



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

## **MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

### **PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

*The Committee conducted this meeting in accordance with California Government Code section 54953(e) and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Resolution 21-33. All Committee members and staff participated via teleconference.*

**Tuesday, March 15, 2022**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Director Riffle called the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee to order at 2:01 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Members present: Yoriko Kishimoto, Curt Riffle, and Pete Siemens

Members absent: None

Staff present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Assistant General Brian Malone, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Jennifer Woodworth, Planning Manager Jane Mark, Senior Planner Tina Hugg, Senior Planner Gretchen Laustsen, Planner II Tyler Smith

Director Riffle announced this meeting is being held in accordance with California Government Code section 54953(e) and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Resolution 21-33 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. Director Riffle described the process and protocols for the meeting.

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Director Siemens moved, and Director Kishimoto seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

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

## **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

District Clerk Jennifer Woodworth reported no comments were submitted.

## **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **1. Approve the March 8, 2022 Planning and Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes.**

**Motion:** Director Siemens moved, and Director Kishimoto seconded the motion to approve the March 8, 2022 Planning and Natural Resources Committee meeting minutes.

Public comment opened at 2:05 p.m.

No public comments were submitted for this item.

Public comment closed at 2:05 p.m.

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

### **2. Preliminary Findings from the Purisima Creek Preserve Multimodal Access Project (R-22-38)**

General Manager Ana Ruiz provided opening comments describing the Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve, including visitation levels, parking challenges, and impact on the community near the preserve.

Senior Planner Tina Hugg provided the staff presentation describing the project timeline and project's objectives and goals, including identifying ways to improve multimodal access, evaluate existing parking resources and access, improve internal visitor circulation, etc.

Joakim Osthmus, with Parisi Transportation Consulting, described the process for the data collection for the multimodal study, which included public engagement and virtual and in-person surveys. A second round of surveys will be completed in May to help determine the success of initial transportation demand management strategies implemented by the District. Mr. Osthmus highlighted the results of the study, such as high demand for parking in the morning, frequent turnover of vehicles, and preferred preserve entrance points for hikers and cyclists. Survey results indicate visitors want more parking for vehicles, real-time parking availability information, improved bike access and/or free or low-cost shuttle access to the preserve.

Director Siemens commented on the District's past success with using shuttles for past District events and stated additional parking areas will need to be identified to support a shuttle system.

Ms. Hugg stated staff has been researching shuttle programs at other locations to understand how to successfully operate a shuttle program, such as wait times, parking areas, distance to travel, etc.

Director Riffle commented on the limited space available for parking and stated visitor shuttles may be the only option for access the preserve in the future, similar to Muir Woods.

Ms. Hugg commented on current parking limitations at the Purisima Creek/Higgins Canyon parking lot due to nearby riparian areas and potential expansion of the parking area along Highway 35.

Director Siemens inquired how large of a lot would be needed to accommodate all visitors.

Ms. Hugg stated during the COVID-19 pandemic approximately 150-200 cars parked along Purisima Creek Road; however, the increased impact on the natural resources of the preserve has not been studied.

Director Siemens stated the carrying capacity of the preserve should be determined, and this can inform the amount of parking needed and whether a shuttle can limit the number of visitors.

Patrick Golier reviewed the transportation demand management (TDM) strategies being considered for the project. The TDM strategies are designed to work together to improve visitor access conditions. TDM strategies seek to improve access through a variety of options, such as new bicycle facilities, visitor demand management (reservation system, paid parking, etc.), visitor education and outreach, parking capacity enhancements, transit options, etc. Mr. Golier described the criteria descriptions and scoring rubric for evaluating the proposed TDM strategies.

Ms. Hugg highlighted the next steps for the project including continued education and outreach and reporting back to the committee later in the year.

Public comment opened at 3:29 p.m.

Sarah Filice expressed concern regarding the negative impact of preserve visitors illegally parking along the road stating they block the road for fire response. Additionally, visitors waiting for a parking spot block the road creating a safety hazard for others.

Ms. Woodworth read the submitted comments into the record.

Mike Vandeman stated additional vehicle infrastructure should not be built because these destroy wildlife habitat.

Rebecca Holland asked the District to build at least three more equestrian parking spaces to allow riders to be able to visit and enjoy the preserve.

Public comment closed at 3:35 p.m.

Director Kishimoto suggested removing the option to charge for parking, stating it is the District's policy not to charge for parking.

Director Riffle suggested leaving this option in to provide to the Board the full range of TDM strategies to consider.

Director Riffle spoke in support of bringing forward projects that can be implemented quickly.

**Motion:** Director Siemens moved, and Director Riffle seconded the motion to confirm the amended scoring criteria and weighting factors that will be used to score and prioritize the transportation demand management strategies. The amended scoring criteria and weighting factors are listed below:

| #  | Proposed Scoring Criteria                           | Proposed Weights |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1  | Peak Hour Parking Demand Reduction                  | 3                |
| 2  | Promotion of Modal Shift                            | 3                |
| 3  | Traffic Safety Impact                               | 3                |
| 4  | Visitor Access Reliability                          | 2                |
| 5  | Implementation Term                                 | <del>1</del> 2   |
| 6  | Ease of <del>Implementation</del> Approval Process  | <del>1</del> 2   |
| 7  | Capital Cost  | <del>2</del> 1   |
| 8  | Operations/ Maintenance Cost                        | <del>3</del> 2   |
| 9  | Protection & Enhancement of Environmental Qualities | 3                |
| 10 | Promotion of Equitable Opportunities for All        | 3                |
| 11 | Districtwide Community Input                        | <del>3</del> 2   |
| 12 | Neighborhood Input                                  | 3                |
| 13 | Stakeholder Input                                   | <del>3</del> 2   |

**Substitute Motion:** Director Kishimoto moved criterion 11 “Districtwide Community Input” remain weighted at as 3.

Motion dies for lack of a second.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE MAIN MOTION: 3-0-0**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Director Riffle adjourned the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee at 4:12 p.m.

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Jennifer Woodworth, MMC  
District Clerk