u>15</u>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

[Jun. 3](#) Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(a)(9)).

[Jun. 15](#) **Budget Bill** must be passed by **midnight** (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)(3)).

JULY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	<u>4</u>	5	6
7	8	9	<u>10</u>	11	<u>12</u>	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

[Jul. 4](#) Independence Day.

[Jul. 10](#) Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report **fiscal bills** to **fiscal committees** (J.R. 61(a)(10)).

[Jul. 12](#) Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(a)(11)). **Summer recess** begins upon adjournment of this day's session, provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(a)(3)).

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	<u>12</u>	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	<u>30</u>	31

[Aug. 12](#) **Legislature reconvenes** from Summer recess (J.R. 51(a)(3)).

[Aug. 30](#) Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills to Floor (J.R. 61(a)(12)).

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	7
8	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

[Sep. 2](#) Labor Day.

[Sep. 3-13](#) **Floor Session Only**. No committees, other than conference and Rules committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(a)(13)).

[Sep. 6](#) Last day to **amend bills on the floor** (J.R. 61(a)(14)).

[Sep. 13](#) Last day for **each house to pass bills** (J.R. 61(a)(15)). **Interim Study Recess** begins upon adjournment of this day's session (J.R. 51(a)(4)).

*Holiday schedule subject to Senate Rules committee approval.

IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING INTERIM STUDY RECESS

2019

[Oct. 13](#)

Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature on or before Sep. 13 and in the Governor's possession after Sep. 13 (Art. IV, Sec.10(b)(1)).

2020

[Jan. 1](#)

Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).

[Jan. 6](#)

Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51 (a)(4)).