



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-21-50
Meeting 21-11
April 14, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 6

AGENDA ITEM

Resolution Upholding Long-Standing Values of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and
Condemning Discrimination, Hate, and Bigotry in All Forms

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION *den*

Adopt a Resolution upholding long-standing values of diversity, equity, and inclusion and
condemning discrimination, hate, and bigotry in all forms

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

With the rise of hate speech, racial violence, and disturbing interactions between members of our Bay Area and national community, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and the Board of Directors have an opportunity to express its values of diversity, equity, and inclusion as a public agency that services the entire community and works every single day to ensure that all people are treated with dignity and respect, and experience a sense of belonging and safety as they enjoy and gain inspiration from their public open space lands and as they receive the many social, emotional, and physical benefits that these lands bestow.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with adoption of the proposed resolution.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW

This item was not previously reviewed by the Board or a Committee.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice of this meeting was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) COMPLIANCE

This item is not a project defined under CEQA and no CEQA action is required.

NEXT STEPS

If adopted by the Board of Directors, this resolution will be included as part of the District's larger diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, which include a message from the General Manager in the District's newsletter and posted to the District's website. The website also includes information and resources to support the diverse communities the District serves.

Attachments:

1. Draft Resolution Upholding Long-Standing Values of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Condemning Discrimination, Hate, and Bigotry in All Forms

Responsible Manager/Staff Contact:

Ana Ruiz, General Manager, AICP

RESOLUTION 21 - ____**RESOLUTION OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT UPHOLDING ITS LONG-STANDING VALUES OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AND CONDEMNING DISCRIMINATION, HATE, AND BIGOTRY IN ALL FORMS**

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the Constitution established the United States as a country committed to the principle of tolerance and religious freedom, and the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution established equal protection of the laws as the foundation for justice in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) embodies these values through its partnerships, community outreach and engagement, and interactions with all members of the public and its staff, consistent with the Board of Directors (Board) Policy on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and

WHEREAS, the District strongly believes that all people, regardless of nationality, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, mental or physical ability, language, race, ethnicity, religion, or any other background, deserve respect, dignity, safety, and a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, upholding these principles through our individual and collective actions and words is vital to the progress and prosperity of our whole community; and

WHEREAS, the District wholeheartedly welcomes all people to enjoy, be inspired by, and receive renewed hope from their public open space lands as a resource that is providing critical essential services for the mental, physical, and social well-being of our region; and

WHEREAS, the District continues to promote the public health and safety of all people who visit their public open space lands, and to leverage opportunities to strengthen community connections among our visitors, supporters, volunteers, and staff through shared values and experiences; and

WHEREAS, a number of our community members across the Bay Area and the nation have been exploited and persecuted with verbal attacks, vitriol incitement, and violence, including people who identify as Black, Asian/Asian American, Pacific Islander, Latinx/Hispanic, Indigenous, and People of Color, as well as members of our Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, LGBTQ(+), and immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, the increase in violence and hate crimes has resulted in a rise in fear and instability within our communities, threatening human rights and civility for all; and

WHEREAS, every person has a stake in upholding the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion and fighting every form of discrimination, hatred, and bigotry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is committed to diversity and inclusion and advancing equity and belonging for all

people, treating everyone with fairness, respect, and dignity, and to value the humanity, existence, and contributions of every single person.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on _____, 2021, at a regular meeting thereof, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Larry Hassett, Secretary
Board of Directors

Curt Riffle, President
Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Hilary Stevenson, General Counsel

I, the District Clerk of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District by the above vote at a meeting thereof duly held and called on the above day.

Jennifer Woodworth, District Clerk