



R-23-75
Meeting 23-17
June 28, 2023

AGENDA ITEM 7

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Hawthorns Area Plan — Public Access Working Group Appointments

GENERAL MANAGER’S RECOMMENDATION *deux*

Appoint members to serve on the Hawthorns Area Public Access Working Group as listed in the staff report.

DISCUSSION

On April 26, 2023, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board of Directors (Board) approved the formation and composition of the Hawthorns Area Public Access Working Group (PAWG, Working Group) (R-23-44). The District has completed the Board-approved process for the recruitment and selection of the 15 seats on the Working Group. The final step in the formation of the Working Group is for the Board to formally appoint the following people:

Composition	Appointees
District Ward Stakeholders (7)	Ward 1 (Gleason): Scott Mosher Ward 2 (Kishimoto): Vivian Neou Ward 3 (Cyr): Wilma (Willie) Wool Ward 4 (Riffle): Sandy Sommer Ward 5 (Holman): Jeff Greenfield Ward 6 (MacNiven): Helen Quinn Ward 7 (Kersteen-Tucker): Kerry De Benedetti
Interest Area Representatives (6)	1: Bryna Chang 2: Tyler Feld 3: David Smernoff 4: Charles Krenz 5: Rachel Oslund 6: Karen Vahtra
Board Liaison (1)	Director Margaret MacNiven, Ward 6
Town Liaison (1)	Sarah Wernikoff (Vice Mayor)

The Public Access Working Group will work directly with District staff on developing conceptual alternatives for introducing public access at the Hawthorns Area in a manner consistent with the Board-adopted vision and goals. The Working Group will evaluate public access components, including trailhead(s), parking area(s), driveway(s), and trail alignment(s). The Working Group’s duration is anticipated to last 12 to 18 months, coinciding with the Board’s acceptance of a Preferred Alternative to incorporate into the next phase of work.

The next phase of work will focus on developing the final Hawthorns Area Plan, which will be a Comprehensive Use and Management Plan to guide natural and cultural resource management activities, land management activities, and the implementation of ecologically sensitive public access improvements on the property. All Public Access Working Group meetings will be open to the public and will be publicly noticed.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff time and facilitation services will be needed to support the ongoing coordination, public noticing, and meetings with the Working Group. For Fiscal Year 2023-24 (FY24), all project funds are budgeted under the Measure AA Capital Fund. A budget adjustment will be made during FY24 to shift some of these funds to the General Fund and a Vision Plan number given that incorporates the PAWG facilitation work, as these expenses are not eligible for Measure AA reimbursement.

PRIOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW

- **May 18, 2021:** PNR received an informational presentation on the proposed planning and public engagement process for the Area Plan and provided input and guidance. ([R-21-65, meeting minutes](#))
- **August 24, 2021:** PNR reviewed the proposed draft vision and goals and provided input and guidance. ([R-21-112, meeting minutes](#))
- **November 16, 2021:** PNR reviewed the revised vision and goals and draft Public Access Working Group strategy and provided further refinements. PNR unanimously recommended forwarding the refined vision and goal statements to the full Board for consideration. ([R-21-156, meeting minutes](#))
- **March 1, 2022:** PNR reviewed the proposed planning and public engagement process to develop the Hawthorns Area Plan. ([R-22-29, meeting minutes](#))
- **March 23, 2022:** Board reviewed and approved the vision and goals. ([R-22-45, meeting minutes](#))
- **July 13, 2022:** Board approved the award of contract with Parisi Transportation Consulting to provide transportation planning services for the Hawthorns Area Plan ([R-22-81, meeting minutes](#))
- **March 21, 2023:** PNR reviewed the Existing Conditions/Opportunities and Constraints Report, Existing Transportation Conditions Technical Memo, Public Access Framework, and the Public Access Working Group composition and formation strategy. ([R-23-35, meeting minutes](#))
- **April 26, 2023:** Board reviewed and approved the Existing Conditions/Opportunities and Constraints Report, Existing Transportation Conditions Technical Memo, Public Access Framework, and the Public Access Working Group composition as well as recruitment and formation strategy. ([R-23-44](#))

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. Notice was also provided members being appointed to serve on the Hawthorns Area Public Access Working Group.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Environmental review for the Hawthorns Area Plan is anticipated to occur in a future fiscal year, pending Board selection of a Preferred Alternative as the CEQA Project Description.

NEXT STEPS

Following appointment of the Working Group members, staff would confirm the date for the first project kick-off meeting with the Working Group. The kick-off meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 28, 2023, but may change based on Working Group member availability. At the first meeting, the Working Group will review and confirm the overall schedule and program and receive an orientation to the project.

Responsible Department Head:
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