



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. Director Siemens participated via teleconference.

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Director Riffle called the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee to order at 1:00 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 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, Planning Manager Jane Mark, Planner II Melissa Borgesi, Senior Planner Tina Hugg

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. 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 Kishimoto 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 October 11, 2022 Planning and Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Director Siemens moved and Director Kishimoto seconded the motion to approve the October 11, 2022 Planning and Natural Resources Committee meeting minutes.

Public comment opened at 1:04 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 1:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

2. La Honda Creek Parking and Trailhead Access Feasibility Study – Existing Conditions/Site Opportunities and Constraints Analysis Report (R-22-141)

Planner II Melissa Borgesi provided the staff presentation describing the project timeline, objectives and goals, including safe public access and a new central parking area for the preserve. Ms. Borgesi shared the recommendations brought forth by the La Honda Public Access Working Group (PAWG) and the technical studies that followed. The current phase of the project will result in conceptual designs for each recommended and viable site for Board consideration.

Senior Associate Megan Dale from RHAA Landscape & Architecture Planning presented information from the traffic study and described the study process, resources used to acquire the data, considerations that informed the analysis, and an explanation of the study terminology. Ms. Dale reviewed the constraints and proposed traffic safety measures identified for each site.

Director Kishimoto received clarification about how the local school parking lot was taken into consideration.

Director Kishimoto inquired and received additional information on bicycle and pedestrian uses.

Ms. Dale stated there is additional information in the report about Caltrans and District improvements that are specific to bicyclists and pedestrians.

Chair Riffle requested clarification about whether the existing parking area was included with the new parking lot data and parking capacity information, and if there are any known challenges at the junction with Highway 84.

Ms. Dale clarified that the projected trip generation calculations included the existing parking lot and its twenty-two available spaces; the completed project would raise that number up to eighty.

Ms. Borgesi replied that she is unaware of any traffic conflicts with the current parking area.

Ms. Dale continued the presentation with the information for Site D, the Bridge at Site D, and Site E3 by providing descriptions of the sites, traffic study information, comparisons between the sites, proposed traffic safety measures, and potential constraints of those safety measures. Updates for the bridge connection to the trail system at Site D will be determined by a future study for both pedestrian and vehicular capacities.

Director Kishimoto requested and received information regarding communication efforts with CalTrans, bicycle collision data, more specific information regarding trees on the sites, and potential CalTrans involvement on the shoulder work at the access entrance.

Ms. Borgesi stated staff will research the tree information requested and will report back to the Directors.

Chair Riffle requested and received clarification of the location for the entrance and exit of site E3 as it relates to the Red Barn, additional details on the median barrier option that would prevent illegal passing, as well as information on use of a warning beacon, and the need for a Bay Area Ridge Trail crossing. Chair Riffle requested and received additional information on site D visibility challenges and warning beacon options.

Director Siemens requested and received information on collision data under site E3, and the definition of improper turning and commented on his appreciation for the innovative exploration of access areas while ensuring that safety remain a priority given the speed of traffic in the area.

Director Kishimoto commented that site D may prove to be very popular and expressed concerns of having vehicle usage potentially surpass capacity levels.

Ms. Hugg responded that site circulation considerations will be evaluated more thoroughly during the conceptual planning process.

Ms. Hugg responded to Director Kishimoto's question regarding the trees and stated that the two types of trees discussed are either heritage trees, which are designated by species, or significant trees, which are thirty-eight inches in diameter at breast height. The data has to be confirmed during conceptual planning and is different at each site, with two heritage trees at site B2, four significant trees within site D and two trees within the adjacent CalTrans right-of-way, two heritage trees and potentially five significant trees at the bridge, and twenty-one significant trees within site E3, which include eucalyptus, non-native Monterey pine, and non-native invasive *Pinus-radiata*.

Ms. Borgesi summarized next steps in the process and concluded the presentation.

Director Kishimoto requested and received information regarding current and future outreach efforts.

Chair Riffle requested and received clarification on the circulation and splitting the entrance and exit driveways at site E3 and requested that safety remain a priority in choosing the design layouts for those access points.

Ms. Hugg confirmed that the in-and-out circulation was part of the Red Barn Feasibility Study and inquired if the Committee was requesting staff to return to the Study for more analysis. Chair Riffle declined stating he now understands that creating a two-way entrance would require a change in grade.

Ms. Hugg stated that a more distinctive clarification will be added to the presentation to explain the change in grade requirement, which affected the choice of options for site E3.

Public comment opened at 2:16 p.m.

Barbara Hooper, Chairperson of PAWG, commented on her appreciation for the level of detail within the study about traffic data and safety, and that the study addressed short-term measures. She expressed concerns about the time of year the traffic study was conducted and requested additional studies be done during the summer when trail usage is higher, and during inclement weather conditions.

Public comment closed at 2:23 p.m.

Director Siemens expressed his support for the General Manager's recommendations and believes staff should proceed with the next steps. Eventually, there may be a need for all three lots given the size of the preserve. The raised median option would be optimal for traffic calming in the area if CalTrans would provide funding and if not, grant funding might be a consideration.

Director Kishimoto appreciated the thorough research and data provided and requested active transportation continue to be factored into the traffic information along with vehicle data, and that trees remain a priority.

Chair Riffle spoke in support of the General Manager's recommendations and thanked staff for the follow-up presentation and the substantial work. Chair Riffle added there is an opportunity to ensure safe passage for the families in the La Honda community to access the preserve and that continued efforts to do so should remain a part of the process. Providing access to preserves has been an effort for the District for the last fifty years, with good success demonstrated along Highway 35.

Planning Manager Jane Mark responded to Chair Riffle's and Director Kishimoto's comments about safety improvements for active transportation by stating that the San Mateo County Office of Sustainability is working on an Active Transportation Plan for the unincorporated areas of the County and one of the areas of focus is Safe Routes to School. Sears Ranch Road is part of Safe Routes to School and there are plans for active transportation improvements from that location to downtown La Honda.

Motion: Director Siemens moved, and Director Kishimoto seconded the motion to remove site B3 and advance the remaining recommended sites forward to the next phase of work.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Riffle adjourned the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee at 2:34 p.m.

Loana Lumina-Hsu
Acting Deputy District Clerk