



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 Government Code section 54953(e) and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Resolution 21-33. Director Siemens participated via teleconference.*

**Tuesday, November 15, 2022**

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Director Holman called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 2:02 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Members present: Larry Hassett, Karen Holman, and Pete Siemens

Members absent: None

Staff present: General Manager Ana M. Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak, Executive Assistant to the General Manager/Acting District Clerk Maria Soria, Acting Deputy District Clerk Loana Lumina-Hsu, Public Affairs Manager Korrine Skinner, Governmental Affairs Specialist Joshua Hugg

Director Holman 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. This information can be found on the meeting agenda, which was physically posted at the District's Administrative Office, and on the District website. Acting Deputy District Clerk Lumina-Hsu described the process and protocols for the meeting.

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

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

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Lumina-Hsu reported there were no public speakers for this item.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**1. Approve the September 13, 2022 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes.**

**Motion:** Director Siemens moved, and Director Hassett seconded the motion to approve the September 13, 2022 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

No public speakers were present for this item.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 2-0-1 (Chair Holman abstained.)**

**2. Draft 2023 Legislative Program (R-22-136)**

Governmental Affairs Specialist Joshua Hugg described the District's legislative program, its purpose, and reviewed the District's proposed legislative priorities for the upcoming 2023-24 legislative session, including seeking additional funding and streamlining the permit process for wildlife corridors; supporting and influencing climate adaptation strategies; promoting effective guidelines and funding for wildfire reduction efforts; supporting efforts to streamline permitting processes for environmental restoration and stewardship projects; encouraging sustainable patterns of development; expanding equitable access for under-resourced communities to green spaces; expanding public access infrastructure; pursuing state funding that benefits open space priorities; making permanent the District's ability to utilize design-build authority on construction projects to help lower costs, reduce implementation time, and hire best qualified contractors; and pursuing an increase of the general manager's purchasing authority in light of increased inflation to maintain effective and timely project implementation and operations.

Director Hassett requested and received information on best value contracting. Director Hassett expressed support for consideration of contractors with a green or climate-friendly footprint.

Director Siemens requested and received information on Design Build contracts.

General Counsel Hilary Stevenson explained best value contracting and the Design Build state law.

Chair Holman requested and received information on advocating for the expansion of 2022 California Assembly Bill No. 2344 *Wildlife connectivity: transportation projects* to include local and regional projects that effect migration paths.

General Manager Ana Ruiz provided information on discussions with CalTrans and discussed the need to first educate the public and legislators on the benefits for expanding similar

requirements to local and regional projects in order to garner the necessary support for such a broader bill.

Chair Holman requested regular updates of the Wildlife Corridor Working Group to the Board and asked about funding for carrying capacity studies.

Mr. Hugg stated that information will be researched and sent to the Committee.

Chair Holman requested additional information on the promotion of trees as a measure to absorb greenhouse gases.

Mr. Hugg stated that the California Air Resources Board is now required to incorporate natural and working lands as part of emissions reduction solutions and carbon capture, and an update will be sent to the Board once the state publishes the information.

Chair Holman requested additional information on funding for education, interpretation, and preservation of cultural resources.

Ms. Ruiz stated staff previously looked into funding and directed Mr. Hugg to gather additional information from staff.

Mr. Hugg continued the staff presentation and described and reviewed the District's regional priorities including: monitor the implementation of Plan Bay Area 2050 and participate in the re-scoping of the Priority Conservation Area Program; participate in regional collation and coordination efforts that focus on land conversation, resource protection, and ecologically sensitive public access; promote funding for bicycle/pedestrian paths, new bike racks, pedestrian safety improvements, and natural surface recreation trails; and support additional funding for public transit options to access public open space and parks. Mr. Hugg continued by describing the District's proposed federal priorities, which are intended to supplement state and regional priorities.

Director Hassett requested information on the streamlining permitting process.

Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan provided an update on the District's progress for the San Mateo County Master Permit application.

Director Siemens commented on the long process of obtaining a Master Permit and expressed appreciation for the development and update on the Master Permit application.

Mr. Hugg provided additional information on the 2022 passage of state-level pilot California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemptions for restoration projects.

Public comment opened at 3:05 p.m.

Acting District Clerk Maria Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 3:05 p.m.

**Motion:** Director Hassett moved, and Director Siemens seconded the motion to approve the motion to forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors for approval of the Legislative Program.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Holman adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 3:06 p.m.

Loana Lumina-Hsu  
Acting Deputy District Clerk

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