



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-21-46  
Meeting 21-10  
March 24, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 8**

**AGENDA ITEM**

Legislative Position Recommendations

**GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the recommended list of legislative positions for the 2021 state legislative session, as forwarded by the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee.

**SUMMARY**

On March 9, 2021, 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 2021 Legislative Position Recommendations (Attachment 1). The list identifies specific bills that merit action by the District. 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 2021.

**Important Note:** Most bills will change over the course of the legislative session. The legislative process is fluid and often moves fast. Based upon the guiding documents of 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 to ensure that District interests are promoted and protected.

**DISCUSSION**

The 2021 Legislative Program, which the Board approved at its February 10, 2021 meeting, guides District priorities on legislative proposals affecting the District, its mission, and annual strategic goals. Throughout the session, staff fields time-sensitive requests from partners and monitors evolving pieces of legislation based on Board Policy 1.11 and the approved Legislative Program, using the bill disposition process described in Attachment 4 to assess and determine appropriate actions. Legislation deemed a priority by the Board pursuant to Board Policy 1.11 are tracked and, when appropriate, either supported or opposed (Attachment 5-Definitions). The General Manager keeps the Board notified of actions taken via separate memo (Attachment 6-Example Memo). Please refer to the Recommended Legislative Positions (Attachment 1) for an overview of the initial list of bills for District priority action in the 2021-22 legislative session.

February 26, 2021 was the submittal deadline for new bills by state assemblymembers and senators (see Attachment 7- Legislative Calendar). 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 an initial position and priority.

Department managers assisted with a review of all the potential bills of interest and provided their recommended position and priority for each. Approximately 140 bills are currently tracked, though only bills that may initiate action by the District at this time, i.e., those recommended as priority 1 or 2, are presented. At this time, four bills are recommended as priority 1 and 24 bills as priority 2. As the legislative session progresses, each bill may change (sometimes substantially), which warrants further consideration concurrent with Board Policy 1.11.

#### **Additional Bills for Consideration:**

- SB 322 (Laird): Grazing land: California Conservation Ranching Incentive Program, was added for consideration after LFPAC review at a Board member's behest. Currently, the legislative position is specified as "watch" due to the sensitive nature of the topic based on recent events regarding amendments to the District's Grazing Management Plan to understand the level of potential public and key stakeholder support and opposition that the bill may generate. The intention is to wait to understand the bill discussions and salient points that may arise to better inform an expressed position by the District. Information about the bill is included in Attachment 1.
- SB 604 (Hueso): Natural resources: The Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency Act of 2021, is a late addition for consideration without LFPAC review. It comes at the behest of the bill author reaching out to supporters of last year's SB 1296 (Durazo, 2020). The District supported SB 1296, which had the exact same language as SB 604 this year. Unfortunately, due to COVID constraints in 2020, the bill was removed from legislative consideration. Information about the bill is included in Attachment 1.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this briefing.

#### **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW**

##### **Legislative Program:**

On February 2, 2021 the LFPAC considered the District's draft Legislative Program and incorporated its feedback before it was referred to the full Board on February 10, 2021 ([R-21-20](#)). Minutes of the meeting that detail the feedback are contained [here](#).

On February 10, 2021 the full Board adopted the 2021 Legislative Program ([R-21-25](#)), accepting LFPAC recommendations and with its own adjustments captured in the minutes [here](#).

##### **Legislative Positions:**

On March 9, 2021, 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 ([R-21-35](#)). One bill was added to the list for consideration by the Board – SB 322, which is currently listed as "watch." No other changes to the list were requested. Please see the meeting's draft minutes in Attachment 8 for additional details.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

**CEQA COMPLIANCE**

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

**NEXT STEPS**

Based on both the Legislative Program adopted by the Board on February 12, 2021 and the bills identified as “priority 1” by the Board at this meeting, staff, the Board President and Vice-President are scheduled to meet with the District’s state legislative delegation on April 6 and April 8 to communicate District interests. Priority 2 bills will have position letters sent to their respective authors.

Staff will also bring legislative updates and proposals to LFPAC throughout the state legislative session.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1 – District Legislative Tracking Matrix
- Attachment 2 – Board Policy 1.11 - Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy
- Attachment 3 – District Legislative Program for 2021 – Adopted
- Attachment 4 – District Bill Disposition Process
- Attachment 5 – District Legislation Position and Priorities Definitions
- Attachment 6 – Example of GM Legislative Memo to the Board
- Attachment 7 – State Legislative Calendar – 2021
- Attachment 8 – Draft LFPAC Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2021

Responsible Department Head:  
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Prepared by:  
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**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
Legislative Positions Recommendations**

Measure	Author	Issue Area	Topic	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
<a href="#">AB 11</a>	<a href="#">Ward D</a>	Climate	Climate change: regional climate change authorities.	Would require the Strategic Growth Council, by January 1, 2023, to establish up to 12 regional climate change authorities to coordinate climate adaptation and mitigation activities in their regions, and coordinate with other regional climate adaptation authorities, state agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 1384</a>	<a href="#">Gabriel D</a>	Climate	Resiliency Through Adaptation, Economic Vitality, and Equity Act of 2022.	Would require the Strategic Growth Council to develop and coordinate a strategic resiliency framework that makes recommendations and identifies actions that are necessary to prepare the state for the most significant climate change impacts modeled for 2025, 2050, and beyond, among other goals. The bill would require state agencies identified in the strategic resiliency framework to collaboratively engage with regional entities to enhance policy and funding coordination and promote regional solutions and implementation and to proactively engage vulnerable communities whose planning and project development efforts have been disproportionately impacted by climate change, as provided. The bill would authorize the Treasurer, and the financing authorities that the Treasurer chairs, to assist state agencies by leveraging public and private capital investment to help with loans and other incentives to attain the goals identified in the strategic resiliency framework.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 1500</a>	<a href="#">Garcia, Eduardo D</a>	Climate	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022.	Would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$6,700,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs.	Recommend Support If Amended	1
<a href="#">AB 284</a>	<a href="#">Rivas, Robert D</a>	Climate	California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: climate goal: natural and working lands.	The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 requires the State Air Resources Board to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and to update the scoping plan at least once every 5 years. This bill would require the state board, when updating the scoping plan and in collaboration with the Natural Resources Agency and other relevant state agencies and departments, to take specified actions by January 1, 2023, including, among others, identifying a 2045 climate goal, with interim milestones, for the state's natural and working lands, as defined, and identifying practices, policy incentives, market needs, and potential reductions in barriers that would help achieve the 2045 climate goal. The bill would require the state board, no later than January 1, 2024, to develop standard methods for state agencies to consistently track greenhouse gas emissions reductions, carbon sequestration, and additional benefits from natural and working lands over time.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 51</a>	<a href="#">Quirk D</a>	Climate	Climate change: adaptation: regional climate adaptation planning groups: regional climate adaptation plans.	Would require the Strategic Growth Council, by July 1, 2022, to establish guidelines for the formation of regional climate adaptation planning groups. The bill would require the council, by July 1, 2023, and in consultation with certain state entities, to develop criteria for the development of regional climate adaptation plans.	Recommend Support	2

<a href="#">AB 897</a>	<a href="#">Mullin D</a>	Climate	Office of Planning and Research: regional climate networks: climate adaptation action plans.	Current law requires, by July 1, 2017, and every 3 years thereafter, the Natural Resources Agency to update, as prescribed, the state's climate adaptation strategy, known as the Safeguarding California Plan. Current law establishes the Office of Planning and Research in state government in the Governor's office. Current law establishes the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program to be administered by the office to coordinate regional and local efforts with state climate adaptation strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change, as prescribed. This bill would authorize eligible entities, as defined, to establish and participate in a regional climate network, as defined. The bill would require the office to encourage the inclusion of agencies with land use planning authority into regional climate networks.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">SB 1</a>	<a href="#">Atkins D</a>	Climate	Coastal resources: sea level rise.	The California Coastal Act of 1976 establishes the California Coastal Commission and provides for planning and regulation of development in the coastal zone, as defined. The act requires the commission, within 90 days after January 1, 1977, to adopt, after public hearing, procedures for the preparation, submission, approval, appeal, certification, and amendment of a local coastal program, including a common methodology for the preparation of, and the determination of the scope of, the local coastal programs, as provided. This bill would also include, as part of the procedures the commission is required to adopt, recommendations and guidelines for the identification, assessment, minimization, and mitigation of sea level rise within each local coastal program, as provided. The bill would delete the timeframe specified above by which the commission is required to adopt these procedures.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">SB 45</a>	<a href="#">Portantino D</a>	Climate	Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022.	Would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,510,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.	Recommend Support If Amended	1
<a href="#">SB 624</a>	<a href="#">Hueso D</a>	Equity	Environmental Equity and Outdoor Access Act.	Would establish the Environmental Equity and Outdoor Access Act, which sets forth the state's commitment to ensuring all Californians can benefit from, and have meaningful access to, the state's rich cultural and natural resources. The bill would make related findings and declarations regarding the importance of the state's natural resources and ensuring equal access to those resources. The bill would provide that the Legislature finds and declares that it is the policy of the state to, among other things, promote representation and ensure cultural competency among staff of the agency and each department, board, conservancy, and commission within the agency, to ensure all Californians and visitors of the state feel safe and welcome in the outdoors.	Recommend Support	2

<a href="#">AB 271</a>	<a href="#">Rivas, Robert D</a>	Governance	Santa Clara Valley Water District: contracts: best value procurement.	Current law authorizes certain local entities to select a bidder for a contract on the basis of “best value,” as defined. Existing law governs various types of contract procedures applicable to the Santa Clara Valley Water District and prescribes competitive bidding procedures for any improvement or unit of work over \$50,000. This bill would authorize the district, upon approval by the board of directors of the district, to award contracts on a best value basis for any work of the Anderson Dam project, defined to include prescribed activities and works of construction with regard to the Leroy Anderson Dam and Reservoir and certain fish and aquatic habitat measures described in a federal-state settlement agreement. The bill would require the district, if the board elects to award contracts on a best value basis, to comply with specified requirements governing the documents prepared setting forth the scope and estimated price of the project and the request for qualifications.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 361</a>	<a href="#">Rivas, Robert D</a>	Governance	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.	Would authorize a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act when a legislative body of a local agency holds a meeting for the purpose of declaring or ratifying a local emergency, during a declared state or local emergency, as those terms are defined, when state or local health officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, and during a declared local emergency provided the legislative body makes certain determinations by majority vote.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">ACA 1</a>	<a href="#">Aguiar-Curry D</a>	Governance	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, city and county, or special district to levy an ad valorem tax to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing, or the acquisition or lease of real property for those purposes, 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.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">ACR 17</a>	<a href="#">Voepel R</a>	Governance	Special Districts Week.	This measure proclaims the week of May 16, 2021, to May 22, 2021, to be Special Districts Week.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 1189</a>	<a href="#">Bloom D</a>	Stewardship	Transportation: indirect cost recovery: wildlife crossing projects.	Would, on and before June 30, 2024, prohibit the Department of Transportation from charging for administration indirect cost recovery, as outlined in the department’s Indirect Cost Recovery Proposal, for any wildlife crossing project that receives private funding for more than 50% of the project cost, and would require the department to charge these projects for functional overhead. The bill would require the department to report, on or before July 1, 2024, to the Legislature on the amount of private funding invested in wildlife crossing projects for the 2020–21, 2021–22, 2022–23, and 2023–24 fiscal years.	Recommend Support	2

<a href="#">AB 315</a>	<a href="#">Stone D</a>	Stewardship	Voluntary stream restoration landowner liability: indemnification.	Current law authorizes a habitat restoration or enhancement project proponent to submit a written request for approval of the project to the Director of Fish and Wildlife. Current law requires the director to approve the project if the written request includes certain information, as specified, and provides for an alternate authorization process by the State Water Resources Control Board. This bill would require the state to indemnify and hold harmless a landowner who voluntarily allows land to be used for such a project to restore fish and wildlife habitat from civil liability for property damage or personal injury resulting from the project if the project meets specified requirements, including that the project is funded, at least in part, by a state or federal agency, and the liability arises from the construction, design specifications, surveying, planning, supervision, testing, or observation of construction related to the project to restore fish and wildlife habitat.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 379</a>	<a href="#">Gallagher R</a>	Stewardship	Wildlife conservation: conservation lands.	The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947 establishes the Wildlife Conservation Board in the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Current law authorizes the department, with the approval of the board, to enter into agreements with any other department or agency of this state, any local agency, or nonprofit organization, to provide for the construction, management, or maintenance of the facilities authorized by the board, and authorizes such other department or agency of this state, local agency, or nonprofit organization, and each of them to construct, manage, or maintain those facilities pursuant to the agreement. Existing law authorizes the board to make grants or loans to nonprofit organizations, local governmental agencies, federal agencies, and state agencies for various purposes in connection with fish and wildlife habitats. This bill would authorize the department to also enter into that type of agreement with a California Native American tribe. The bill would also authorize the board to make grants or loans to California Native American tribes for various purposes in connection with fish and wildlife habitats.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 564</a>	<a href="#">Gonzalez, Lorena D</a>	Stewardship	Biodiversity Protection and Restoration Act.	Would establish the Biodiversity Protection and Restoration Act and would provide that it is the policy of the state that all state agencies, boards, and commissions shall utilize their authorities in furtherance of the biodiversity conservation purposes and goals of certain executive orders. The bill would require all state agencies, boards, and commissions to consider and prioritize the protection of biodiversity in carrying out their statutory mandates. The bill would require strategies related to the goal of the state to conserve at least 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030 to be made available to the public and provided to certain legislative committees by no later than June 30, 2022.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 567</a>	<a href="#">Bauer-Kahan D</a>	Stewardship	Pesticides: neonicotinoids: prohibited use.	Current law generally regulates pesticide use by the Department of Pesticide Regulation, and requires the Director of Pesticide Regulation to endeavor to eliminate from use any pesticide that endangers the agricultural or nonagricultural environment. A violation of those provisions and regulations adopted pursuant to those provisions is generally a misdemeanor. Current law requires the department, on or before July 1, 2018, to issue a determination with respect to its reevaluation of neonicotinoids, and to adopt control measures necessary to protect pollinator health within 2 years, as specified. This bill would prohibit the use of neonicotinoid on a seed, as specified.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 908</a>	<a href="#">Frazier D</a>	Stewardship	Natural Resources Agency: statewide natural resources inventory.	Would require the Natural Resources Agency, to the extent a specified appropriation is made, to prepare a comprehensive, statewide inventory of the natural resources of the state and establish treatment measures necessary to protect those resources, and to post its initial inventory on its internet website on or before January 1, 2023, with annual updates on or before January 1 of each year thereafter.	Recommend Support	2

<a href="#">SB 790</a>	<a href="#">Stern D</a>	Stewardship	Advance Mitigation Program: wildlife connectivity barriers.	Current law creates the Advance Mitigation Program in the Department of Transportation to enhance communications between the department and stakeholders to, among other things, protect natural resources through project mitigation and accelerate project delivery. Current law authorizes the department, for the purpose of implementing the program, to develop a programmatic mitigation plan to address the potential environmental impacts of future transportation projects for the purpose of required mitigation approved by federal, state, and local agencies. Current law creates the Advance Mitigation Account and continuously appropriates moneys in the account for purposes of the program, and specifies what those funds can be used for. This bill would additionally authorize those funds to be used to modify or remove wildlife connectivity barriers not covered by existing regulatory programs.	Recommend Support	1
<a href="#">SB 322</a>	<a href="#">Laird D</a>	Stewardship	Grazing land: California Conservation Ranching Incentive Program.	Would establish the California Conservation Ranching Incentive Program as a separate component of the California Farmland Conservancy Program. The bill would authorize the Director of Conservation to, subject to appropriation, enter into contracts for an initial term of 3 years with nonpublic entities that are owners of record or lessees of productive rangelands, grazing lands, or grasslands that are determined by the director to be important for the conservation of grassland birds, soil health, and biodiversity. The bill would require these contracts to include an agreement by the owner and any lessee to restore, enhance, and protect the grassland habitat character of the land subject to the contract and to require the Department of Conservation to pay a specified amount to the owner or lessee for undertaking conservation obligations under the contract.	Watch	2
<a href="#">SB 604</a>	<a href="#">Hueso D</a>	Stewardship	Natural resources: the Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency Act of 2021.	Current law establishes various environmental and economic policies and programs. This bill, upon appropriation by the Legislature, as provided, would establish the Nature and Parks Career Pathway and Community Resiliency Act of 2021, which would require state conservancies and the Wildlife Conservation Board to establish independent grant programs to fund climate mitigation, adaptation, or resilience, natural disaster, and other climate emergency projects, as specified.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 1255</a>	<a href="#">Bloom D</a>	Wildfire	Fire prevention: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: grant programs.	Would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, in coordination with the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, to facilitate regional, habitat-specific, and area-specific approaches to fire risk reduction, prevention, and restoration of projects that improve community safety, protect sites and structures, restore burned habitat, reduce catastrophic wildfires, and protect natural resources. The bill would require the department to develop policies, funding programs for which the funding shall be contingent upon subsequent appropriation in the annual Budget Act or a similar statute for this purpose, and relevant program guidelines that promote specified objectives. The bill would require various state entities, as specified, to establish grant programs, for which funding shall be contingent upon subsequent appropriation, to fulfill the specified objectives.	Recommend Support	1
<a href="#">AB 223</a>	<a href="#">Ward D</a>	Wildfire	Wildlife: dudleya: taking and possession.	Would make it unlawful to uproot, remove, harvest, or cut dudleya, as defined, from land owned by the state or a local government or from property not their own without written permission from the landowner in their immediate possession, except as provided, and would make it unlawful to sell, offer for sale, possess with intent to sell, transport for sale, export for sale, or purchase dudleya uprooted, removed, harvested, or cut in violation of that provision. The bill would require a violation of those provisions, or any rule, regulation, or order adopted pursuant to those provisions, to be a misdemeanor punishable by a specified fine, imprisonment in a county jail for not more than a year, or both the fine and imprisonment.	Recommend Support	2



<a href="#">AB 297</a>	<a href="#">Gallagher R</a>	Wildfire	Fire prevention.	Would continuously appropriate \$480,000,000 and \$20,000,000 to the Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention and the California Conservation Corps, respectively, for fire prevention activities, as provided.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 697</a>	<a href="#">Chau D</a>	Wildfire	Forest resources: national forest lands: Good Neighbor Authority Fund: ecological restoration and fire resiliency projects.	Would reorganize the law relating to the State Treasury the Good Neighbor Authority Fund. The bill would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, under an agreement between the state and the federal government, to establish a program for purposes of conducting ecological restoration and fire resiliency projects on national forest lands, with priority given to forest restoration and fuels reduction projects that are landscape scale, focused on ecological restoration and based on the best available science, emphasize the use of prescribed fire, and include community fire protection and protection of water infrastructure and other infrastructure as important goals, as provided.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 926</a>	<a href="#">Mathis R</a>	Wildfire	Fire prevention: local assistance grant program: roadside vegetation management and defensible space.	Current law requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to establish a local assistance grant program for fire prevention activities in the state. Current law requires that the eligible activities include, among other things, fire prevention activities, as provided. This bill would add roadside vegetation management and projects to create and increase defensible space for critical infrastructure, as provided, to the eligible activities.	Recommend Support	2

# Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

## Board Policy Manual

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

### 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 Program 2021

Adopted February 10, 2021



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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.*

As part of the Coastsides Protection Area Service Plan, a Coastsides mission was adopted:

*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 these missions, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) annually reviews opportunities and challenges and establishes legislative priorities and policy statements to guide its advocacy activities at the regional, state and federal levels.

## 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 action on various proposed policies and state or federal budget items. In those instances where time is so short that neither the full Board, nor LFPAC, can be convened to consider a particular legislative position, the General Manager will take action through Board Policy 1.11 utilizing appropriate due diligence and consideration of public sensitivity, which may include consultation with the Board President.

Per Section 2.0 of Board Policy 1.11, legislative advocacy is 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 may direct the General Manager to take action to support or oppose the legislation without full Board approval when there is not adequate time to convene the full Board. 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 the District's annual [Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives](#); 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. Public Affairs staff will be responsible for reporting similar information to key departments. Contracted state legislative consultants will represent District interests based upon the policies contained in the Legislative Session Program. In addition to District position letters, Board members and District staff may be asked to testify before or meet with relevant legislators or members of the executive branch to discuss issues requiring heightened advocacy. If this is the case, District staff must first notify and/or confirm approval from the GMO to ensure that positions taken are consistent with the Board-approved Legislative Session Program.

## Legislative Priorities

The following are the legislative priorities for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District during the 2021 State Legislative Session. Annual priority-setting considers a combination of issues that relate directly to important District-led projects or initiatives, opportunities to support or oppose state legislative initiatives sponsored by others that affect the District's mission, and any issues that are identified by the Board as particularly significant. Funding measures are the most common of these priorities and are generally tied to the creation of new funding sources or the processes that prescribe the allocation of existing funding sources. The 2021 legislative priorities are listed and grouped below consistent with the Board's annual Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives (See Appendix A) to provide a clear connection to agency priorities:

### Goal 1: Promote, establish, and implement a regional environmental protection vision with partners

1. **Wildlife Corridors:** Enable greater funding opportunities and permit streamlining to preserve and enhance wildlife corridors; promote wildlife permeability in the built environment.

### Goal 2: Protect the positive environmental values of open space and agricultural lands

1. **Ecologically Sensitive Vegetation Management:** Promote effective guidelines and funding for wildland fire fuel reduction efforts that minimize potential impacts to rare and endangered species and the risk of exacerbating the spread of invasive species.

### Goal 3: Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision

1. **Green Jobs for Youth:** Enable greater numbers of youth to participate in conservation careers.
2. **Equitable Access:** Expand access to and enhance funding eligibility for greenspace opportunities for underserved communities.

### Goal 4: Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission

1. **Nuisance Abatement Powers:** Pursue state legislation that enables special districts created by Public Resources Code 5500 to possess nuisance abatement powers and the ability to recover costs incurred abating those nuisances, including attorney's fees. This would invoke the same statutory authority that a city, county and some other types of special districts have.
2. **Climate Change Bond:** Pursue climate change-related funding that benefits a wide range of open space priorities and promotes landscape climate resilience, particularly in

the Bay Area.

3. **Cap and Trade Funding:** Channel state cap and trade funding to support the climate resiliency benefits of open space and working lands, including carbon sequestration.
4. **Cutting the Green Tape:** Support efforts by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to streamline permitting processes for environmental restoration and stewardship projects.

## 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 ensure consistency in advocacy. District policy positions are grouped by strategic plan goals.

### Goal 1: Promote, establish, and implement a regional environmental protection vision with partners:

1. Enhances the ability to acquire open space lands consistent with District policies and goals.
2. Protects public open space as well as associated property rights, interests and easements.
3. Enhances and funds regional collaboration and coordination of conservation efforts.
4. Promotes the use of urban infill and urban growth boundaries to avoid sprawl and prevents pressure to develop open spaces and further encroachment into the wildland-urban interface and open space buffer areas.
5. Expands and restores protected open space lands to enhance biodiversity, climate change resilience, and scenic, rural character.
6. Ensures that the zoning of permanently protected lands supports activities that further the District's mission (preservation, natural resource protection, public access and education, agriculture).
7. Protects natural and working lands from future development threats.
8. Supports land protection and biodiversity goals set forth by Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-82-20 on October 7, 2020.

## Goal 2: Protect the positive environmental values of open space and agricultural lands:

1. Ensures reasonable setback requirements that allow minimum defensible space clearances to be met by private property owners to prevent catastrophic fires that damage habitats and pose a high public safety hazard.
2. Furthers implementation of Senate Bill 32 (2016), the Global Warming Solutions Act that establishes a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target for the state of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.
3. Recognizes and incentivizes the use of natural and working lands for the purpose of carbon sequestration.
4. Supports effective and comprehensive Districtwide, regional and statewide measures that respond to sea level rise and other effects of climate change and enhance ecological and community resilience.
5. Enhances or streamlines the integration of wildlife corridors into transportation infrastructure and promotes its ongoing maintenance within District lands and adjacent entities, which may extend to statewide and international linkages.
6. Promotes advance mitigation programs to enhance wildlife corridor networks.
7. Connects habitats that support a diverse array of native plants and animals.
8. Encourages public road management agencies to control invasive plant populations and incorporate safe pedestrian and wildlife crossings across roadways and highways.
9. Eliminates the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides.
10. Supports increased knowledge, management and ultimately the eradication of Sudden Oak Death disease.
11. Provides permit exemptions and streamlining for natural resources protection and restoration projects.
12. Supports maintaining state and federal lists of endangered species justified through conclusive biological evidence.
13. 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.
14. Enables Native American communities' involvement in cultural and land management practices to restore and protect natural resources and enhance landscape resilience.
15. Protects and restores watersheds, water quality, natural water courses, wetlands and hydrologic processes consistent with the District's Resource Management Plan.

16. Promotes expedited removal of select trees and brush by public agencies for fire protection, public safety and enhanced climate resilience, while minimizing potential impacts to rare and endangered species and the risk of exacerbating the spread of invasive species.
17. Supports wildland fire management as a more natural component of the ecosystem.
18. Supports working farms and ranches on public open space land that further conservation and climate resilience goals.
19. Supports the creation of and repairs to farm labor housing to foster farm operation sustainability that ultimately furthers conservation and climate resilience goals.
20. Incentivizes agricultural operations to invest in energy-efficient and water-efficient irrigation technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and water use.
21. Protects natural lands from the destruction caused by illegal marijuana grows, prohibits marijuana grows on public lands, and restores damaged habitats.
22. Supports efforts to create and make available more complete sets of data for managing natural and working lands.
23. Seek grants or other economic support for agricultural infrastructure maintenance and improvements.

### Goal 3: Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision

1. Helps expand educational opportunities for underserved and non-English speaking communities about natural resources and the benefits of open space and increases public appreciation for the environment.
2. Promotes volunteer involvement and engagement of diverse communities in ongoing conservation, restoration, enhancement and interpretation of the District's natural resources.
3. Engages children and parents in the enjoyment and appreciation of outdoor open spaces to inspire the next generation of conservation champions.
4. Funds and enables programs that hire youth to work in parks and open space and encourages them to consider careers in conservation.
5. Keeps preserves safe, clean, accessible and inviting for healthy exercise and enjoyment.
6. Promotes awareness and access to programs and activities that increase the use of open space for health-supporting activities.

7. Protects and helps fund the protection and public interpretation of cultural and historic resources located on natural open space and working lands.
8. Helps fund and streamline emergency repairs to District infrastructure, including trails and public access amenities.
9. Increases public access to preserved land regionwide.
10. Facilitates linkages between preserve trails and regional trails and ultimately to the places where people live and work.
11. Improves local transportation to enable better connectivity between communities and open space preserves.
12. Limits public use of drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) consistent with Board policies to preserve the tranquility of outdoor experiences, natural activities, and minimize risk of wildfire.
13. Supports advances in broadband and telecommunications technology that provide internet access in open space.
14. Supports federal, state and regional programs that provide local mobility alternatives for all residents.

#### Goal 4: Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission

1. Preserves existing tax revenues and tax authority.
2. Lowers the vote threshold for locally imposed special taxes from two-thirds to 55 percent.
3. Preserves tax-exempt status for municipal bonds on a state and federal level.
4. Expands state and federal incentives that promote the issuance of green bonds.
5. Preserves and promotes managerial discretion in effective and productive recruiting, hiring, firing and day-to-day oversight of staff at all levels.
6. Preserves and promotes open, transparent, accountable government administrative practices that promote the efficient and timely delivery of public services, facilitate public involvement, and support effective and timely decision-making.
7. Maintains prevailing wage and workers compensation exemptions for volunteers.
8. Preserves and promotes streamlined, cost-effective, fair, and efficient contracting practices that give taxpayers the best value for their dollar and attracts greater contractor and vendor competition, particularly among local providers.

9. Enables contracting methods that aid greenhouse gas emission reductions and support the implementation of the Board-adopted Climate Action Plan.
10. Provides funding and funding flexibility to achieve mission-related goals including, but not limited to:
  - a. District operations and infrastructure
  - b. Integrated Pest Management and ecologically sensitive vegetation management
  - c. Wildfire prevention and fuel reduction
  - d. Programs that hire youth to work in parks and open space and encourages them to consider careers in conservation
  - e. Partnership approaches to environmental education and public outreach efforts at local and state levels.
  - f. Implementation of improvements that meet the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and other accessibility standards in District preserves.
  - g. The protection of prime and sustainable agricultural lands, including investments in agricultural-support infrastructure.
  - h. Funding for local partners to receive technical support for agriculture and natural resources enhancement.
11. Promotes closer collaboration and coordination between regulatory agencies to enhance permit processing efficiency and reduces overall project costs.
12. Improves and streamlines permitting, CEQA review and compliance processes for emergency repairs, routine maintenance, habitat restoration, and public access projects.
13. Provides open space districts the authority to utilize a variety of contracting methods to construct projects, including design-build methodologies.
14. Promotes implementation of and education about sustainable design and construction, including but not limited to LEED buildings, stormwater treatment and runoff reduction, local (within 50-mile radius of a project) contractor/consultant hiring, construction material reuse/recycling, and use of green/energy efficient materials and equipment.

## 2021 Regional/Local Priorities

Though there is a growing recognition of the importance of regional planning and coordination, local land use authority dominates California planning processes in both the built and natural environments.

In 2021, the District supports:

### Plan Bay Area 2050

Ensure the final preferred scenario of the Plan Bay Area 2050 curbs urban boundary expansion, more tightly integrates open space preservation and stewardship, and funds Priority Conservation Areas (PCA).

### Regional Housing Needs Allocation

Ensure regional housing allocations and zoned housing locations do not impact sensitive habitats, wildlife corridors, and areas at high risk for wildfire.

### Regional Collaboration

Expand funding and enhance opportunities for regional collaboration and coordination of conservation and public access plans.

### Active Transportation Programs

Expand funding for the construction of bicycle/pedestrian paths, installation of bike racks and other projects and programs that make walking or biking easier, safer and more convenient.

### Public Transit to Increase Public Open Space Access – a.k.a., “Transit to Trails”

Support the expansion of funding for public transit options to access public open space and parks.



## 2021 Federal Legislative Priorities

Given the outcomes of the 2020 federal elections, active advocacy at the federal level may once again be beneficial.

In 2021, the District will focus on the following:

### Land and Water Conservation Fund

Support implementation of the Great American Outdoors Act and funding guidelines that allow District projects to be eligible for the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

### Infrastructure Investment

Support inclusion of active transportation and parks/open space-related projects in federal funding allocations for infrastructure.

### National Monument Preservation

Support policies that protect and designate national monuments within our region that are important to fulfilling the District's mission.

### Wildlife Corridors

Support policies that enhance habitat connectivity on nonfederal lands through wildlife crossings and other habitat connectivity projects.

## Appendix A:

### Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Strategic Plan for FY2021-22

Online at:

[https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/FY22%20Strategic%20Plan%20Goals%20and%20Objectives\\_Board%20Adopted.pdf](https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/FY22%20Strategic%20Plan%20Goals%20and%20Objectives_Board%20Adopted.pdf)

Goal 1 – Promote, establish, and implement a regional environmental protection vision with partners

- Objective 1 – Continue implementation of the District’s Vision Plan and communicate progress on projects through reporting results and building partner relationships
- Objective 2 – Build and strengthen diverse partnerships to implement a collaborative and science-based approach to regional environmental protection
- Objective 3 – Build and strengthen relationships with legislators and other elected officials to advocate environmental protection goals
- Objective 4 – Preserve open space and agricultural lands of local and regional significance

Goal 2 – Protect the positive environmental values of open space and agricultural lands

- Objective 1 – Take a regional leadership role in promoting the benefits of open space
- Objective 2 – Protect and restore the natural environment in a manner that expands regional resiliency and climate change adaptation to preserve healthy natural systems
- Objective 3 – Work with fire agencies and surrounding communities to strengthen the prevention of, preparation for and response to wildland fires for enhanced ecosystem resiliency and public safety
- Objective 4 – Support the viability of sustainable agriculture and character of rural communities

Goal 3 – Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision

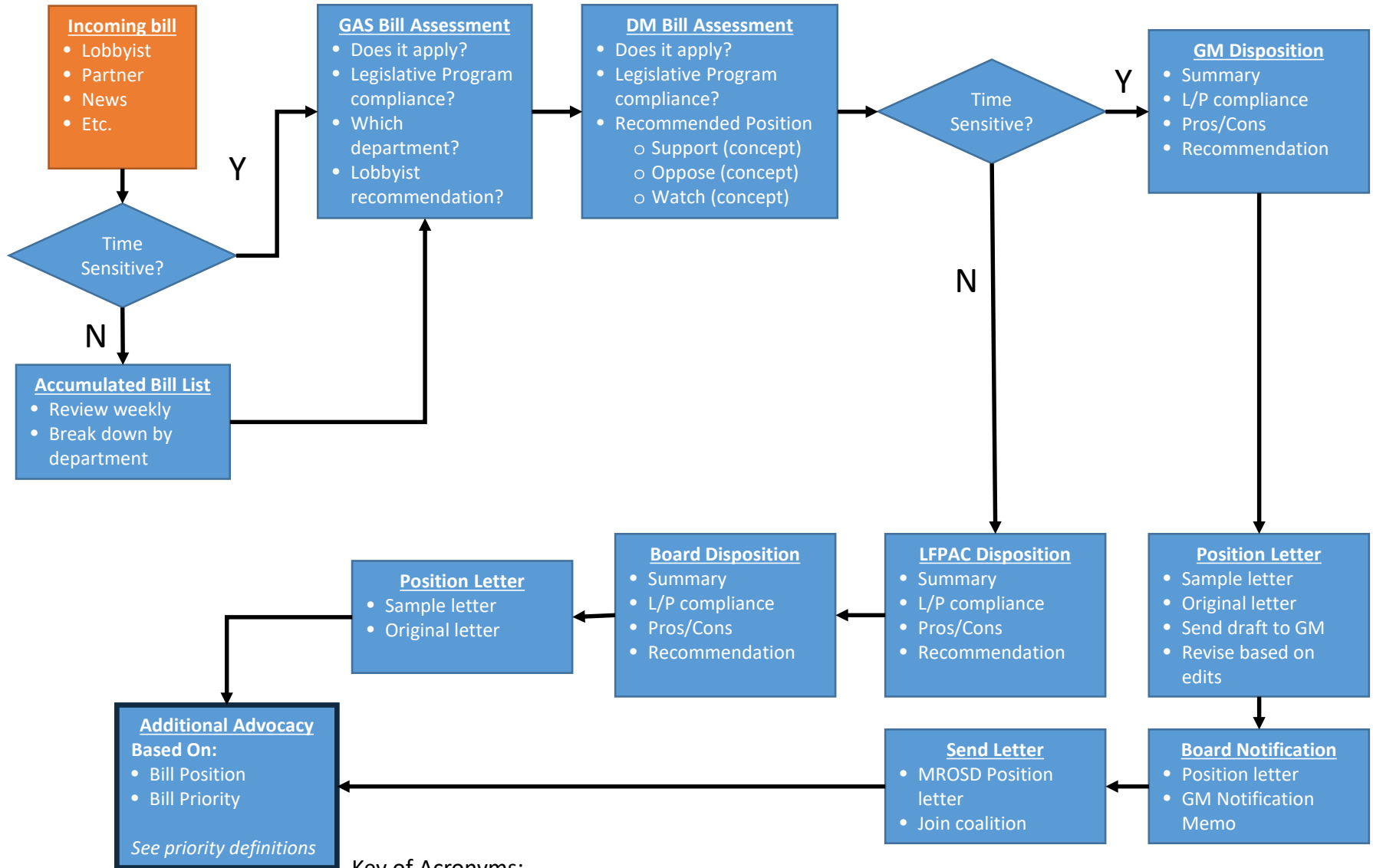
- Objective 1 – Communicate the benefits of a regional environmental protection vision and District achievements in protecting natural and working lands while maintaining a high quality of life
- Objective 2 – Refine and implement a comprehensive public engagement strategy, including the outreach to diverse communities and enhanced public education programs
- Objective 3 – Consistent with a regional environmental protection vision, expand opportunities including multi-modal options to equitably connect all people to their public open space preserves.
- Objective 4 – Reflect the diverse communities we serve in the District’s visitors, staff, volunteers, and partners

Goal 4 – Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission

- Objective 1 – Provide the necessary resources, tools, training, and infrastructure, including technology upgrades and capacity building
- Objective 2 – Continuously evaluate and improve processes and business model to effectively and efficiently deliver Vision Plan projects and the District's ongoing functions
- Objective 3 – Maintain a state of readiness for potential disruptions
- Objective 4 – Remain financially sustainable by preparing for, pursuing, and ensuring discretionary funding opportunities and partnerships
- Objective 5 – Ensure large capital expenses and land acquisitions, including associated public access and land management costs, are evaluated within the long-term financial model and remain financially sustainable
- Objective 6 – Continue to recruit, develop and retain talented staff to implement the District's mission and strengthen our organizational capacity

# MROSD Legislative Bill Disposition Process

## Board Policy 1.11



### Key of Acronyms:

- GM: General Manager
- DM: Department Manager

- GAS: Governmental Affairs Specialist
- 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 Midpen’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 District’s 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 Midpen’s position to support.
- **Concerns** – A position given to bills that could be a detriment to the District, but 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 Midpen 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 Midpen resources. No position is taken; however, the progress and outcome of the bill is tracked. A position may be considered later.
- **Recommend Watch** – Position recommended by legislative consultant.

**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 staff in public affairs and other impacted department(s). This may include extensive testimony in committee, meetings with the legislature, bill sponsorship, 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 General Manager/Board sends a position letter or signs on to a coalition letter, and staff may discuss the item with the legislature and/or 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 staff resources. Public affairs staff, in collaboration with the impacted department(s), may sign on to a coalition letter with General Manager/Board approval. Committee testimony or discussions with the legislature may be conducted.



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

# Memorandum

DATE: March 12, 2019  
MEMO TO: Legislative, Finance, and Public Affairs Committee Members  
FROM: Ana M. Ruiz, General Manager *AMR*  
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.



**Prepared by:** Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Specialist

Example

2020 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK  
October 18, 2019 (Final)

DEADLINES

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

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

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	<u>27</u>	28
29	30	31				

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

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

- Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 6 Legislature Reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
- Jan. 10 Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- Jan. 17 Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to **fiscal committees** fiscal bills introduced in their house in the **odd-numbered year** (J.R. 61(b)(1)).
- Jan. 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Jan. 24 Last day for any committee to hear and report to the **floor** bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(2)). Last day to **submit bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Jan. 31 Last day for each house to **pass bills introduced** in that house in the odd-numbered year (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c)), (J.R. 61(b)(3)).
- Feb. 17 Presidents’ Day.
- Feb. 21 Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(b)(4)), (J.R. 54(a)).
- Mar. 27 Cesar Chavez Day observed
- Apr. 2 **Spring Recess** begins upon adjournment of this day’s session (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Apr. 13 Legislature reconvenes from **Spring Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Apr. 24 Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to **fiscal committees** fiscal bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(5)).
- May 1 Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the floor **nonfiscal** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(6)).
- May 8 Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61(b)(7)).
- May 15 Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the floor bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(8)). Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61 (b)(9)).
- May 25 Memorial Day
- May 26 - 29 **Floor Session Only.** No committees, other than conference or Rules Committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(b)(10)).
- May 29 Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(b)(11)).

\*Holiday schedule subject to Senate Rules committee approval.

2020 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK  
October 18, 2019 (Final)

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

- [June 1](#) Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(b)(12)).
- [June 15](#) **Budget Bill** must be **passed** by **midnight** (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)(3)).
- [June 25](#) Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the November 3 General Election ballot (Election code Sec. 9040).
- [June 26](#) Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report **fiscal bills** to fiscal committees (J.R. 61(b)(13)).

JULY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	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	29	30	31	

- [July 2](#) Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(14)). **Summer Recess** begins upon adjournment provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(b)(2)).
- [July 3](#) Independence Day observed.

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

- [Aug. 3](#) Legislature reconvenes from **Summer Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(2)).
- [Aug. 14](#) Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(15)).
- [Aug. 17 – 31](#) **Floor Session only**. No committees, other than conference and Rules committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(b)(16)).
- [Aug. 21](#) Last day to **amend bills** on the Floor (J.R. 61(b)(17)).
- [Aug. 31](#) Last day for **each house to pass bills** (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c), (J.R. 61(b)(18)). **Final recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(3)).

\*Holiday schedule subject to Senate Rules committee approval.

IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING FINAL RECESS

- 2020**
- [Sept. 30](#) Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1 and in the Governor’s possession on or after Sept. 1 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(2)).
- [Nov. 3](#) General Election
- [Nov. 30](#) Adjournment *Sine Die* at midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- [Dec. 7](#) 12 m. convening of 2021-22 Regular Session (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- 2021**
- [Jan. 1](#) Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).



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, March 9, 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**

**LFPAC**  
**March 9, 2021**

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

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

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**1. Approve the February 2, 2021 Legislative, Funding, & Public Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes.**

**Motion:** Director Holman moved, and Director Hassett seconded the motion to approve the February 2, 2021 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs committee meeting minutes.

Public comment opened at 2:04 p.m.

Ms. Woodworth reported no public comments had been submitted.

Public comment closed at 2:04 p.m.

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

**2. Legislative Positions for Consideration by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (R-21-35)**

Governmental Affairs Specialist Joshua Hugg provided the staff presentation describing the District's bill-tracking and disposition process. Mr. Hugg 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, potential establishment of a California conservation grazing incentive program, and pursuing climate change-related funding to benefit a wide range of open space priorities.

Committee members requested and received clarification regarding various legislative bills.

Director Holman requested clarification regarding AB1500 and SB45, which address wildfires, drought, and flooding.

Mr. Hugg stated the bills are being considered in the senate and assembly and reflect varying priorities there. Both bills will potentially be considered by both houses depending on how they progress and may eventually be consolidated.

Director Holman expressed concern regarding AB11 relating to regional climate change authorities stating this will continue to need to be watched depending on how it progresses.

Director Holman suggested connecting the various legislative positions to the Board-approved legislative program.

Public comment opened at 2:59 p.m.

Ms. Woodworth reported no public comments had been submitted.

**LFPAC**  
**March 9, 2021**

Public comment closed at 2:59 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Director Cyr adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 3:00 p.m.

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Jennifer Woodworth, MMC  
District Clerk