



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-14-25
Meeting 14-04
January 29, 2014

AGENDA ITEM 1

AGENDA ITEM

Vision Plan Priority Actions

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. M.", written over the printed text of the General Manager's Recommendation.

Approve a two tier grouping of the Vision Plan Priority Actions as provided in Attachment 1.

SUMMARY

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) initiated the Vision Plan Project in August 2012 to engage the District's partners, stakeholders, and the public in a process to determine a District-wide 40 year vision for land preservation, resource management, public recreation, and working lands. With the completion of the Deliberation phase of the Vision Plan process, the District is now entering the Deciding phase whereby the Board will consider prioritizing the fifty-four (54) projects that emerged from the Vision Plan process into two "tiers". The first tier includes twenty-three (23) top priority (nearer-term) projects and the second tier includes thirty-one (31) lower priority (longer-term) projects. Of the lower priority 31 projects, the Board asked to review an addition six (6) second tier projects for possible inclusion in the first tier. The rationale and recommendations for placement in the tiers is discussed below. The two tiers capture the priorities expressed through the public engagement process and will inform the General Manager's annual Action Plan and Budget recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Implementation of the recommended Vision Plan Priority Actions will occur over the next 30-40 years and the pace of implementation will be determined by available funding. In the event that the District pursues a public funding measure to accelerate the pace of implementation, it is anticipated that such additional funding would be directed at the 23 first tier projects. A variety of other generally smaller projects, in addition to selected Vision Plan Priority Actions, will comprise each annual Action Plan. Conditions and opportunities present in any given year will influence how those annual Action Plan priorities are set by the Board of Directors.

DISCUSSION

The District's Vision Plan Project, entitled 'Imagine the Future of Open Space,' is a multidisciplinary effort combining scientific analysis with broad public engagement to create a shared vision for the future of the District and the region's open space. The project has been structured around a strategic five-phase public engagement process represented by the acronym SHEDD: Getting Started, Hearing the voices, Enriching the conversation, Deliberating, and Deciding. The District is now poised to complete the final phase of this process, Deciding. The resources and effort that has been dedicated to the Vision Plan project, including consultations with District staff, outreach to partners, the public at large, and the Community Advisory Committee, and exhaustive review of resource data has

culminated in a list of high priority actions. The priority actions are spread across the District and represent a 40 year vision for land preservation, resource management, public recreation, and working lands on the Peninsula, San Mateo Coast, and South Bay regions within the District's boundaries. On January 14, 2014, the Board reviewed the public input received on the Vision Plan Goals and Priority Actions as well as the analysis conducted by District staff and technical consultants on how well the Priority Actions deliver the Vision Plan Goals.

Two Tier Recommendation

The Vision Plan process identified 54 Priority Actions in all. The General Manager recommends categorizing the 54 Priority Actions into two tiers (Attachment 1). Tier 1 Priority Actions would provide the District with a more defined, nearer-term focus (during this next 20 years), while Tier 2 would consist of longer-term priorities.

The Vision Plan establishes a long-term, publicly-vetted path to guide the District into the future to fulfill its overarching mission. Even with this Vision Plan in place, the District will remain flexible so that it can respond to new opportunities as they arise. The Board of Directors has the discretion during annual Action Plan and Budget review to revise project priorities or add new projects for the next fiscal year in response to change conditions and opportunities.

Of the 54 Priority Actions, the General Manager is recommending 23 Priority Actions for Tier 1. These projects have received the greatest level of public support and meet the largest number of Vision Plan goals based on the planning and scientific analysis work (Attachments 1 and 2).

The recommended Tier 1 Priority Actions were determined by evaluating all 54 of the Priority Actions across the following four metrics:

- 1) Level of public support given through the public deliberation meetings;
- 2) Level of public support given through Mindmixer;
- 3) Level of support given by the Community Advisory Committee; and/or
- 4) Level of success and beneficial impact in implementing the Goals for the Vision Plan.

A Priority Action was identified as Tier 1 if it rated highly by three of these four metrics (in the upper quartile of the rated results). Also, in order to ensure a wide distribution of Tier 1 projects across the District's jurisdiction, Priority Actions that were rated the highest in any one of these metrics, in each subregion, were also included in the Tier 1 list.

Evaluation of Board Identified Priority Actions

During the January 14, 2014 Board workshop on the Vision Plan project, the Board identified six (6) additional Priority Actions beyond the original 23 for their potential inclusion into Tier 1. The rating results for these 6 Priority Actions is presented in Attachments 1 and 2.

Staff did not include these six Priority Actions in Tier 1 because they did not meet the evaluation standards outlined above of having been rated highly by three of the four metrics (in the upper quartile of the rated results) or rated highest in any one of the metrics in the subregion where it is located. There are a few additional points for the Board to consider in reviewing these Priority Actions:

- Priority Actions 08 (Sierra Azul: Fire Management), 25 (Major Roadway Signage), 30 (Rancho San Antonio: Interpretive Improvements, Refurbishing, and Transit Solutions), and 40 (Skyline Subregion: Fire Management and Forest Restoration Projects) were not rated by the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) because of time limits for the meeting during which the CAC was

rating the Priority Actions. However, even if these Priority Actions were rated by the CAC and rated highly, this would not have resulted in any of these Priority Actions accumulating at least 3 high ratings in the Public Deliberation Process. These Priority Actions did not rate high in the technical analysis because of their limited ability to deliver the goals for the Vision Plan.

- Priority Action 25 (Major Roadway Signage) was not included in the Priority Actions taken to the Public Deliberation Meetings or the CAC, again because of time limits for these meetings. However, this Priority Action was rated online, where it received a low score.
- Priority Actions 18 (South Bay Foothills: Saratoga-to-Sea Trail and Wildlife Corridor) and 30 (Rancho San Antonio: Interpretive Improvements, Refurbishing, and Transit Solutions) received relatively high point values for their online rating.

Although none of these six priority actions meets the Tier 1 evaluation standards as described above, Priority Actions 18 and 30 (South Bay Foothills: Saratoga-to-Sea Trail and Wildlife Corridor and Rancho San Antonio: Interpretive Improvements, Refurbishing, and Transit Solutions) could be considered for Tier 1 based on other factors or policy considerations such as geographic distribution, proximity to urban centers, and usage, in addition to their relatively high point values for their online rating.

FISCAL IMPACT

The project is well within budget, having expended \$184,000 of the \$282,900 budgeted for the planning and analysis tasks and \$155,000 of the \$180,000 budgeted for the public engagement tasks. No increase to the FY2013-14 budget is anticipated.

Budget approval for implementing Priority Actions will be considered during the annual Action Plan and Budget development. The estimated order of magnitude cost of implementing the twenty three (23) Vision Plan Tier 1 Priority Actions is approximately \$312 Million.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

The Board waived Committee review of this project in lieu of full Board engagement. Over the course of the Project, the General Manager has provided the Board of Directors with regular Vision Plan progress updates, as summarized below:

Board Meeting Date	Topic	Board Report(s)
January 15, 2013 February 27, 2013	Phase 1: "Getting Started"	R-13-08, R-13-09 R-13-10, R-13-32
March 13, 2013 June 12, 2013	Phase 2: "Hearing the Voices"	R-13-33, R-13-57
July 24, 2013	Phase 3: "Enriching the Conversation"	R-13-66, R-13-70
October 2, 2013 January 14, 2014	Phase 4: "Deliberating"	R-13-89, R-14-18

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice was provided pursuant to the Brown Act. Notice was also sent to the interested parties list for this project.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The Vision Plan does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Any necessary environmental review required by CEQA shall be completed before any specific project is commenced.

NEXT STEPS

February 5, 2014

The Board's decision on Tier 1 Priority Actions at the January 29, 2014 meeting will form the basis for an Expenditure Plan which the Board will consider in tandem with the possibility of placing a Funding Measure on the June 2014 ballot.

February 26, 2014

The Board will make a final decision on placing a Funding Measure on the June 2014 ballot.

Following Board's decision on the action recommended by the General Manager in this Board Report, staff will prepare a current status summary report of the Vision Planning process that describes the methodology used and final tiering results. During the remainder of FY2013-14, work on completing the final Vision Plan deliverables will continue, but at a reduced pace, as key staff members will be focused on completing other Action Plan items as well as supporting the District's informational role related to a potential funding measure, if approved by the Board (Attachment 3 – Vision Plan Timeline).

In addition to the summary report, written materials based on the Vision Plan will be prepared to inform partners, stakeholders, and the public. The Community Advisory Committee will also hold at least one additional meeting to review the status of the Vision Plan and future tasks required to complete the project.

As the District moves into Vision Plan implementation, most Priority Actions will require detailed planning and design work. For many of the Actions, the detailed project level work will require development and/or refinement of applicable Board policies. The Board's deliberation on policy issues (such as types of multi-use trails in specific preserves, camping, or types of partnerships with cities and other agencies) is expected to occur in the context of specific projects where the Board's deliberation will be informed by the best available science and data. The final Vision Plan document will describe the need for future Board policy development as part of the implementation of specific Priority Actions.

Attachment

1. Priority Action List with Associated Tiers and Potential Tier Categories
2. Map of Tier 1 and 2 Priority Actions with Associated Ratings
3. Vision Plan Timeline with June 2014 Funding Measure

Responsible Department Head:

Kirk Lenington, Natural Resources Manager

Prepared by:

Same

Contact person:

Same

Attachment 1: Priority Action List with Associated Tiers and Ratings

Underlined items indicate top scores in each region

yes = top in subregion and highly rated in ≥ 3 categories; yes = top in subregion and highly rated in < 3 categories.

yes = top in subregion and highly rated in ≥ 3 categories; yes = top in subregion and highly rated in < 3 categories.							Workshop Results			CAC Results									
Title							Wkshp Results (>7.5)	Online (Top 25%)	CAC Results (>7.5)	Highly Rated Goals	Sum	Top in Region	N	Avg	Div	Online Points	N	Avg	Div
Tier 1	01 - Sierra Azul: Loma Prieta Area Public Access, Regional Trails, and Habitat Projects						<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	1	1	4	yes	69	<u>8.2</u>	27	<u>158</u>	21	8.2	8
	04 - Sierra Azul: Mt. Umunhum Public Access and Interpretation Projects						1	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	1	4	yes	68	8	23	<u>159</u>	21	<u>8.9</u>	9
	07 - Sierra Azul: Rancho de Guadalupe Family Recreation and Interpretive Projects								1	<u>1</u>	2	yes	70	6.8	20	83	21	8.5	8
	10 - Sierra Azul: Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Projects						1	1	1	1	4		70	7.6	22	124	21	7.8	11
	11 - Bear Creek Redwoods: Public Recreation and Interpretive Projects						1		1	<u>1</u>	3	yes	65	8.1	22	76	21	8	15
	16 - South Bay Foothills: Wildlife Passage and Ridge Trail Improvements						<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>		2	yes	64	<u>8.6</u>	18	94	21	<u>8.6</u>	14
	17 - El Sereno: Dog Trails & Connections							<u>1</u>			1	yes	66	6.8	31	<u>193</u>	21	6.6	26
	23 - Peninsula/South Bay Cities: Partner to Complete Middle Stevens Creek Trail							<u>1</u>	1		2	yes	34	6.7	41	<u>133</u>	21	8	18
	27 - Regional: Complete Upper Stevens Creek Trail						<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	1	4	yes	97	<u>8.1</u>	29	<u>141</u>	21	<u>8.1</u>	13
	32 - Windy Hill: Trail Improvements - Preservation - and Hawthorns Area Historic Partnership						1	1	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	4	yes	102	7.7	36	107	21	<u>8.1</u>	17
	34 - Regional: Bayfront Habitat Protection and Public Access Partnerships						<u>1</u>	1	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	4	yes	34	<u>7.6</u>	38	109	21	<u>9.1</u>	5
	38 - Long Ridge: Trail, Conservation, and Habitat Restoration Projects						1	1	1	1	4		83	7.7	20	114	21	8	13
	46 - Russian Ridge: Public Recreation - Grazing - and Wildlife Protection Projects						<u>1</u>		1	1	3	yes	83	<u>8</u>	19	96	21	8.7	11
	47 - Coal Creek: Reopen Alpine Road for Trail Use						1	<u>1</u>		1	3	yes	85	7.8	27	<u>127 #</u>	21	6.9	17
	48 - La Honda Creek/Russian Ridge: Preservation of Upper San Gregorio Watershed & Ridge Trail Completion						<u>1</u>		1		2	yes	82	<u>8</u>	25	82	21	8.3	10
	51 - La Honda Creek: Upper Area Recreation - Habitat Restoration and Conservation Grazing Projects						<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	3	yes	84	<u>8</u>	23	97	21	<u>9.1</u>	9
	52 - El Corte de Madera Creek: Bike Trail and Water Quality Projects						1	1	1	1	4		85	7.5	28	138	21	7.4	14
	55 - Regional: Redwood Protection and Salmon Fishery Conservation						1		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	3	yes	24	7.5	19	52	21	<u>8.3</u>	12
	56 - Regional: Trail Connections and Campgrounds						<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>		2	yes	24	<u>8.4</u>	15	<u>69</u>	21	<u>8.3</u>	16
	58 - Cloverdale Ranch: Wildlife Protection, Grazing, and Trail Connections						1			<u>1</u>	2	yes	30	7.8	29	52	19	7.4	21
	64 - La Honda Creek: Driscoll Ranch Public Access, Endangered Wildlife Protection, & Conservation Grazing						<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	3	yes	28	<u>9</u>	10	<u>86</u>	19	<u>8.1</u>	25
	67 - Purisima Creek Redwoods: Purisima-to-Sea Trail Watershed Protection & Conservation Grazing						<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	3	yes	30	<u>8.3</u>	30	<u>98</u>	19	<u>8.7</u>	7
	74 - Miramontes Ridge: Gateway to the Coast Public Access, Stream Restoration, & Agriculture Enhancement						1		1	1	3		31	7.6	30	65	19	7.6	21
							Workshop Results					CAC Results							
Title							Wkshp Results (>7.5)	Online (Top 25%)	CAC Results (>7.5)	Highly Rated Goals	Sum	Top in Region	N	Avg	Div	Online Points	N	Avg	Div
Potential Inclusion into Tier 1	08 - Sierra Azul: Fire Management						1				1		70	7.5	18	68			
	18 - South Bay Foothills: Saratoga-to-Sea Trail and Wildlife Corridor							1	1		2		65	7.4	32	101	21	8.1	10
	25 - Major Roadway Signage**										0					16			
	30- Rancho San Antonio: Intrepretive Improvements - Refurbishing - and Transit Solutions							1			1		101	5.6	40	130			
	39 - Skyline Ridge: Education Facilities - Trailsand Wildlife Conservation Projects								1	1	2		84	6.4	33	51	21	7.9	16
	40 - Skyline Subregion: Fire Management and Forest Restoration Projects										0		84	6.5	30	48			

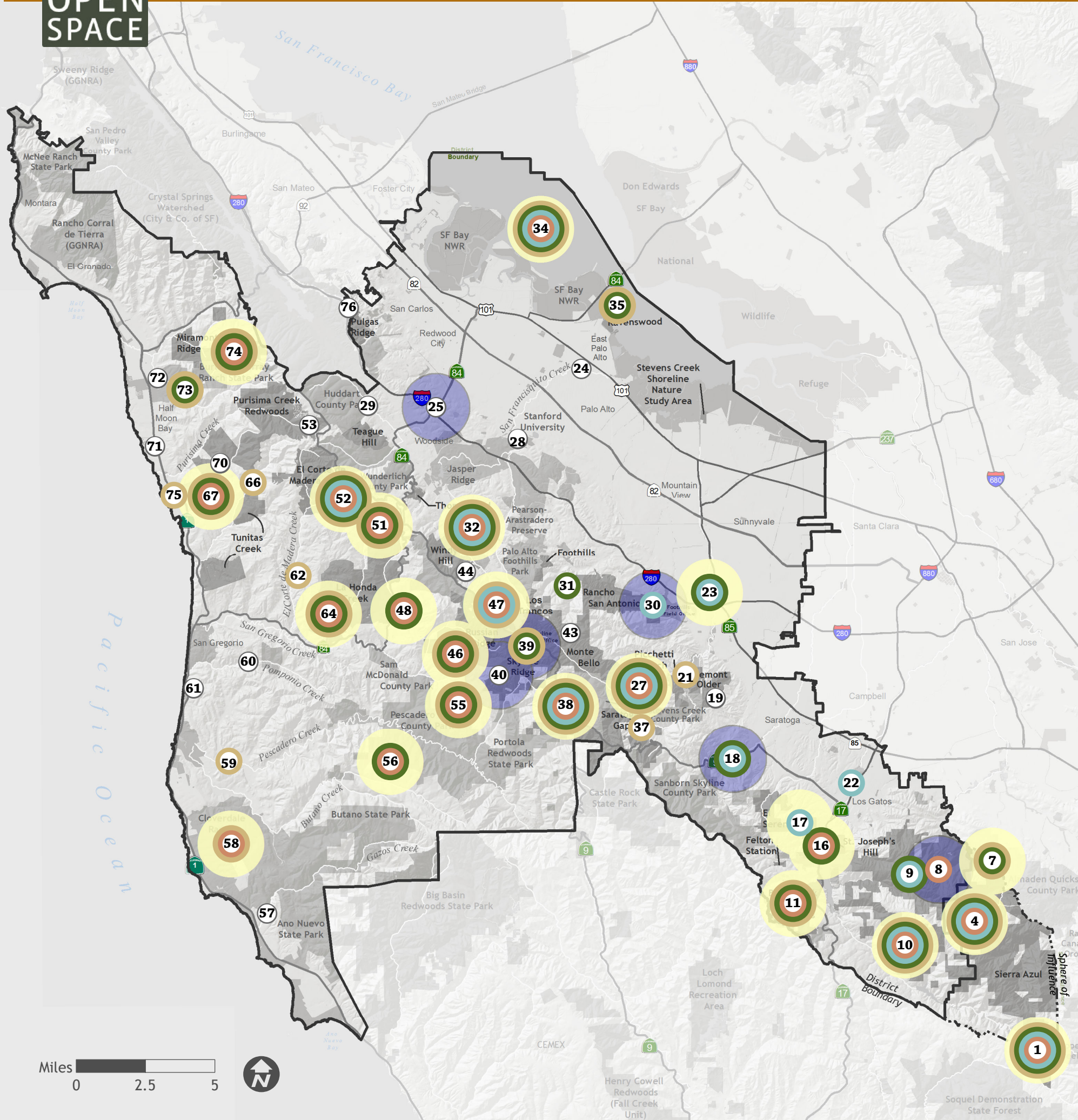
Attachment 1: Priority Action List with Associated Tiers and Ratings

									Workshop Results			CAC Results		
		Wkshp Results (>7.5)	Online (Top 25%)	CAC Results (>7.5)	Highly Rated Goals	Sum	Top in Region	N	Avg	Div	Online Points	N	Avg	Div
Tier 2	Title													
	19 - Fremont Older: Historic Woodhills Restoration & Overall Parking Improvements					0		66	5.8	23	60			
	21 - Picchetti Ranch: Family Nature Play Program				1	1		66	6.1	15	39	21	6.8	25
	22 - Peninsula/South Bay Cities: Los Gatos Creek Trail Connections		1			1		34	4.4	32	120	21	7.2	21
	24 - Peninsula/South Bay Cities: San Francisquito Creek Restoration Partnership					0		34	4.9	34	58			
	28 - Collaborate to Restore San Francisquito Creek Fish Habitat**					0					67			
	29 - Teague Hill: West Union Crk Watershed Restoration Partnership**					0					39			
	31- Rancho San Antonio: Hidden Villa Access and Preservation Projects			1		1		102	5.6	46	73	21	8	15
	35 - Ravenswood: Cooley Landing Nature Center Partnership			1	1	2		34	6.2	42	37	21	8.8	18
	37 - Saratoga Gap: Stevens Canyon Ranch Family Food Education Projects				1	1		83	4.9	25	22	21	6.8	22
	43 - Monte Bello: Campfire Talks & Habitat Projects**					0					27			
	44 - Regional: San Andreas Fault Interpretive Trail Program					0		102	5.8	36	61	21	6.9	17
	53 - Purisima Creek Redwoods: Parking and Repair Projects					0		86	5.8	32	63			
	57 - Gazos Creek Watershed: Preserve Redwoods, Fish & Add Trails**					0					68	21	7.4	25
	59 - Lower Pescadero Creek: Watershed Preservation & Conservation Grazing				1	1		30	7.1	36	39	19	6.9	28
	60 - Lower Pomponio Creek: Watershed Preservation and Grazing**					0					38			
	61 - Advocate to Protect Coastal Vistas**					0					44			
	62 - La Honda Creek/El Corte Madera Creek: San Gregorio Watershed and Agriculture Preservation Projects				1	1		30	7.4	26	41	21	6.9	26
	66 - Tunitas Creek: Additional Watershed Preservation & Conservation Grazing				1	1		30	7.2	28	32	20	6.8	25
	70 - Miramontes Ridge/Purisima Creek Redwoods: Fire Management and Risk Reductions					0		30	6.6	30	41			
	71 - Advocate to Protect Coastal Vistas**					0					40			
	72 - Miramontes Ridge/Purisima Creek Redwoods: Coastside Environmental Education Partnerships					0		31	5.6	40	26			
	73 - Miramontes Ridge/Purisima Crk Rdwds: Mills Creek/Arroyo Leon Watershed, Stream Restoration, & Trails			1	1	2		31	7.1	29	59	19	7.5	12
	75 - Regional: Support CA Coastal Trail				1	1		31	6.9	43	74	19	7.4	23
	76 - Pulgas Ridge: Regional and Neighborhood Trail Extensions					0		102	6.7	38	98	20	6.9	19

** : Not rated at the public workshops
*** : CAC did not rate all actions on 12/18/13
: Same participant generated action also received 119 points



Attachment 2: Priority Action Tiers and Ratings



Highly Rated Priority Actions

- Public Meeting
- Community Advisory Committee
- Online Rating
- Goals Accomplished

Tier 1 and Potential Actions

- Tier 1 Priority Actions
- Potential Tier 1

IMAGINE *the Future of Open Space*



Attachment 3: Vision Plan Timeline with June 2014 Funding Measure

January

February

March

April - November

Board Workshop

Jan 14, 2014

Public Process Results

Board Workshop

Jan 29, 2014

Priority Action Adoption

Vision Plan Document Development

**Current
Status
Summary
Report**

Board Meeting

November 2014

Final Vision Plan
Document

**Vision
Plan
Project**

**Funding
Measure**

Board Workshop

Feb 5, 2014

Tracking Poll Results
Draft Expenditure Plan

Board Meeting

Feb 12, 2014

Reading of Ordinance #1
(includes Expenditure Plan)
Tax Rate Statement

Last Board Action

Feb 26, 2014

Reading of Ordinance #2
(includes Expenditure Plan)
Tax Rate Statement

Special Meeting

March 5, 2014

(Meeting will be held
if needed)

Deliverables to County

March 7, 2014

**June 2014
Election**