



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

## **MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

### **LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

*The Committee conducted this meeting in accordance with California Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20. All Board members and staff participated via teleconference.*

**Tuesday, February 2, 2021**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

#### **ROLL CALL**

Members present: Jed Cyr, Larry Hassett, and Karen Holman

Members absent: None

Staff present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Chief Financial Officer Stefan Jaskulak, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Jennifer Woodworth, Public Affairs Manager Kori Skinner, Governmental Affairs Specialist Josh Hugg

District Clerk Jennifer Woodworth announced this meeting is being held in accordance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order allowing Committee members to participate remotely. The District has done its best to conduct a meeting where everyone has an opportunity to listen to the meeting and to provide comment. The public has the opportunity to comment on the agenda, and the opportunity to listen to this meeting through the internet or via telephone. This information can be found on the meeting agenda, which was physically posted at the District's Administrative Office, and on the District website. Ms. Woodworth described the process and protocols for the meeting.

#### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Woodworth reported no public comments had been submitted.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Director Hassett moved, and Director Holman seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0**

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**1. Select Committee Chair for Calendar Year 2021**

Director Hassett nominated Director Cyr to serve as the Committee Chair for calendar year 2021.

Director Cyr accepted the nomination.

Public comment opened at 2:02 p.m.

Ms. Woodworth reported no public comments had been submitted.

Public comment closed at 2:02 p.m.

**Motion:** Director Holman moved, and Director Hassett seconded the motion to close nominations for Committee Chair.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0**

**Motion:** Director Hassett moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to select Director Cyr as Committee Chair for Calendar Year 2021.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0**

**2. Approve the November 17, 2020 Legislative, Funding, & Public Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes.**

**Motion:** Director Hassett moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to approve the November 17, 2020 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs committee meeting minutes.

Public comment opened at 2:05 p.m.

Ms. Woodworth reported no public comments had been submitted.

Public comment closed at 2:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Holman abstained)**

**3. Draft 2021 Legislative Program (R-21-20)**

Governmental Affairs Specialist Joshua Hugg described the District's legislative program, its purpose, and reviewed the District's proposed legislative priorities for the upcoming 2021-22

legislative session, including supporting efforts to promote effective guidelines for wildland fire fuel reduction, expand the number of green jobs for youth, expand access to greenspace for underserved communities, sponsoring legislation to support nuisance abatement powers (similar to other local agencies), and pursuing climate change-related funding to benefit a wide range of open space priorities. Additionally, the District seeks to strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill its mission, such as supporting efforts by the California Natural Resources Agency to streamline permitting processes for environmental restoration and stewardship projects.

Director Hassett requested clarification regarding nuisance abatement powers.

General Counsel Hilary Stevenson described situations where the District encountered nuisances such as stream diversions, illegal dumping of vegetation on District lands, etc., which could require criminal proceedings. This legislation would create administrative remedies for addressing impacts to District lands from nuisances, including recovering costs incurred when abating nuisances.

Mr. Hugg reported proposed regional priorities, including monitoring Plan Bay Area 2050 and the Regional Housing Needs Allocation to curb the expansion of new development in rural and open space areas and preserve open space lands to avoid impacts on sensitive habitats, wildlife corridors, prevent further habitat fragmentation, and avoid increasing the risk of wildland fires.

Director Holman commented that the District's positions on these two initiatives need to be treated as sensitive due to the controversial nature of the issues and spoke in support of establishing guidelines that consider public sensitivity as a benchmark when the District is considering taking an action on an item.

Mr. Hugg stated the District's position is solely related to the potential encroachment of the built environment into natural and working lands.

Director Holman suggested funding may be available for Rancho San Antonio multimodal transit options through infrastructure improvement federal funding allocations.

Mr. Hugg stated that opportunities for federal infrastructure funding may indeed be possible for Rancho San Antonio transit options but the likelihood of receiving funding is currently unknown.

Director Hassett spoke in favor of promoting local vendors and contractors to support the District's Climate Action Plan goals and reduction of greenhouse gases.

Director Holman suggested additional clarification to guide District actions would be helpful to include in the staff report.

Mr. Hugg stated that proposed District positions regarding specific legislation will come forward to LFPAC as legislation is introduced at the regional, state, and federal level.

Public Affairs Manager Kori Skinner provided additional clarification regarding the District's legislative program and staff's review of legislation to determine when and if the District takes a position on specific legislation, which will occur later in the legislative session.

General Manager Ana Ruiz stated the District's legislative program helps guide her and staff on when actions should be considered by the District, and that these determinations are also based on prior Board direction, the District's mission, Board-approved Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives, and Board-approved priorities. Ms. Ruiz provided examples of when she and the Board have taken various types of action related to legislation, such as when the District submitted a letter of support for proposed legislation to restrict second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides.

Director Holman suggested the legislative program document should be updated to provide a defined guideline on when the District should take a legislative position on controversial and/or publicly sensitive legislation.

Directors Hassett stated he did not currently see a need for further definitions.

Director Cyr stated the Committee could report on this discussion at the Board meeting, and suggested language could be included acknowledging that each legislative situation is unique, and awareness of the public's reaction to and the controversial nature of legislation should be evaluated.

Public comment opened at 3:15 p.m.

Ms. Woodworth reported no public comments had been submitted.

Public comment closed at 3:15 p.m.

**Motion:** Director Cyr moved, and Director Hassett seconded the motion to approve the motion to forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors for approval of the Legislative Program with additional language to include public sensitivity of legislation as part of the determination on whether to take an action on behalf of the District and additional language promoting use of local vendors and contractors to support the District's Climate Action Plan goals and reduction of greenhouse gases.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Director Cyr adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 3:23 p.m.

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Jennifer Woodworth, MMC  
District Clerk