



R-26-63
Meeting 26-14
May 13, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 4

AGENDA ITEM

Legislative Position Recommendations

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION *deux*

Approve the recommended list of legislative positions for the 2026 state legislative session.

COMMITTEE

- Action Plan & Budget
- Legislative, Funding & Public Affairs
- Planning & Natural Resources
- Real Property
- Ad-Hoc Committee

MEMBERS

- Ward 1 – Craig Gleason
- Ward 2 – Yoriko Kishimoto
- Ward 3 – Jed Cyr
- Ward 4 – Curt Riffle
- Ward 5 – Karen Holman
- Ward 6 – Margaret MacNiven
- Ward 7 – Zoe Kersteen-Tucker

COMMITTEE ACTION

Date: April 21, 2026

Action: Review and provide feedback

Item: Legislative Positions

COMMENTS

On April 21, 2026, the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC, Committee) reviewed and provided feedback on the proposed list of state legislation and bills for priority action that are of high interest to the District (Attachment A).

Of the five bills reviewed – 2 Priority 1 and 3 Priority 2 bills – one Priority 2 bill, AB 2513 (Petrie-Norris): Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program: local assistance grant program: regional landscape grants, was elevated from Priority 2 to Priority 1 by unanimous agreement. The bill's expansion of eligible habitats for grant funding was deemed important for the District. This update is reflected in Attachment C.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. April 21, 2026 LFPAC Report (R-26-48)
- B. April 21, 2026 Draft LFPAC Committee Minutes
- C. Legislative Tracking Matrix - amended

Prepared by / Contact person:

Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Program Manager, Public Affairs Department



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

R-26-48
April 21, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 5

AGENDA ITEM

Legislative Positions for Consideration by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Receive the Legislative Positions Report and provide feedback on bill selections for priority action.

SUMMARY

Each year, the state legislature introduces thousands of new bills for consideration. Legislative consultants and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) staff continually review bills and identify specific legislation (Attachment 1) that merits action. At its March 11, 2026 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) established formal positions on an initial set of legislation. Since then, several bills, originally designated “spot bills” due to their non-substantive, placeholder introductory language, have been amended into a more substantive proposal. District staff have reviewed these bills and identified a subset to consider for an actionable position.

Important Note: Most bills will change over the course of the legislative session. The legislative process is fluid and often moves fast. Based upon the guiding documents of Board Policy 1.11 (Attachment 2) and the Board-adopted Legislative Program (Attachment 3), the General Manager and staff will pursue an appropriate position for each bill to ensure that District interests are promoted and protected.

The Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC, Committee) will review and provide feedback on the list of recently identified state legislation and bills for priority action that are of high interest to the District (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION

The 2026 Legislative Program, which the Board approved on January 14, 2026, guides District priorities on legislative proposals affecting the agency, its mission, and annual strategic goals. Throughout the session, staff fields time-sensitive requests from partners and monitors evolving pieces of legislation based on Board Policy 1.11 and the approved Legislative Program, using the bill disposition process described in Attachment 4 to assess and determine appropriate actions. Legislation deemed a priority by the Board pursuant to Board Policy 1.11 are tracked and, when appropriate, either supported or opposed (Attachment 5-Definitions). The General Manager

keeps the Board notified of actions taken via separate memo (Attachment 6-Example Memo). Please refer to the Recommended Legislative Positions (Attachment 1) for an overview of the initial list of bills identified for District priority action in the 2025-26 legislative session.

February 20, 2026 was the submittal deadline for new bills by state assemblymembers and senators (see Attachment 7- Legislative Calendar). District legislative consultants Public Policy Advocates (PPA) and Environmental and Energy Consulting (EEC) reviewed every bill submitted (1789 for the 2026 session) to determine whether it had the potential to affect District interests, recommending an initial position and priority.

Based on the list of identified legislation, department managers and senior staff assisted with a review of all the new potential bills of interest and provided their recommended position and priority for each. At this time, approximately 185 bills are currently tracked, though only bills that may initiate action by the District at this time, i.e., those recommended as priority 1 or 2, are presented. Of the list of bills included in Attachment 1, 2 bills are recommended as priority 1 and 3 bills as priority 2; two of which are federal legislation. As the legislative session progresses, each bill may change (sometimes substantially), which would warrant further consideration concurrent with Board Policy 1.11.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this briefing.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

On March 11, 2026, the full Board took action to establish a position on an initial set of legislation ([R-26-28](#), [minutes](#))

On January 14, 2026, the full Board adopted the 2026 Legislative Program ([R-26-03](#), [minutes](#)), accepting recommendations from LFPAC.

On November 4, 2025, LFPAC reviewed and provided input on the draft 2026 Legislative Program and took action to forward the item to the full Board of Directors for approval ([R-25-136](#), draft minutes - Attachment 7). Director Holman provided additions to the motion to include clarifying language on the landscape of statewide significance and regarding the “SB 131 CEQA exemption fix,” as well as the General Manager’s suggestion of including the CEQA streamlining and statutory exemptions language to the program that was presented to the full Board.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

NEXT STEPS

These recommended legislative positions, with LFPAC feedback incorporated, will be forwarded to the full Board at its May 15, 2026 regular meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Legislative Position Recommendations
- Attachment 2 – Board Policy 1.11 - Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy
- Attachment 3 – District Legislative Program – 2026 – Adopted
- Attachment 4 – District Bill Disposition Process
- Attachment 5 – District Legislation Position and Priorities Definitions
- Attachment 6 – Example of GM Legislative Memo to the Board
- Attachment 7 – State Legislative Calendar – 2026

Responsible Department Head:
Lori Low, Public Affairs Manager

Prepared by/contact person:
Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Program Manager

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Legislative Positions Recommendations						
Measure	Issue Area	Author	Topic	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
AB 2184	Funding	Wilson, D	Cap-and-Invest Program: nature-based climate solutions: funding.	The bill seeks to establish consistent, long-term funding for nature-based climate solutions by allocating \$400 million annually from the "Cap-and-Invest" program. These funds will support initiatives such as tree planting and wetland restoration to increase carbon sequestration while reducing wildfire and flood risks. This investment aims to strengthen California's efforts to reach a net-zero carbon footprint by 2045.	Recommend Support	1
AB 2254	Stewardship	Addis, D	Coastal resources: local coastal program: monarch butterfly habitat.	(Addis) mandates that local governments in California's coastal zone incorporate specific monarch butterfly overwintering habitat protection policies into their Local Coastal Programs (LCPs). The bill aims to standardize the conservation of critical overwintering sites that were previously designated as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) by the Coastal Commission but often lacked formal inclusion in local plans.	Recommend Support	2
AB 2513	Wildfire	Petrie-Norris, D	Wildfire: Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program: local assistance grant program: regional landscape grants.	The bill expands California's wildfire prevention efforts by offering new grants for large-scale landscape projects. It renames the "Forest Health Program" to the "Ecosystem Health Program," broadening its focus to protect grasslands and shrublands alongside forests. The bill allows agencies like Midpen to receive funding for clearing flammable vegetation near roads and preventing human-caused ignitions. These changes help local communities coordinate across property lines to create a more fire-resilient environment through 2027.	Recommend Support	2
SB 1135	Stewardship	Blakespear, D	California Wildlife Coexistence Act.	The California Wildlife Coexistence Act (SB 1135) modernizes how our state handles interactions between people and predators like wolves or mountain lions. Instead of relying on lethal removal, the bill prioritizes non-lethal strategies, such as using specialized fencing and guardian animals to protect livestock. It establishes a state-funded program to provide grants and technical help to local agencies like Midpen. Additionally, a new public tracking tool will be created to monitor wildlife incidents transparently. By combining modern science with indigenous knowledge, California aims to protect its iconic biodiversity while supporting the safety of rural communities and farmers.	Recommend Support	1

Measure	Issue Area	Author	Topic	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
SB 1268	Public Access	Gonzalez, D	Outdoor public recreation spaces: equitable access.	<p>The Outdoors for All initiative, focuses on making California's parks and nature spaces fair and accessible for everyone.</p> <p>Main Goal: It aims to ensure that your background, income, or where you live doesn't stop you from enjoying the outdoors.</p> <p>Fixing Inequalities: The bill specifically funds projects in lower-income neighborhoods and communities of color that haven't had enough parks in the past.</p> <p>Climate Connection: It connects outdoor access with the state's "30x30" goal, which is a plan to protect 30% of California's land and water by the year 2030.</p> <p>Removing Barriers: It requires state agencies to find and remove obstacles—like high costs or lack of transportation—that keep people away from nature.</p>	Recommend Support	2

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Board Policy Manual

Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy	Policy 1.11 Chapter 1 – Administration and Government
Effective Date: 4/13/16	Revised Date: N/A
Prior Versions: N/A	

Purpose

To establish a policy governing positions on local and state ballot measures/propositions and state and federal legislative advocacy. It is intended to cover all matters before the Legislature and the voters.

Definitions

For the purposes of the *Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy* policy, the following terms and definitions shall be used:

Measure – may be included on a municipal, county, or district ballot and includes ordinances, initiatives, referenda, advisory measures, issuance or refunding of bonds, city or county charter amendments, or any other measure or proposition a legislative body may submit to the voters within the body’s jurisdiction.

Ballot Proposition – can be a referendum or an initiative measure that is submitted to the electorate for a direct decision or direct vote. Propositions may be placed on the ballot by the California State Legislature or by a qualifying petition signed by registered voters.

Initiative – power of the electors to propose legislation, and to adopt or reject them. Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the legislative body by means of a petition.

Referendum – applies to the process for repealing newly enacted legislation. Within specified time limits, the electors may file a petition protesting the adoption of that legislation.

Local Legislation – typically ordinances, which are the laws of a city, charter, or district, often having the force of law, but only within the local jurisdiction.

State or Federal Legislation – bills or proposed legislation under consideration by the legislature at the state or federal level.

Policy

1. Positions on Matters Before the Voters
 - a. From time to time the Board of Directors may be asked or may desire to take a position on local or state measures. The Board may consider taking a position on the measure/proposition if the measure/proposition:
 - i. Would directly impact the District's finances, responsibilities, legal authority, or operations; AND
 - ii. Is in line with or inconsistent with the District's mission and/or commitment to preserve open space within its boundaries and sphere of influence.The Board, by majority vote, may direct the General Manager to research the measure/proposition and return to the Board at a future meeting with information and a General Manager recommendation. At that time, the Board may vote to take a position on a measure/proposition.
 - b. Measures/propositions determined to not impact District business may nonetheless be analyzed by the General Manager when directed by a majority vote of the Board, of which the analysis report would include possible alternatives for Board action, but no position recommendation.
2. Local, State, and Federal Legislative Advocacy
 - a. The Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) receives periodic updates regarding the District's legislative program. When LFPAC determines that proposed legislation may affect District business, it may direct the General Manager to prepare a recommendation for consideration by the full Board or where there is not adequate time to convene the full Board, may direct the General Manager to take action to support or oppose the legislation without full Board approval. In such cases, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose legislation at or before the next Board meeting.
 - b. When time is so short that neither the full Board nor LFPAC can be convened to consider positions to support or oppose local, state or federal legislation, the General Manager is authorized to take a position on behalf of the District if the legislation:
 - i. Is related to the District's mission; AND
 - ii. Would directly impact the District's business, such as project delivery, operations, finances, legal authority, or other District responsibilities; AND
 - iii. The position being taken is consistent/inconsistent with existing District policy, past action, or District Strategic Plan; OR
 - iv. The legislation carries other considerations that make it contrary to the District's interests.In such instances, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose the legislation at or before the next Board meeting.
 - c. Full Board action is required regarding legislation that is not clearly within the criteria listed above under Section 2.b. or guided by direction previously given by LFPAC.

3. Full Board action is required to support or oppose any type of grassroots advocacy action, such as social, political, or economic movements, that are not legislation.
4. Board members representing the District in their official capacity on regional or other bodies may, at his or her discretion, take actions based on the principles above consistent with previously approved Board positions and policies.
5. This policy is not intended to limit the prerogative of individual Board members from expressing their individual support for or opposition to any local ballot measure, State proposition, State or Federal legislation, or grassroots advocacy actions. However, in doing so, the member should clearly state they are speaking for themselves, and not in an official capacity on behalf of the Board or the District. Individual Board Members who take a position in support or opposition to ballot measure or legislation for which the Board has not previously taken a position are encouraged as a professional courtesy to include the language *for identification purposes only* parenthetically following their signature referencing their position on the Board.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Legislative Program 2026

Adopted: January 14, 2026



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Introduction

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (District) Mission:

To acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

As part of the Coastside Protection Area Service Plan, a Coastside mission was adopted in 2004:

To acquire and preserve in perpetuity open space land and agricultural land of regional significance, protect and restore the natural environment, preserve rural character, encourage viable agricultural use of land resources, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

To further these missions, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) annually reviews opportunities and challenges and establishes legislative priorities and policy statements to guide its advocacy activities at the regional, state and federal levels.

Advocacy of the District's Interests

While this document attempts to cover a wide variety of legislative issues that may impact the District, it is not comprehensive, complete or final. Throughout the state and federal legislative sessions, the District will review and act on various proposed policies and state or federal budget items. In instances where time is so short that neither the full Board, nor LFPAC, can be convened to consider a particular legislative position, the General Manager will take action and report back to the Board through Board Policy 1.11 utilizing appropriate due diligence and consideration of public sensitivity, which may include consultation with the Board President.

Per Section 2.0 of Board Policy 1.11, legislative advocacy is considered in the following manner:

Section 2.0: Local, State, and Federal Legislative Advocacy

- a. The Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) receives periodic updates throughout the year regarding the District's legislative program. When LFPAC determines that proposed legislation may affect District business, it may direct the General Manager to prepare a recommendation for consideration by the full Board or may direct the General Manager to take action to support or oppose the legislation without full Board approval when there is not adequate time to convene the full Board. In such cases, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose legislation at or before the next Board meeting.
- b. When time is so short that neither the full Board nor LFPAC can be convened to consider positions to support or oppose local, state or federal legislation, the General Manager is authorized to take a position on behalf of the District if the legislation:
 - i. Is related to the District's mission; AND

- ii. Would directly impact the District's business, such as project delivery, operations, finances, legal authority, or other District responsibilities; AND
- iii. The position being taken is consistent/inconsistent with existing District policy, past action, or the District's annual Strategic Plan
https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/Attachment_2_FY24_Strategic_Plan_Goals_and_Objectives.pdf; OR
- iv. The legislation carries other considerations that make it contrary to the District's interests.

In such instances, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose the legislation at or before the next Board meeting.

- c. Full Board action is required regarding legislation that is not clearly within the criteria listed above under Section 2.b. or guided by direction previously given by LFPAC.

All legislation on which the District takes a position will be closely tracked by the General Manager's Office (GMO) and reported to the Board of Directors. Public Affairs staff will be responsible for reporting similar information to key departments. Contracted state and federal legislative consultants will represent District interests based upon the policies contained in this Legislative Program. In addition to District position letters, Board members and District staff may be asked to testify before or meet with relevant legislators or members of the executive branch to discuss issues requiring heightened advocacy. If this is the case, District staff must first notify and/or confirm approval from the GMO to ensure that positions taken are consistent with the Board-approved Legislative Program.

State Legislative Priorities

The following are the legislative priorities for the District during the 2026 State Legislative Session. Annual priority-setting considers a combination of issues that relate directly to important District-led projects or initiatives, opportunities to support or oppose state legislative initiatives sponsored by others that affect the District's mission, and any issues that are identified by the Board as particularly significant. Funding measures are the most common of these priorities and are generally tied to the creation of new funding sources or the processes that prescribe the allocation of existing funding sources. The 2026 legislative priorities are listed and grouped below, consistent with the Board's annual Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives (See Appendix A) to provide a clear connection to agency priorities:

Goal 1: Promote, establish, and implement a regional environmental protection vision with partners

- **Santa Cruz Mountains Landscape of Statewide Significance:** Work with District partners and members of the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network to define, promote and permanently recognize the Santa Cruz Mountains as a "landscape of statewide significance" based on its biodiversity and importance in contributing to regional climate resilience. This recognition would highlight the region's significance for future statewide and federal funding to restore habitats and protect sensitive species and expand the number and assortment of partnership opportunities for this work.
- **Environmentally Sensitive Vegetation Management (ESVM):** Promote implementation of statutorily defined ESVM standards under SB 653 (Cortese, 2025) into new and existing vegetation management funding sources to better maintain ecological health and strengthen biodiversity while mitigating wildfire risk.

Goal 2: Protect the positive environmental values of open space and agricultural lands

- **CEQA Streamlining and Statutory Exemptions:** Work with District partners and Proposition 4 (2024) funders to find ways to maximize the CEQA streamlining opportunities for public park agencies afforded by the passage of budget trailer bill [SB 131 \(Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, 2025\)](#) to expedite the completion of beneficial land management actions, as well as restore statutory protections for natural and working lands that existed prior to the passage of this bill
- **Self-Permitting for Local Permits:** Support efforts by the District and its partners enabled under PRC 5500 to streamline and/or establish exemptions for local permitting processes to expedite the completion of District projects, including Measure-AA funded projects.

- **Sustainable Patterns of Development:** Encourage state agencies that regulate community growth plans to focus new development in ways that prevent an increase in wildland fire hazards, protect landscape-scale ecosystems and their ability to adapt to climate change. Promote policies that encourage patterns of growth that do not further encroach into wildland and wildfire hazard areas.

Goal 3: Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision

- **Equitable Public Access:** Enhance funding resources that support expanding access to open space and nature opportunities and a sense of belonging and inclusion for under-resourced communities and individuals with disabilities.
- **Multimodal and Public Access Infrastructure:** Prioritize multi-benefit active transportation modes that safely connect people with parks, open space and trails and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Expand funding and resources for strategies that address parking and traffic congestion issues, manage visitation, increase greener modes of transportation, improve accessibility for users with limited mobility and provide new transit connections to communities, including expanding transit-to-trails programs, shuttle and ride hail programs.

Goal 4: Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission

- **General Manager Purchasing Authority:** Seek to increase the GM's signature authority to reflect the increased cost of goods and services since its last increase with the passage of AB 495 (Gordon, 2015).

Legislative Policy Positions

The ability of the District to deliver its mission and remain a sustainable organization can be impacted by legislation proposed at the local, state or federal level. To this end, proactive policy positions taken by the District on a variety of relevant issue areas help to ensure consistency in advocacy. District policy positions are grouped by Board-approved strategic plan goals. The District supports policy that:

Goal 1: Promote, establish, and implement a regional environmental protection vision with partners:

1. Promotes and enhances the ability to acquire open space and agricultural lands consistent with District policies and goals, as well as supports land protection and biodiversity goals set forth by Executive Order N-82-20, 2020. This order elevates the role of natural and working lands and the advancement of biodiversity conservation in

the fight against climate change as an administration priority. It also commits California to the goal of conserving 30 percent of statewide lands and coastal waters by 2030.

2. Protects public open space and associated property rights, interests and easements.
3. Enhances or funds regional collaboration and coordination of conservation efforts.
4. Promotes urban infill and urban growth boundaries to prevent sprawl and the further encroachment of development in the wildland-urban interface, riparian areas, working lands and open space buffer areas.
5. Ensures that the zoning of permanently protected lands supports activities that further the District's mission (preservation, natural resource protection, public access and education, agriculture).
6. Expands and restores protected open space lands to enhance biodiversity, climate change resilience, and scenic, rural character.
7. Promotes the use of green infrastructure and natural solutions in promoting climate resiliency and combating the effects of climate change.

Goal 2: Protect the positive environmental values of open space and agricultural lands:

1. Ensures reasonable setback requirements that allow minimum defensible space clearances on private property to prevent catastrophic fires that damage habitats and pose a high public safety hazard.
2. Furthers implementation of state greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, such as Senate Bill 32 (Pavley, 2016), the Global Warming Solutions Act that establishes a GHG emissions target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, and Assembly Bill 1279 (2022), that establishes a target to reach statewide net carbon neutrality no later than 2045. Maintains an emphasis on emissions reduction and nature-based sequestration over capture and storage technologies.
3. Furthers the implementation of Assembly Bill 1757 (Garcia, 2022), which recognizes the importance of natural and working lands for the purpose of carbon sequestration and storage and requires the California Natural Resources Agency to establish a range of targets for natural carbon sequestration for 2030, 2038, and 2045.
4. Supports effective and comprehensive measures that respond to sea level rise and other effects of climate change and enhance ecological and community-wide climate resilience.
5. Encourages and enhances/streamlines the integration of safe pedestrian and wildlife crossings into transportation infrastructure planning and construction projects; promotes the protection, installation, and maintenance of such infrastructure.

6. Promotes advance mitigation programs to enhance wildlife corridor networks.
7. Connects habitats that support a diverse array of native plants and animals.
8. Encourages the control of invasive plant populations..
9. Eliminates the use of first- and second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides.
10. Supports increased knowledge, management and ultimately the eradication of Sudden Oak Death disease.
11. Provides permit exemptions and streamlining for natural resources protection and restoration projects and minor trail reroutes and small trail improvements that avoid sensitive resource areas, resolve erosion and sedimentation issues and improve the health of the watershed.
12. Supports maintaining state and federal lists of endangered species justified through conclusive biological evidence.
13. Helps efforts to protect, conserve, restore and enhance the natural resources of the District, its coast, and connecting waters for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations.
14. Engages Native American communities in cultural and land management practices to restore and protect natural and cultural resources and enhance landscape resilience; supports existing and future Native American-led conservation and climate resilience initiatives.
15. Protects and restores watersheds, water quality, natural water courses, wetlands and hydrologic processes consistent with the District's Resource Management Policies.
16. Promotes expedited removal of select trees and brush by public agencies for fire protection, public safety and enhanced climate resilience, while protecting rare and endangered species and avoiding the spread of invasive species.
17. Removes barriers to carrying out prescribed fires and cultural burns as a natural component of a healthy ecosystem, such as prohibitive liability standards.
18. Supports working farms and ranches on public open space land, including farm labor housing and other critical agricultural infrastructure, that aid in furthering conservation and climate resilience goals.
19. Incentivizes agricultural operations to invest in energy-efficient and water-efficient irrigation technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and water use.
20. Provides economic support for agricultural infrastructure maintenance and improvements.

21. Protects natural lands from the destruction caused by illegal marijuana grows, prohibits marijuana cultivation on public lands, and restores damaged habitats.
22. Supports efforts to create and make available more complete sets of data for managing natural and working lands.
23. Promotes access to and use of peer-reviewed data and modeling of climate change impacts to California's natural and working landscapes for prioritizing landscape resilience work.

Goal 3: Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision

1. Expands awareness and access to open space programs and activities for under-resourced communities, non-English speaking residents, and people with disabilities about the natural resources and benefits of open space and increases public appreciation for the environment; supports measures for addressing language, physical and transportation barriers.
2. Promotes volunteer involvement and engagement of diverse communities in ongoing conservation, restoration, enhancement and interpretation of the District's natural and cultural resources.
3. Engages children and parents in the enjoyment and appreciation of outdoor open spaces to inspire the next generation of conservation champions.
4. Funds and enables programs that hire youth to work in parks and open space and encourages them to consider careers in conservation.
5. Keeps preserves safe, clean, accessible and inviting for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.
6. Protects cultural resources located on natural open space and working lands.
7. Helps fund and streamline emergency repairs to District infrastructure, including trails and public access amenities.
8. Supports federal, state and regional programs that provide local mobility/multi-modal transportation alternatives for all residents.
9. Facilitates linkages between preserve trails and regional trails and ultimately to the places where people live and work.
10. Improves local transportation and promotes cleaner transportation options to enable better connectivity between communities and open space preserves.

11. Limits public use of drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) consistent with Board policies, ordinances or District permitting to preserve the tranquility of outdoor experiences, prevent disruptions and impacts to the natural resources and minimize wildfire risk.
12. Supports advances in broadband and telecommunications technology that provide cell phone reception and internet access in open space.
13. Supports electric vehicle charging infrastructure that facilitates the Governor's Executive Order N-79-20, which directs agencies to require that, by 2035, all new cars and passenger trucks sold in California be zero-emission vehicles. In addition, support the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) effort to convert all government fleets to 100% zero-emission by 2035.
14. Supports policies that facilitate meaningful engagement of tribal communities in stewardship actions and opportunities for incorporating cultural land practices.

Goal 4: Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission

1. Preserves existing tax revenues and tax authority.
2. Lowers the voter threshold for locally imposed special taxes from two-thirds to 55%.
3. Preserves tax-exempt status for municipal bonds on a state and federal level.
4. Expands state and federal incentives that promote the issuance of green bonds.
5. Preserves and promotes managerial discretion in effective and productive recruiting, hiring, onboarding, professional development, firing and day-to-day oversight of staff at all levels.
6. Preserves and promotes open, transparent, accountable government administrative practices that enable efficient and timely delivery of public services, facilitate public involvement, and support effective and timely decision-making.
7. Maintains prevailing wage and workers compensation exemptions for volunteers.
8. Preserves and promotes streamlined, cost-effective, fair, and efficient contracting practices that give taxpayers the best value for their dollar and attracts greater contractor and vendor competition, particularly among local providers.
9. Enables contracting methods that aid greenhouse gas emission reductions and support the implementation of the Board-adopted Climate Action Plan.
10. Provides funding and funding flexibility, like block grants, to achieve mission-related goals, including, but not limited to:
 - a. District operations and infrastructure.

- b. Integrated Pest Management and ecologically sensitive vegetation management, including approaches like conservation grazing.
 - c. Wildfire prevention and fuel reduction and prescribed fire implementation.
 - d. Research and action on climate change impacts, carbon sequestration and carbon storage on natural and working lands.
 - e. Programs that hire youth to work in parks and open space and encourages them to consider careers in conservation.
 - f. Environmental education partnerships and public outreach efforts at local, regional and state levels.
 - g. Improvements that meet the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and other accessibility standards in District preserves.
 - h. Protection of prime and sustainable agricultural lands, including investments in agricultural-support infrastructure.
 - i. Technical support for agriculture and natural resources enhancements.
 - j. Wildlife corridors and crossing infrastructure.
 - k. Low-intensity, ecologically sensitive public access opportunities.
 - l. Public interpretation of natural, cultural and historic resources.
 - m. Public outreach and engagement planning of equitable public access opportunities for diverse communities.
11. Promotes closer collaboration and coordination between regulatory agencies to enhance permit processing efficiencies and reduce overall project costs.
12. Improves and streamlines permitting, CEQA and NEPA review and compliance processes for emergency repairs, routine maintenance, habitat restoration, and public access projects.
13. Builds organizational capacities of regulatory/resource agencies from whom the District needs permitting approvals for our projects
14. Provides open space districts the authority to utilize a variety of contracting methods to construct projects.
15. Promotes implementation of and education about sustainable design and construction, including, but not limited to LEED buildings, stormwater treatment and runoff reduction, local (within 50-mile radius of a project) contractor/consultant hiring, construction material reuse/recycling, and use of green/energy efficient materials and equipment.

2026 Regional Priorities

Though there is a growing recognition of the importance of regional planning and coordination, local land use authority dominates California planning processes in both the built and natural environments.

In 2026, the District will focus on the following regional topics:

Plan Bay Area 2050+

Monitor to ensure that the implementation of Plan Bay Area 2050's environmental strategy, *Expand Access to Parks and Open Space*, continues to pursue urban growth boundaries, protect and manage high-value conservation and agricultural lands, and expand parks, trails and recreation facilities. In addition, monitor developments regarding subsequent revisions of Plan Bay Area ([Plan Bay Area 2050+](#)) to ensure the District's interests are maintained.

Planning Guidelines Update

Monitor and participate in the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation's (formerly Office of Planning & Research) comprehensive update process of the state's General Plan, Specific Plan, and Tribal Guidelines (collectively known as LCI's Planning Guidelines) to advance the mission of the District and current tribal relations efforts.

Regional Funding

Monitor and engage with regional bodies pursuing funding sources that benefit the District's mission.

2026 Federal Policy and Funding Priorities

Significant uncertainty exists at the federal level across both the federal legislature and administration. Reductions in conservation funding and deregulation of environmental protections increase the focus on state level relationships, funding and policy for the foreseeable future. Participation in federal focus areas are considered on a case-by-case basis and subject to staff capacity.

Appendix A: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Strategic Plan for FY2025-26

Online at: <https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/Strategic-Plan-FY26.pdf>

Goal 1 – Promote, establish, and implement a regional environmental protection vision with partners

- **Objective 1** – Continue implementation of the District’s Vision Plan and communicate progress on projects through reporting results and building partner relationships
- **Objective 2** – Build and strengthen diverse partnerships to implement a collaborative and science-based approach to regional environmental protection
- **Objective 3** – Take a leadership role in advocating for environmental protection goals by building and strengthening relationships with legislators and other elected officials
- **Objective 4** – Preserve and connect open space and agricultural lands of local and regional significance

Goal 2 – Protect the positive environmental and biodiversity values of open space and agricultural lands

- **Objective 1** – Take a regional leadership role in promoting the benefits of open space
- **Objective 2** – Protect and restore the natural environment and implement wildlife corridors to preserve healthy natural systems and biodiversity
- **Objective 3** – Lead by example to reduce the impacts of climate change: implement the Climate Action Plan to reduce operational emissions, expand regional landscape resiliency through partnerships, protect the capacity for long-term carbon storage of open space lands, and climate change adaptation strategies to protect viable populations of local native species
- **Objective 4** – Work with fire agencies and surrounding communities to strengthen the prevention of, preparation for and response to wildland fires for enhanced ecosystem resiliency and public safety
- **Objective 5** – Support the viability of sustainable agriculture and protect the character of rural communities

Goal 3 – Connect people to open space and agricultural lands, and a regional environmental protection vision

- **Objective 1** – Engage the public in realizing the benefits and responsibilities of a regional environmental protection vision to further the District’s achievements in protecting open space and agricultural lands
- **Objective 2** – Implement diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) strategies to build and strengthen partnerships, increase broad and inclusive public outreach and engagement, engage tribal groups in the District’s work, and instill DEI values across all levels of the organization

- **Objective 3** – Expand opportunities, including multimodal options, to equitably connect people to their public open space preserves and enhance the visitor experience in balance with the protection of natural resources
- **Objective 4** – Develop strategies to reflect the diverse communities we serve in the District’s visitors, staff, volunteers, and partners.

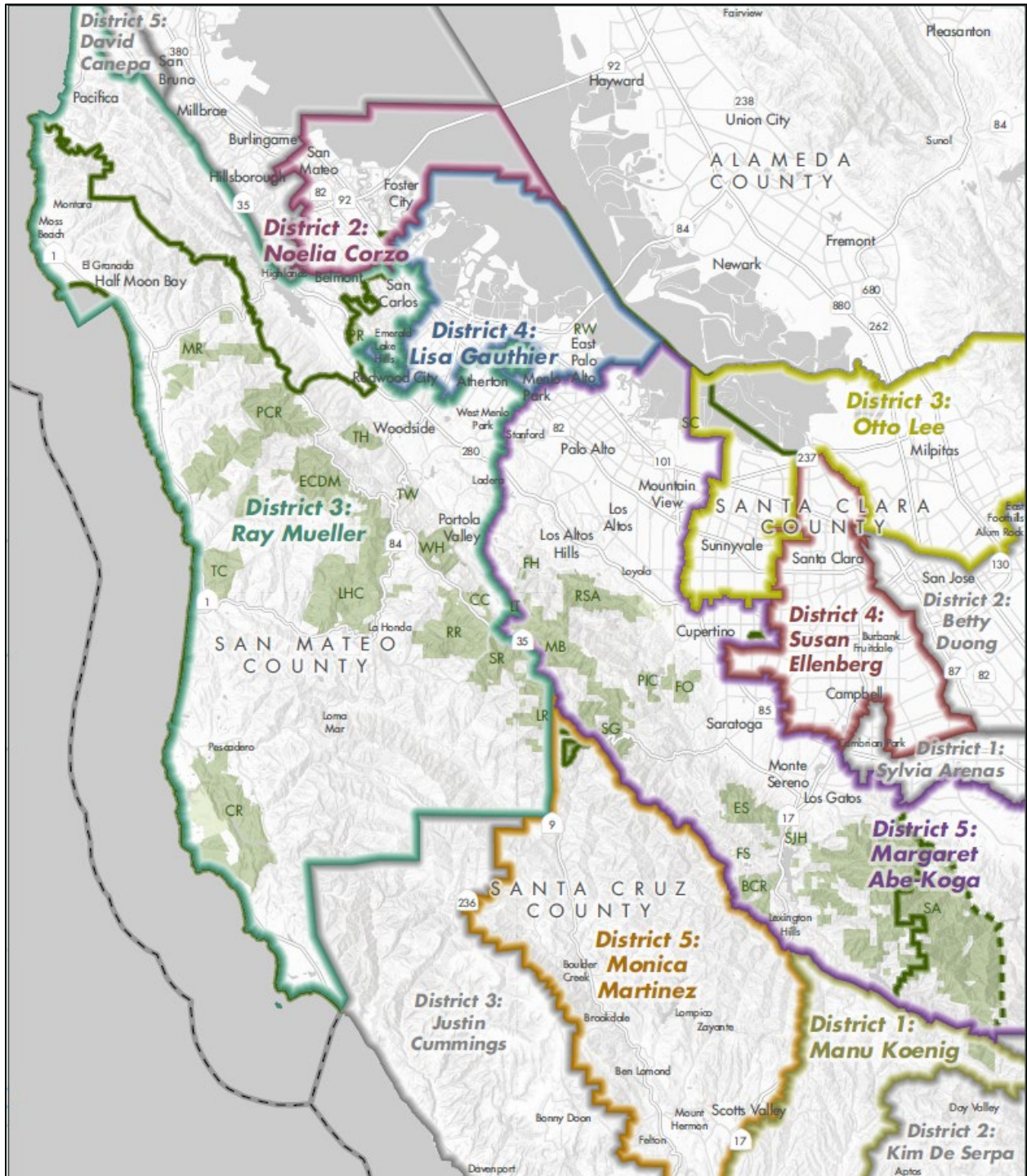
Goal 4 – Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission

- **Objective 1** – Provide the necessary resources, tools, training, staff facilities, and infrastructure, including technology upgrades, capacity building and safeguards to address cybersecurity threats and future natural disasters
- **Objective 2** – Effectively and efficiently deliver Vision Plan projects and priority initiatives by implementing recommendations in the updated 2023 financial and operational sustainability model to guide operational growth and areas of focus, and facilitate project momentum
- **Objective 3** – Evaluate new initiatives against the District’s mission, strategic goals and objectives, as well as internal capacity/workplan to confirm alignment and state of readiness
- **Objective 4** – Remain financially sustainable by preparing for, pursuing, and ensuring discretionary funding opportunities and partnerships
- **Objective 5** – Ensure large operational and capital expenses, including land acquisitions, associated public access and land management costs, are evaluated within the long-term financial model and remain financially sustainable
- **Objective 6** – Ensure the District remains competitive in the labor market and able to recruit, develop, and retain diverse and talented staff to implement the mission. Pursue opportunities to enhance professional development training and career ladders to strengthen our organizational capacity and succession planning efforts

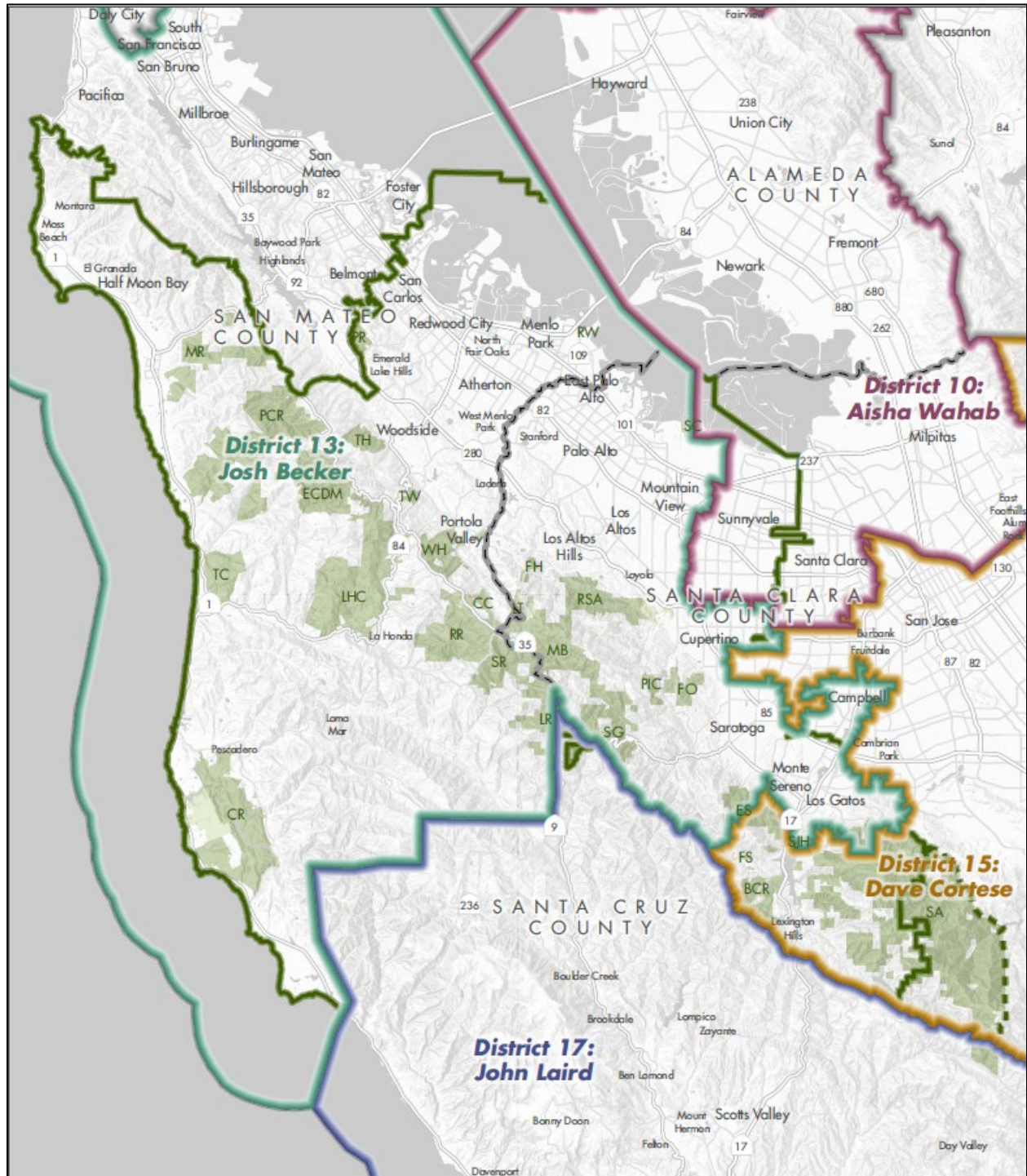
Appendix B: District County, State and Federal Delegation Maps

Within the 550-square mile boundary of the District, it overlaps with a variety of jurisdictions that comprise its legislative delegation. Seventeen cities reside within the District – eight in San Mateo County and nine in Santa Clara County. At the county level, the District intersects three counties, each with five board supervisors. The County of San Mateo also has three appointed “community councils” for their North Fair Oaks, Midcoast and Pescadero unincorporated areas. At the state level, the District intersects with four Senate and four Assembly districts. And then at the federal level, the District has four members of the House of Representatives and two United State Senators as part of its delegation. Maps for these legislative districts can be found below.

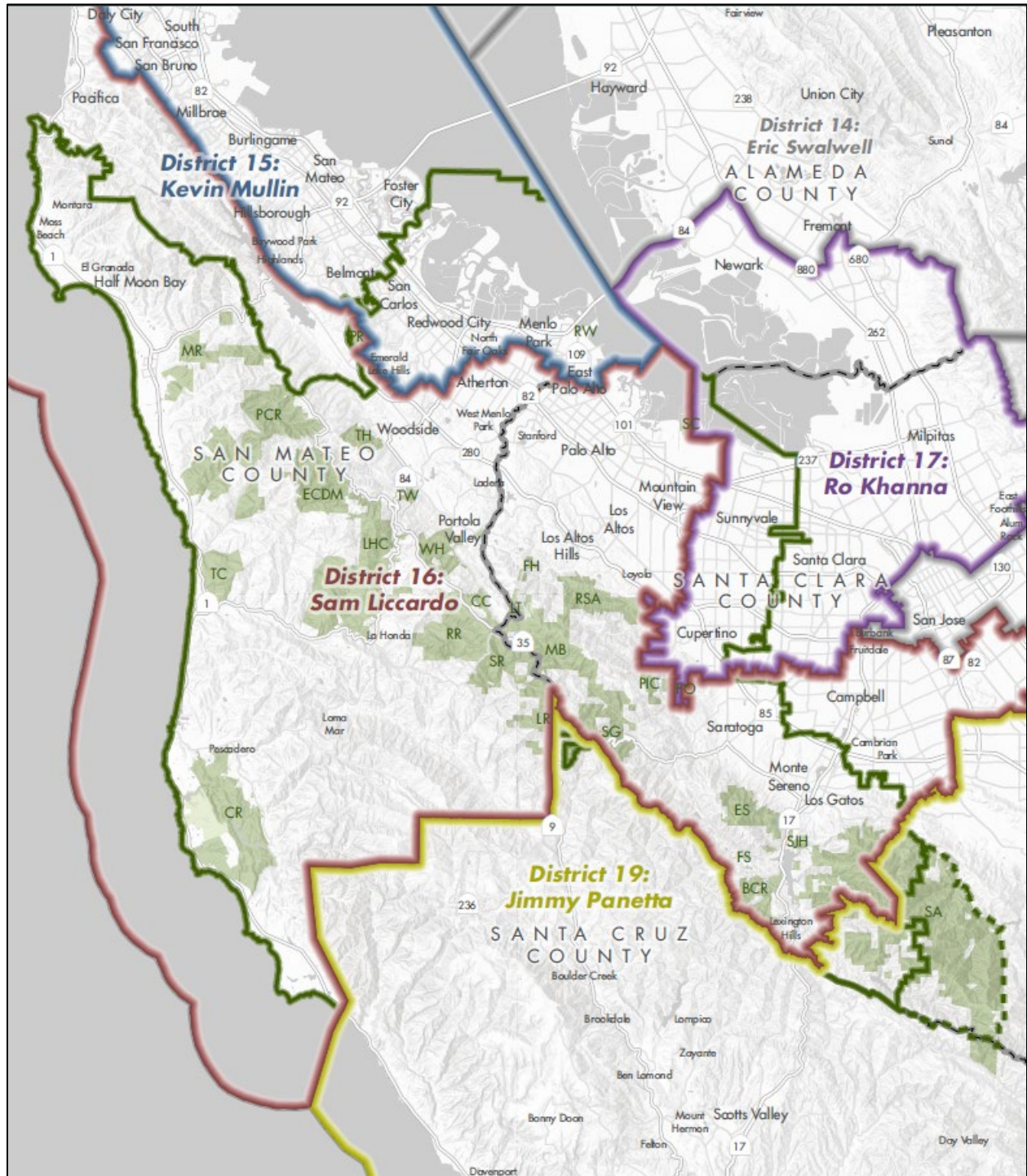
County Delegation – San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties



State Delegation - Senate



Federal Delegation – House of Representatives



Appendix C: 2026 State Legislative Calendar

2026 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR
COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
Revised 9-29-25

DEADLINES

JANUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2	3
Wk. 1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wk. 2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Wk. 3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Wk. 4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Jan. 1** Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 5** Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
- Jan. 10** Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- Jan. 16** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(1)).
- Jan. 19** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed.
- Jan. 23** Last day for any committee to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year. (J.R. 61(b)(2)).
Last day to submit **bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Jan. 31** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c), J.R. 61(b)(3)).

FEBRUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wk. 2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Wk. 3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Wk. 4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

- Feb. 16** Presidents' Day observed.
- Feb. 20** Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(b)(4), J.R. 54(a)).

MARCH							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wk. 2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Wk. 3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Wk. 4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Spring Recess	29	30	31				

- Mar. 26** **Spring Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Mar. 30** Cesar Chavez Day observed.

APRIL							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Spring Recess				1	2	3	4
Wk. 1	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Wk. 2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Wk. 3	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Wk. 4	26	27	28	29	30		

- Apr. 6** Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Apr. 24** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(5)).

MAY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4						1	2
Wk. 1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Wk. 2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wk. 3	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
No hrgs.	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Wk. 4	31						

- May 1** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the **Floor nonfiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(6)).
- May 8** Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61(b)(7)).
- May 15** Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61 (b)(8)).
Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61 (b)(9)).
- May 25** Memorial Day observed.
- May 26-29** **Floor Session only.** No committee may meet for any purpose except for Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(b)(10)).
- May 29** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(b)(11)).

* Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.

JUNE							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4		1	2	3	4	5	6
Wk. 1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wk. 2	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Wk. 3	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Wk. 4	28	29	30				

- June 1** Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(b)(12)).
- June 15** Budget Bill must be passed by midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)(3)).
- June 25** Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 3 General Election ballot (Elections Code Sec. 9040).

JULY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4				1	2	3	4
Summer Recess	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Summer Recess	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Summer Recess	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Summer Recess	26	27	28	29	30	31	

- July 2** Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(13)).
Summer Recess begins upon adjournment, provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(b)(2)).
- July 3** Independence Day observed.

AUGUST							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Summer Recess							1
Wk. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Wk. 2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
No Hrgs.	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
No Hrgs.	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
No Hrgs.	30	31					

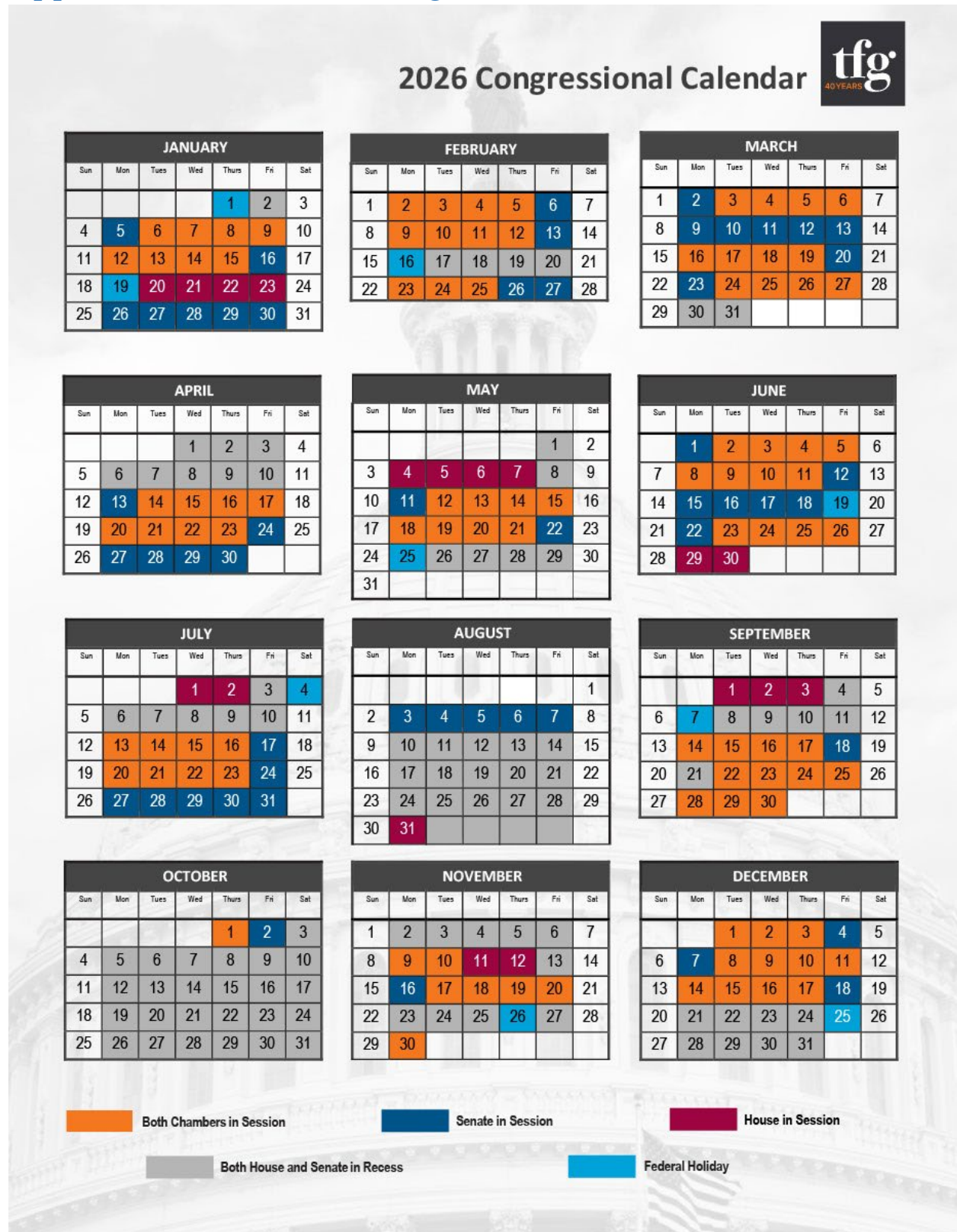
- Aug. 3** Legislature reconvenes from **Summer Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(2)).
- Aug. 14** Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(14)).
- Aug. 17-31 Floor Session only.** No committee may meet for any purpose except Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(b)(15)).
- Aug. 21** Last day to **amend** bills on the Floor (J.R. 61(b)(16)).
- Aug. 31** Last day for each house to pass bills (Art. IV, Sec 10(c), J.R. 61(b)(17)).
Final Recess begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(3)).

IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING INTERIM RECESS

- 2026**
- Sept. 30 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1 and in the Governor's possession on or after Sept. 1 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(2)).
- Oct. 2 Bills enacted on or before this date take effect January 1, 2027. (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Nov. 3 General Election.
- Nov. 30 Adjournment *sine die* at midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- Dec. 7 2027-28 Regular Session convenes for Organizational Session at 12 noon. (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- 2027**
- Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).

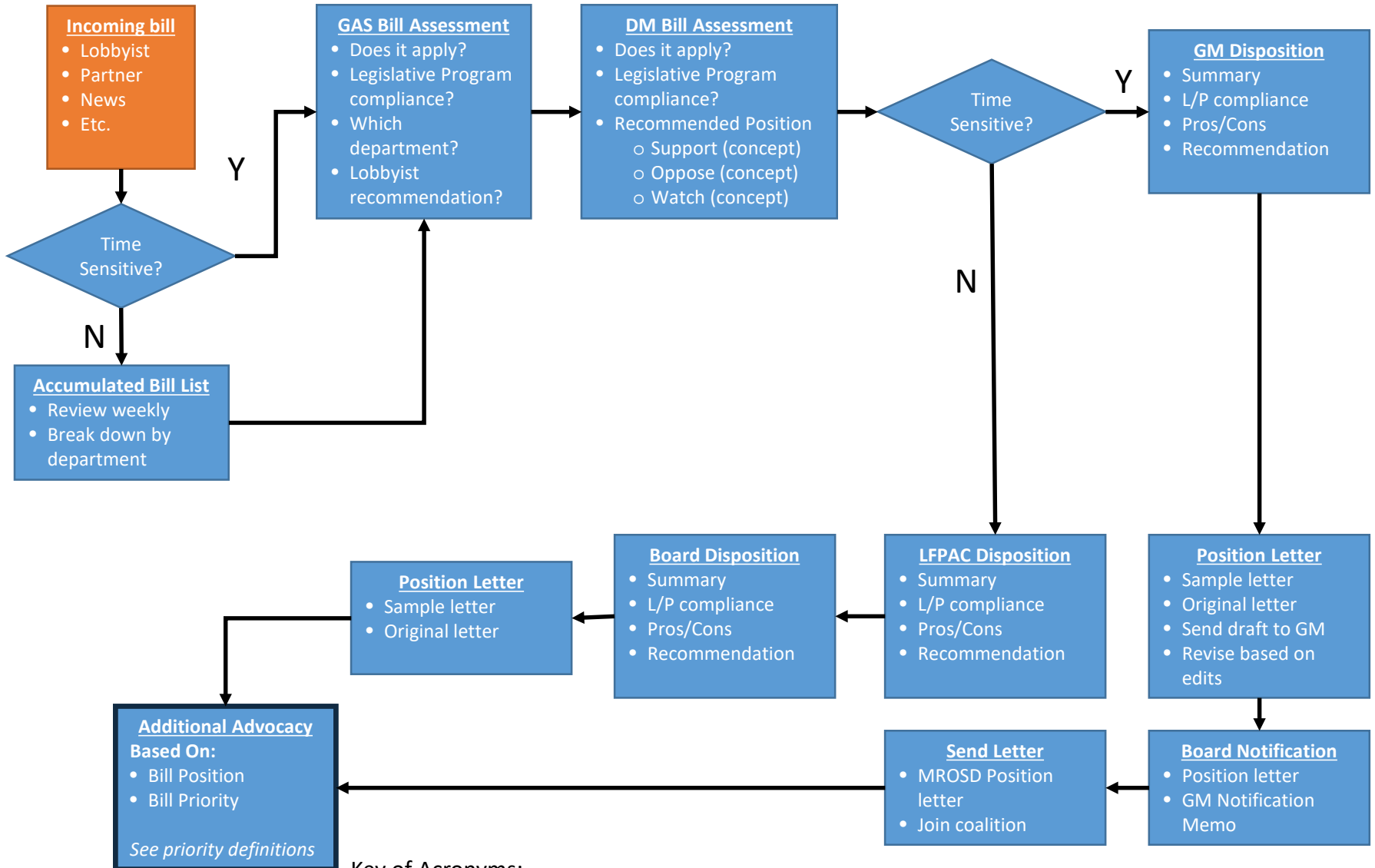
*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.

Appendix D: 2026 Federal Legislative Calendar



MROSD Legislative Bill Disposition Process

Board Policy 1.11



Key of Acronyms:

- GM: General Manager
- DM: Department Manager
- GAS: Governmental Affairs Specialist
- L/P: Legislative Program

Definitions for Bill Positions and Priority Levels

Support:

- **Support** – A position given to bills and propositions that would be a benefit to Midpen’s ability to serve its communities.
- **Support if Amended** – A position given to bills that may be a benefit to the Districts’ ability to serve its communities, so long as specific amendments are taken to the bill. If the requested amendments are taken by the author, public affairs department staff may recommend changing Midpen’s position to support.
- **Recommend Support**– Position recommended by legislative consultant and/or, along with a potential priority number, prior to GM or Board review.

Oppose:

- **Oppose** – A position given to bills and propositions that would be a detriment to Midpen’s ability to serve its communities.
- **Oppose unless Amended** – A position given to bills that may impede the District’s ability to serve its communities, so long as specific amendments are taken to the bill. If the requested amendments are taken by the author, public affairs department staff may recommend changing Midpen’s position to support.
- **Concerns** – A position given to bills that could be a detriment to the District, but political, policy or other reasons do not warrant or lend themselves to a full oppose position.
- **Recommend Oppose** – Position recommended by legislative consultant and/or, along with a potential priority number, prior to GM or Board review. Often staff and consultants will engage with the author’s office prior to assigning this designation.

Watch:

- **Watch** – A position given to bills that may directly affect Midpen but does not provide a significant benefit or impose a significant detriment to the District. Also includes bills that are in spot bill form on a subject area that concerns special districts and bills that are of notable interest to special districts, but do not warrant an active position or expenditure of Midpen resources. No position is taken; however, the progress and outcome of the bill is tracked. A position may be considered later.
- **Recommend Watch** – Position recommended by legislative consultant.

Priority:

Priority 1: Bills given a “1” priority have a major importance and directly affects the District, and/or may set a critical precedent. These bills will receive active attention by staff in public affairs and other impacted department(s). This may include extensive testimony in committee, meetings with the legislature, bill sponsorship, discussions with partner organizations, and public/media education, as appropriate.

Priority 2: Bills given a “2” priority have a significant impact on the District and/or set a critical, relevant precedent. The General Manager/Board sends a position letter or signs on to a coalition letter, and staff may discuss the item with the legislature and/or provide testimony in committee, as time permits.

Priority 3: Bills given a “3” priority may have a notable effect on the District, and/or set a meaningful precedent, but are determined to be a lower priority for staff resources. Public affairs staff, in collaboration with the impacted department(s), may sign on to a coalition letter with General Manager/Board approval. Committee testimony or discussions with the legislature may be conducted.



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Memorandum

DATE: March 12, 2019
 MEMO TO: Legislative, Finance, and Public Affairs Committee Members
 FROM: Ana M. Ruiz, General Manager *AMR*
 SUBJECT: Legislative Actions Update

BACKGROUND

Board Policy 1.11 titled "Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy," Section 2.0b, provides the General Manager the ability to take position on pending legislation in time-sensitive situations. More specifically:

- b. When time is so short that neither the full Board nor LFPAC can be convened to consider positions to support or oppose local, state or federal legislation, the General Manager is authorized to take a position on behalf of the District if the legislation:
 - i. Is related to the District's mission; AND
 - ii. Would directly impact the District's business, such as project delivery, operations, finances, legal authority, or other District responsibilities; AND
 - iii. The position being taken is consistent/inconsistent with existing District policy, past action, or District Strategic Plan; OR
 - iv. The legislation carries other considerations that make it contrary to the District's interests.

In such instances, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose the legislation at or before the next Board meeting.

DISCUSSION

On behalf of the District, the General Manager has taken the following time-sensitive action:

- **SB 45 (Allen): Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020.**

Action: At the behest of the statewide Wildlife Corridors Working Group and open space legislative consultants, Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and signed onto a group letter addressed to the Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on March 6, 2019, ahead of their March 12 hearing.

Bill Summary: Would enact the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of \$4,300,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects to restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources.

Consistency with Legislative Program:

- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Cap and Trade/Climate-related Funding:** The District supports efforts to emphasize and increase the recognition for the use of natural and working land (NWL) for the purposes of carbon sequestration and subsequent allocations of Cap and Trade funding. With the passage of SB 32 (Pavely, 2016) there is increased pressure to not only eliminate sources of greenhouse gas generation, but also find ways to capture emissions as well. This further promotes the recognition of the region's greenbelt as its "life support system."
- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Watershed Protection:** The District supports legislative or regulatory efforts that enhance the ability to protect watershed land, as well as restore and maintain associated habitats.
- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Wildlife Corridors:** The District supports efforts to bring greater funding opportunities and permit streamlining to conservation related to wildlife corridors.
- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Regional Benefits:** The District supports efforts to work with regional and statewide partners to ensure that relevant statewide funding sources are optimized and made available for Bay Area needs, and to ensure that underserved communities in the region benefit from these state resources.
- **Natural Resources Protection and Restoration #8** – Supports wildfire management to become a more natural component of the ecosystem, and minimize negative effects on the community and environment.
- **Natural Resources Protection and Restoration #14b** – Forest health programs that reduce GHG emissions through fuel reduction.
- **Natural Resources Protection and Restoration #14c** – Expands funding for wildlife corridor projects that improve wildlife habitat connectivity.

AB 209 (Limón): Parks: environmental education: grant program.

Action: At the behest of the California State Parks Foundation, Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and signed onto a group letter to the Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on March 5, 2019, ahead of their March 12 hearing.

Bill Summary: Would require the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish the Outdoor Equity Grants Program, to increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences at state parks and other public lands where outdoor environmental education programs take place. The bill would require the director to, among other things, give priority for funding to outdoor environmental education programs that primarily provide outreach to and serve students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, or pupils of limited English proficiency, as provided.

Consistency with Legislative Program:

- **District Priority:** Every Kid in a Park Initiative: The District supports national and state efforts to mobilize children and parents to visit and enjoy America's outdoor spaces to encourage the next generation to discover America's public lands and waters.

Prepared by: Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Specialist

Example

2026 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
Revised 9-29-25

DEADLINES

JANUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2	3
Wk. 1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wk. 2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Wk. 3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Wk. 4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Jan. 1** Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 5** Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
- Jan. 10** Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- Jan. 16** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(1)).
- Jan. 19** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed.
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Last day to submit **bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Jan. 31** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c), J.R. 61(b)(3)).

FEBRUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wk. 2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Wk. 3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Wk. 4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

- Feb. 16** Presidents' Day observed.
- Feb. 20** Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(b)(4), J.R. 54(a)).

MARCH							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wk. 2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Wk. 3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Wk. 4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Spring Recess	29	30	31				

- Mar. 26** **Spring Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Mar. 30** Cesar Chavez Day observed.

APRIL							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Spring Recess				1	2	3	4
Wk. 1	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Wk. 2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Wk. 3	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Wk. 4	26	27	28	29	30		

- Apr. 6** Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Apr. 24** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(5)).

MAY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4						1	2
Wk. 1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Wk. 2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wk. 3	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
No hrs.	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Wk. 4	31						

- May 1** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the Floor **nonfiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(6)).
- May 8** Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61(b)(7)).
- May 15** Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61 (b)(8)).
Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61 (b)(9)).
- May 25** Memorial Day observed.
- May 26-29** **Floor Session only**. No committee may meet for any purpose except for Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(b)(10)).
- May 29** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(b)(11)).

* Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.

2026 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
Revised 9-29-25

JUNE							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4		1	2	3	4	5	6
Wk. 1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wk. 2	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Wk. 3	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Wk. 4	28	29	30				

- June 1** Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(b)(12)).
- June 15** Budget Bill must be passed by midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)(3)).
- June 25** Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 3 General Election ballot (Elections Code Sec. 9040).

JULY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4				1	2	3	4
Summer Recess	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Summer Recess	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Summer Recess	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Summer Recess	26	27	28	29	30	31	

- July 2** Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(13)).
- Summer Recess** begins upon adjournment, provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(b)(2)).
- July 3** Independence Day observed.

AUGUST							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Summer Recess							1
Wk. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Wk. 2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
No Hrgs.	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
No Hrgs.	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
No Hrgs.	30	31					

- Aug. 3** Legislature reconvenes from **Summer Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(2)).
- Aug. 14** Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(14)).
- Aug. 17-31 Floor Session only.** No committee may meet for any purpose except Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(b)(15)).
- Aug. 21** Last day to **amend** bills on the Floor (J.R. 61(b)(16)).
- Aug. 31** Last day for each house to pass bills (Art. IV, Sec 10(c), J.R. 61(b)(17)).
- Final Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(3)).

IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING INTERIM RECESS

2026

- Sept. 30 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1 and in the Governor's possession on or after Sept. 1 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(2)).
- Oct. 2 Bills enacted on or before this date take effect January 1, 2027. (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Nov. 3 General Election.
- Nov. 30 Adjournment *sine die* at midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- Dec. 7 2027-28 Regular Session convenes for Organizational Session at 12 noon. (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).

2027

- Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).

*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Administrative Office
5050 El Camino Real
Los Altos, CA 94022

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Director Holman called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 2:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Jed Cyr, Karen Holman, Yoriko Kishimoto

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 Stefan Jaskulak, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria, Grants Program Manager Carol Schimke, Senior Grants Technician Caitlin Amarillas, Public Affairs Manager Lori Low, Volunteer Program Manager Jennifer Williams, and Governmental Affairs Program Manager Joshua Hugg

Director Holman announced that 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.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

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Public comment period opened.

District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment period closed.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Select Committee Chair for 2026 Calendar Year

Director Cyr nominated Director Holman to serve as the Committee Chair for calendar year 2026.

Director Holman accepted the nomination.

Public comment period opened.

Ms. Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment period closed.

Motion: Director Cyr moved, and Director Kishimoto seconded the motion to select Director Holman as Committee Chair for Calendar Year 2026.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

2. Approve the November 4, 2025 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Public comment period opened.

Ms. Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment period closed.

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to approve the November 4, 2025 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs committee meeting minutes.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

3. Grant Awards for the 2025 Grantmaking Program (R-26-46)

Grants Program Manager Carol Schimke and Senior Grants Technician Caitlin Amarillas presented. General Manager Ana Ruiz and Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak assisted in answering questions.

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Chair Holman asked whether staff has a map showing the location of the beneficiary wards. She commented that she had reviewed the grantees and identified the beneficiary wards and noticed that the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) was assigned to Ward 5, but should have been assigned to Ward 6 since the project focuses on agriculture and fencing.

Ms. Amarillas responded it was a mistake and she will update the ward. She also clarified that the project would take place at La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.

Chair Holman asked staff to be more attentive to beneficiary wards since the current sequencing is heavily weighted towards ward 6, which has five projects assigned to it.

Ms. Ruiz asked whether it would be helpful, when presenting to the full Board of Directors (Board), to include in attachment 3 of the staff's report an explanation outlining some of the reasons why certain proposals were not recommended. She noted that perhaps the numerical scores alone make it difficult to fully understand the distinctions, as some proposal received scores that are comparatively high or similar to others that were selected and by including a narrative it could provide clarity on why certain proposals were selected.

Ms. Amarillas responded that attachment 3 can be updated to include that information.

Chair Holman agreed that providing additional information would be helpful. She noted that differences between proposals are not always evident from the scores alone.

Ms. Schimke responded that the strategic review proposed by staff, particularly in terms of beneficiaries or participants, is in line with previous years. Furthermore, she stated that this is the first year staff have shared this data and highlighted where participants and beneficiaries are located. She indicated that it would be helpful to see that information in the context of the last few years to see if there are any trends or patterns. With respect to attachment 3, she explained that among the 30 proposals, often the smallest details were the tiebreaker for which proposal was selected, and staff would need to strike a balance with the amount of information to provide regarding how the review committee reached a determination.

Mr. Jaskulak stated that he would be hesitant to add a narrative that explains why certain proposals were not selected, as this could potentially impact on the applicant's opportunities when applying for other grants. He suggested that it be best to provide a more descriptive explanation of why staff recommended the selected proposals.

Chair Holman agreed with Mr. Jaskulak.

Director Kishimoto commented that the evaluation approach is roughly 50% point based and 50% qualitative and suggested that the cutoff threshold could be set higher to either 80, 85, or 88%.

Mr. Jaskulak responded that this would serve as a lesson learned for next year. He further explained that the Request for Proposals process is not based on selecting the lowest bidder or in this case the highest score, but rather on identifying the proposals that best meet District goals.

Ms. Schimke stated that one key lesson learned that could be implemented in future rounds is to use similar scoring criteria as used by some state agencies where specific points are assigned for

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clearly defined elements. She noted that this approach could reduce subjective interpretation, improve scoring consistency, and minimize extreme outliers.

Chair Holman confirmed that Ms. Amarillas will include a chart that shows past beneficiary wards and noted that the chart would be helpful for both the Board and future applicants in identifying gaps and opportunities across wards. She added that the chart should also include the number of grants that were awarded in each ward.

Public comment period opened.

The following person provided comments:

- Kristi Corley

Public comment period closed.

Director Kishimoto highlighted the Committee recommendation to include a better explanation of the selection.

Chair Holman added staff should include a bit of the history.

Director Cyr also requested that a map be included.

Ms. Amarillas confirmed that she will include a map along with a table.

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved, and Chair Holman seconded the motion to approve and forward the list of recommended grant awards for the 2025 Grantmaking Program, for a total of \$313,983, to the full Board of Directors for approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

4. Update to Board Policy 5.01 – Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition (R-26-47)

Public Affairs Manager Lori Low presented. Volunteer Program Manager Jennifer Williams, General Manager Ana Ruiz, and Assistant General Manager Brian Malone assisted in answering questions.

Director Kishimoto commented that she is leaning more towards a 20 years of service threshold rather than 25 years.

Chair Holman commented that she is also leaning towards a 20 year threshold, noting that it is more achievable than 25 years of service while still exhibiting a great deal of commitment and dedication. She also suggested a small increase to the threshold for the number of volunteers hours donated.

Director Kishimoto stated that she is supportive of a 20 year service threshold and keeping it at the 500 hours level, noting that the dedication period is limited to a ten-year term.

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Director Cyr also expressed support for the 20 year service threshold. In addition, he requested to know where the current commemorative benches are located and the total number of general benches.

Ms. Ruiz responded that staff will identify the commemorative benches and provide a count.

Public comment period opened.

The following person provided comments:

- Kristi Corley

Public comment period closed.

Director Kishimoto asked how many benches exist overall.

Mr. Malone responded that staff would need to confirm the number.

Director Kishimoto requested that the total number of benches be included in the staff's report when it is presented to the full Board.

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved, and Chair Holman seconded the motion to approve an update to Board Policy 5.01 – *Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition* regarding special recognition eligibility for bench dedications with the following modifications:

1. Change the 25 years of service to 20 years; and
2. Staff to re-evaluate potentially increasing the 500-hour requirement to 600 or 650 hours or provide an analysis of why 500 hours is recommended.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

5. Legislative Positions for Consideration by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (R-26-48)

Governmental Affairs Program Manager Joshua Hugg presented.

Director Kishimoto noted that staff slide #3 lists SB 1135 as authored by Becker, but the staff report identifies the author as Senator Blake Speier.

Mr. Hugg responded that it was a mistake and confirmed that SB 1135 was authored by Senator Blake Speier.

Director Kishimoto asked if SB 1268 could be elevated from a priority two to a priority one.

Mr. Hugg stated that the District can serve in a supportive role as there are other groups already supporting the bill, but the District would not be in a position to take a leadership role.

Director Kishimoto recommended moving SB 1268 to a priority one and asked if staff had any issues with moving it.

Mr. Hugg responded that the difficulty in raising the priority is solely due to staff capacity.

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Chair Holman asked what could be done to address staff capacity if SB 1268 was elevated to a priority one.

Mr. Hugg stated that staff would conduct targeted outreach to specific delegation members on the relevant committee with whom the District has relationships, making explicit asks and effectively working the phones as it goes through, and noted that the bill analysis does have a long list of supporters.

Chair Holman commented that she would rather prioritize staff's energy to AB 2513 and elevate it to a priority one. She emphasized that she does support SB 1268 but there is already broad support for this bill.

Director Kishimoto noted that she understood the reasoning to elevate AB 2513 to a priority one since SB 1268 does have broad support and supports elevating AB 2513 to a priority one.

Public comment period opened.

The following person provided comments:

- Kristi Corley

Public comment period closed.

Chair Holman confirmed that there were no objections for the Committee elevating AB 2513 to a priority one bill, and the Committee concurred.

No Committee action required.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Holman adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 4:09 p.m.

Maria Soria, MMC
District Clerk

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Legislative Positions Recommendations						
Measure	Issue Area	Author	Topic	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
AB 2184	Funding	Wilson, D	Cap-and-Invest Program: nature-based climate solutions: funding.	The bill seeks to establish consistent, long-term funding for nature-based climate solutions by allocating \$400 million annually from the "Cap-and-Invest" program. These funds will support initiatives such as tree planting and wetland restoration to increase carbon sequestration while reducing wildfire and flood risks. This investment aims to strengthen California's efforts to reach a net-zero carbon footprint by 2045.	Recommend Support	1
AB 2254	Stewardship	Addis, D	Coastal resources: local coastal program: monarch butterfly habitat.	(Addis) mandates that local governments in California's coastal zone incorporate specific monarch butterfly overwintering habitat protection policies into their Local Coastal Programs (LCPs). The bill aims to standardize the conservation of critical overwintering sites that were previously designated as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) by the Coastal Commission but often lacked formal inclusion in local plans.	Recommend Support	2
AB 2513	Wildfire	Petrie-Norris, D	Wildfire: Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program: local assistance grant program: regional landscape grants.	The bill expands California's wildfire prevention efforts by offering new grants for large-scale landscape projects. It renames the "Forest Health Program" to the "Ecosystem Health Program," broadening its focus to protect grasslands and shrublands alongside forests. The bill allows agencies like Midpen to receive funding for clearing flammable vegetation near roads and preventing human-caused ignitions. These changes help local communities coordinate across property lines to create a more fire-resilient environment through 2027.	Recommend Support	2 1
SB 1135	Stewardship	Blakespear, D	California Wildlife Coexistence Act.	The California Wildlife Coexistence Act (SB 1135) modernizes how our state handles interactions between people and predators like wolves or mountain lions. Instead of relying on lethal removal, the bill prioritizes non-lethal strategies, such as using specialized fencing and guardian animals to protect livestock. It establishes a state-funded program to provide grants and technical help to local agencies like Midpen. Additionally, a new public tracking tool will be created to monitor wildlife incidents transparently. By combining modern science with indigenous knowledge, California aims to protect its iconic biodiversity while supporting the safety of rural communities and farmers.	Recommend Support	1

Measure	Issue Area	Author	Topic	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
SB 1268	Public Access	Gonzalez, D	Outdoor public recreation spaces: equitable access.	<p>The Outdoors for All initiative, focuses on making California's parks and nature spaces fair and accessible for everyone.</p> <p>Main Goal: It aims to ensure that your background, income, or where you live doesn't stop you from enjoying the outdoors.</p> <p>Fixing Inequalities: The bill specifically funds projects in lower-income neighborhoods and communities of color that haven't had enough parks in the past.</p> <p>Climate Connection: It connects outdoor access with the state's "30x30" goal, which is a plan to protect 30% of California's land and water by the year 2030.</p> <p>Removing Barriers: It requires state agencies to find and remove obstacles—like high costs or lack of transportation—that keep people away from nature.</p>	Recommend Support	2