



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

## **LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

R-15-29  
February 19, 2015

### **AGENDA ITEM 4**

#### **AGENDA ITEM**

Discussion of future role and emphasis of Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee.

#### **SUMMARY**

The Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee is charged with the following tasks: Reviews and makes recommendations to the Board on the proposed two-year legislative program; reviews policy matters related to the Board Policy Manual and other Board policies and regulations as assigned by the Board; reviews matters concerning District funding, public affairs, and outreach; and reviews requests for naming District facilities, lands and preserves.

Prior committee members have expressed an interest in a more-focused legislative program including a regular discussion on new legislation at the Committee or full Board level, pursuing funding opportunities, for example through opportunities for implementation of the Water Bond or through opportunities with Cap and Trade, and more regular interactions with local legislators and staff.

At the February 19, 2015 meeting, Committee members will review the Board Committee Policy and also a former legislative program from 2011-12 to determine if the Committee's definition is accurate and whether the past legislative program format meets the current needs of the Committee. The Committee may also discuss with staff future goals of the expanded legislative program in addition to providing direction on other matters related to the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None

#### **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.

Attachments:

1. Policy 1.04 – Board Committees

2. Past Sample of Legislative Program

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Board Policy Manual

<b>Board Committees</b>	<b>Policy 1.04</b> <b>Chapter 1 – Administration &amp; Government</b>
Effective Date:	Revised Date: 11/13/13
Prior Versions:	

**Committees of the Board**

Upon passage of a motion by a majority of Board members in open session at a regular or special meeting, standing or ad hoc committees composed of less than a quorum of Board members may be established and members appointed for the study of specific matters and provide recommendations to the Board on such matters. Ad hoc committees are temporary committees established to accomplish a specified task, do not have permanent subject matter jurisdiction, and must sunset within a year. Standing committees have ongoing and permanent subject matter jurisdiction. The presiding officer of the Board shall appoint the committee members with the consent of the Board. The President may serve on standing and ad hoc committees, and as a voting alternate.

**Standing Committees**

The following shall be standing committees of the Board with subject matter jurisdiction to perform the designated duties as set out herein and as assigned by the Board:

- (a) Action Plan and Budget Committee: Reviews the proposed budget and any required midyear budget amendments; makes budget recommendations to the Board; reviews Action Plan and Strategic Plan implementation; and receives reports from the District Controller concerning investments of District funds and current and long-term fiscal analyses.
- (b) Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee: Reviews and makes recommendations to the Board on the proposed two-year legislative program; reviews policy matters related to the Board Policy Manual and other Board policies and regulations as assigned by the Board; reviews matters concerning District funding, public affairs, and outreach; and reviews requests for naming District facilities, lands and preserves.
- (c) Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Reviews Use and Management Plans, Resource Management Plans, amendments, and issues (including consistency with related Board policies; conducts site tours relating to these matters as needed (includes trail use, facilities, structures, and resource management items).
- (d) Real Property Committee: Reviews leases; reviews consistency with Board rental policies concerning District real property; conducts site tours for potential real property purchases and disposition of structures at time of purchase.

The Real Property Committee set forth the following guidelines for site tours of real property purchases:

1. Properties of regional significance
2. Coastal properties
3. Conservation partnership projects
4. Grant funded projects
5. Properties with known strong public interest
6. Large properties
7. Properties with significant habitable structures
8. Properties with significant or unique use and management issues

The Real Property Committee set forth the following guidelines for not holding site tours:

1. Remote properties with poor roadway access
2. Properties with existing hazardous or unsafe conditions
3. Property owners not willing to have a public tour at their property
4. Small, minor or inholding properties

(e) Board Appointee Evaluation Committee: Reviews performance and employment contracts of Board appointed employees: General Manager, General Counsel, and District Controller.

Other matters may be referred to an appropriate Standing Committee with prior approval of the Board. Such matters shall first be placed on a Board agenda by any Board Member or the General Manager for Board approval.

The General Manager may also refer matters directly to an appropriate Standing Committee as needed to implement the District's Action Plan.

Three Board members shall be appointed to serve on each standing committee.

Appointments to the Action Plan and Budget Committee shall normally be made at the first regular meeting in January. The Treasurer shall be one of the three members of the Action Plan and Budget Committee.

Appointments to the Board Appointee Evaluation Committee shall include the Board President and Vice President as two of the three members of the Committee.

Appointments to other standing committees shall be made at the first regular meeting following the meeting at which officers of the Board are elected.

#### **Standing Committee Meeting Notification**

Agendas for meetings of standing committees of the Board shall be posted in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public and posted on the District's website at least 72 hours before the meeting. The agenda shall include the time and location for the meeting and a brief description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting. Whenever

possible, notices of standing committee meetings shall also be listed in advance on agendas for regular or special Board meetings. Agendas for standing committee meetings shall be forwarded to each person who usually receives an agenda for regular meetings and to each person who has requested notification of meetings of a particular committee.



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

## **LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

September 20, 2010

### **Report on the District's 2011-2012 Legislative Program and Review of 2009-2010 Legislative Program.**

#### **BACKGROUND**

At the beginning of each two-year session of the California State legislature, staff prepares a draft Legislative Program outlining the District's legislative priorities for Board review and adoption. These priorities generally include protection of the District's percentage of property tax funding, possible development and/or sponsorship of new legislation, and monitoring and taking "support" or "oppose" positions on legislation that may have an impact on the District. Staff also prepares a report summarizing the District's progress on the past legislative program for Board review and acceptance.

A key project of the 2009-2010 legislative program was working with our Washington, D.C. lobbyist to advance the cleanup of Mt. Umunhum. Last year was the first time that the District worked directly with legislators to obtain federal funding for the cleanup of the former Almaden Air Force Base. Our efforts then did not lead to the inclusion of an appropriations bill in the Defense Appropriations Act although progress was made in increasing the Corps' attention on this project and in familiarizing federal lawmakers with Mt. Um and the urgency to clean it up. This year we were successful and obtained \$3.2 million for the cleanup.

**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Legislative Program  
Results of 2009-2010 Legislative Session**

**Goals for State Legislative Activity**

**Local property tax funding.**

Goal statement

Maintain and protect the District's current percentage share of the local property tax funding.

Result

*Proposition 1A, which won 84 percent support during the November 2, 2004 general election, has continued to protect local agencies such as the District-until 2009.*

*In June 2009 a General Fund Budget Summary released by the Department of Finance proposed that the state borrow nearly \$2 billion from special districts, cities and counties by suspending Prop 1A.*

*What would suspending Prop 1A mean for the District and for the public's open space preserves? In response to the state government's plan, the District prepared a white paper and met with our legislators to urge them not to approve the suspension.*

*On July 24, 2009 the Governor issued a proclamation declaring that due to a severe state fiscal hardship, such a suspension is necessary; and the Legislature concurred, enacting an urgency statute*

*The District didn't lose any funds, however, because we participate in the securitization program, a tool which allows an agency to sell future "receivables", such as the state's constitutional obligation to repay local agencies for a 1A borrowing, in order to access the cash due from the receivables immediately. In the instance of the Proposition 1A securitization, the California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA) was authorized to purchase the receivables due to local agencies from the state as a result of the Proposition 1A borrowing.*

*The legislation for the Proposition 1A securitization authorized cities, counties, and special districts to sell their state repayment obligations to California Communities. In a simultaneous transaction, California Communities issued taxable bonds and remit the cash proceeds to the participating local public agencies, such as the District. The legislation provides that local agencies participating in the securitization program will receive 100% of their respective Proposition 1A receivables.*

*While on the topic of funding, we obtained letters of support from Senator Simitian and Assemblymember Ruskin to help fund a Concept Plan identifying the best alignment for a public trail easement, closing a critical gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail and linking existing sections of the Bay Trail at the District's Ravenswood Open Space Preserve and University Avenue.*

**Subdivision Map Act**

Goal statement

Streamline District projects by establishing that property conveyances to and from regional open space and park districts for open space purposes are exempt from the Subdivision Map Act.

Problem/opportunity description

The District would like to exempt regional park and open space districts from provisions of the Subdivision Map Act which add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy to the purchase of open space by specifying that land uses must first be submitted to the local planning agency for review before it acquires real property. This is because the primary purpose of the Map Act is to regulate the design of development but special districts can only buy land for park and open space purposes upon which there will be no development so that there is no need for the regulation of subdivision design.

Proposed action

Develop a bill to amend Government Code Section 66412 of the Government Code to clearly establish that property conveyances to and from regional open space and park districts solely for open space purposes are exempt from the Subdivision Map Act. To this end, add the following section to the Government Code:

66412.4. This division shall not apply to conveyances of land or interests in land, to or from a regional park and open space district established pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 5500) of Chapter 3 of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code, when the conveyances are solely for the purposes of open space preservation.

Result

*Sacramento legislative staff told the District to make a good-faith effort on the local level before asking for state legislation to fix the problem. As a result staff has worked out a verbal agreement with Santa Clara County and is currently working with the county to formalize the agreement in writing. Simultaneously, staff is working with San Mateo County on negotiating an agreement that mirrors or is similar to that with Santa Clara. Since these good faith efforts are currently ongoing, it is premature to ask for a legislative solution in the state's capital.*

**General plan conformity**Goal statement

Facilitate the acquisition and preservation of public open space by streamlining the acquisition process.

Problem/opportunity description

Prior to acquiring real property, a local agency such as the District must submit the proposal to the applicable county or city planning agency which then has 40 days to provide a report that the proposal conforms to the applicable general plan. The District is technically allowed to ignore the ruling it gets back, but in some counties the simple act of inquiring and getting an answer back delays the purchase process by weeks and adds an extra public notice cycle. This can be a problem because real estate transactions regularly need to occur as promptly as possible or the purchase opportunity may be lost to a private buyer. We would like to change the law by seeking an exemption because this statute can significantly interfere with the preservation of open space, yet serves no useful purpose since the statutory purpose of open space districts is the acquisition and preservation of open space. Development on such lands is by definition minor and any development would still be subject to the full regulatory processes of the city and county in which the land is located, even with the exemption we are proposing below.



Proposed action

Seek a narrow exemption to Government Code Section 65402(c) for regional park and open space districts by amending the last sentence of this statute to read as follows (add language that's in italics): "Local agency does not include the state, or county, or a city, *or a regional park and open space district established pursuant to Division 5, Chapter 3, of the Public Resources Code.*"

Result

*Sacramento legislative staff told the District to make a good-faith effort on the local level before asking for state legislation to fix the problem. Staff has obtained a letter from Santa Clara County stating that the District transactions conform to their general plan. In San Mateo County staff is working on such a letter which would, however, exempt agricultural lands in order to honor the wishes of our partners in the coastside farming community.*

**Water Quality Bond Act**

Goal statement

Support a water bond act if one is placed on the 2010 ballot.

Result

*The California Legislature voted on August 9, 2010 night to pull the \$11 billion water bond from November's ballot and delay it for two years, a move that came as backers of the proposal became increasingly concerned about its prospects at the polls.*

**Expand repayment of District notes to 30 years**

Goal statement

Allow the District to repay its indebtedness (notes) over 30 years in order to bring the District's payment obligations closer in line with most public bonds, which typically have a due date of 30 years.

Result

*Since 2007 we have sought to introduce and pass a bill which would extend the time that the District has to repay its debt, in the form of promissory notes, to 30 years from currently 20 years. We initially succeeded in introducing a bill and passing it in the California State Assembly but our efforts were thwarted in the Senate Local Government Committee where opposition from the committee's senior staffer has since that time prevented a bill from going forward. At present we see no possibility to overcome this obstacle and will instead work on a long-term goal to obtain legislative approval.*

**Review of timber harvesting plans**

Goal statement

Work to ensure that the District is one of the agencies which review timber harvesting plans.

Result

*The state took over timber harvesting plan reviews in the early 1980s and since then only state*

*agencies have been a part of the review panels. The only exceptions are those counties that were on the panels before the early 80s including San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz. Legislators pointed out to us that if the District were to gain a seat through legislation it would create a precedent and likely an avalanche of similar requests, something our legislators are not willing to risk. They also point out that the District still has a strong voice through the county representatives. In addition, the District, by having a seat at the review table, would have slipped into the role of regulator.*

## **Integrate open space and recreational uses on Williamson Act lands**

### Goal statement

Pursue methods to streamline the process of integrating open space and recreational uses on Williamson Act lands at the County and State level and promote the compatibility of open space and recreational uses and conservation easements with Williamson Act contracts.

### Result

*The District wanted to partner with the California Council of Land Trusts on a bill. The Council agreed but as the recession became deeper and the state budget crisis intensified the Council warned us that that the time was not ripe to pursue legislative solution. We both agreed to pursue this goal when circumstances are better.*

## **Future District funding measure**

### Goal statement

Analyze the need for a future District funding measure to be submitted to the voters.

### Result

*A presentation has been drafted that will be given to LFPAC and to the full Board shortly. The opportunity for a comprehensive look will further present itself as the District embarks on an agency-wide strategic planning effort.*

## **Review state legislation**

### Goal statement

Ensure that legislators understand the impact of proposed legislation on District constituents, the natural environment, and on the District itself.

### Results

- *Opposed Assembly Bill 155 which would require local governments, including special districts, to gain approval from the California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission (CDIAC) before filing for bankruptcy. The bill died.*
- *Worked with author to amend AB 979 which without amendments would have pre-empted the ability of park districts and other public agencies to prohibit hunting on publicly-owned lands.*
- *Supported Assembly Constitutional Amendment 9 which would change the 2/3 vote*

*requirement for cities, counties, and special districts to raise special taxes and issue general obligation bonds to a 55 percent voter threshold to pass local special taxes and general obligation bonds because the 2/3 requirement has stymied efforts to maintain and improve local services and projects that are supported by sizeable majorities of voters. The bill died in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.*

- *Wrote to Governor Schwarzenegger to express our strong opposition to his proposal to eliminate General Fund support for California's state park system.*
- *Urged Governor to remove State Parks from the General Fund through the implementation of the State Parks Access Pass adopted by the Joint Conference Committee on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009.*
- *Drafted a Board resolution to support the sale of Bay Area Special License Plates which will be issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles upon receipt of 7,500 paid pledges to benefit the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program of the Coastal Conservancy with which the District works on conservation, habitat restoration, recreation, and other environmental projects. The license plate initiative was withdrawn and postponed due to lack of demand resulting in a shortage of paid pledges.*
- *As a member of CSDA's legislative committee, participated in regular committee meetings in Sacramento to discuss bills and determine which actions the association should take.*
- *Withdrew support of SB 211, Senator Simitian's bill to authorize the formation of an open space district in Santa Cruz County because language had been added to the bill that would have transferred all control over acquisitions of property within a 25-year urban growth area boundary to the City of Watsonville. We strongly believe that this amendment would have unduly interfered with the right of private property owners to sell property to whomever they wish. We also believe that other local jurisdictions within Santa Cruz and in future open space districts would similarly want to approve acquisitions of a district and that conserving needed open space would thus be inappropriately politicized at the local level. In short, the proposed amendment would have torn apart the fabric of open space preservation and thrown its very future into doubt. The bill died, was "gutted and amended".*
- *Advocated for AB 1962. The measure clarified our ability to accept offers to dedicate (OTDs). Existing law allows a city or a county to consent to the recording of an irrevocable offer to convey any interest in real property situated within the county's or city's boundaries. This allows the local government to defer acceptance of the offer until planning, financing and regulatory requirements have been satisfied. Unfortunately, that same mechanism is not available to the various OSDs throughout the state, who are often tasked as the lead local public agency to fulfill the regional goals of resource conservation. AB 1962 corrects this problem by providing OSDs with that same authority.*
- *Passed a Board resolution to support the State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010 on the November ballot (Prop 21) which will give voters a chance to approve a vehicle license fee of \$18 for all cars, motorcycles and recreational vehicles to create a dedicated and permanent funding source for the State Parks system and key wildlife habitats around the state.*

## **Dedication of land (Riverside County case)**

### Goal statement

Obtain legislative solution in the event that the California Supreme Court upholds the Gerard Ste. Marie v. Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District case.

### Result

*No legislative solution was necessary because the California Supreme Court reversed the judgment of the Court of Appeal in the Gerard Ste. Marie v. Riverside County case in May 2009.*

*The Fourth District Court of Appeal had held that Section 5540 of the Public Resources Code (which states that an open space district can't convey land actually dedicated for open space purposes except by majority vote of its constituents or concurrent resolution of the legislature) means that any land or interest in land acquired is automatically dedicated in perpetuity, without any need for an affirmative act of dedication by the Board of Directors. This would have negatively impacted the District's ability to plan its preserves, and the District's financing alternatives such as lease financing. Riverside County sought review in the Supreme Court, which was granted. We and four other Districts had filed an amicus brief in support of Riverside.*

## **Goals for Federal Legislative Activity**

### **Cleanup for the former Almaden Air Force Station**

#### Goal statement

Seek Federal legislative assistance in securing funding for the cleanup of the former Almaden Air Force Station (AFS) at Mt. Umunhum in the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve.

#### Result

*The District obtained a federal allocation of \$3.2 million in the FY 2010 Defense Appropriations Act for the cleanup of Mt. Umunhum.*

### **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

#### Goal statement

Work with the new administration to ensure full funding of the stateside Land and Water Conservation Funds.

#### Result

*The District wrote several letters in late 2009 to support a bill to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at the authorized annual level of \$900 million. On July 30, for the first time in over a decade, the House of Representatives passed a bill to fully dedicate the Land and Water Conservation Fund at its authorized level of \$900 million a year.*

## **Moffett Field**

### Goal statement

Support efforts to build levees in order to restore the salt ponds at Site 25 to tidal standard.

### Result

*We are continuing to support efforts by third parties who seek assistance from the Corps of Engineers to build levees in order to restore the salt ponds at Site 25 to tidal standard.*

## **Review federal legislation**

### Goal statement

Ensure that federal legislators understand the impact of proposed legislation on District constituents, the natural environment, and the District itself.

### Results

- *Review is ongoing.*
- *We wrote to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Vilsack to strengthen APHIS Q-37 screening of plant imports to prevent introduction of invasive species so that the Bay Area, and elsewhere, has to spend significantly fewer resources controlling invasive plants such as Slender False Brome, thistle and coyote brush.*

**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Legislative Program  
For 2011-2012 Legislative Session**

**Goals for State Legislative Activity**

**Local property tax funding.**

Goal statement

Maintain and protect the District's current percentage share of the local property tax funding.

Problem/opportunity description

Proposition 1A, which won 84 percent support during the November 2, 2004 general election, has continued to protect local agencies such as the District by requiring the state to pay back borrowed tax revenues within three years with interest and limiting such borrowings to twice in a ten-year period. The first borrowing occurred in 2010. Monitor the legislative process for proposals that seek to reduce the District's share of property taxes.

Proposed action

Work with the District's legislators to ensure they are aware of the impacts any further taking of the District's funding would have on the provision of services and on protecting the land.

**Water Quality Bond Act**

Goal statement

Support a water bond act if one is placed on the 2012 ballot.

Problem/opportunity description

On November 7, 2006, 53.9 percent of voters passed Proposition 84, the 5.4 billion dollar "Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006". The District can apply for and benefit from grants made available through the Sustainable Communities and Climate Change Reduction chapter in Proposition 84 as well as grants available through the Statewide Park Act which awards funds for the creation of new parks and facilities.

Proposed action

After successful passage of the Water Quality Bond Act of 2006, support campaign if another Bond Act is placed on the 2012 ballot.

**Expand repayment of District notes to 30 years**

Goal statement

Allow the District to repay its indebtedness (notes) over 30 years in order to bring the District's payment obligations closer in line with most public bonds, which typically have a due date of 30 years.

Problem/opportunity description

If the District were able to repay its debt over 30 years instead of 20 years it would expand the debt available and allow the agency to better carry out its core mission by purchasing more land to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space preserves. Increased purchases of open space is a benefit that would outweigh the higher interest the District would pay over time. This was attempted by the District last session but received substantial resistance from Senate staff who argued that such a change should require a two-thirds vote of the people. Since 2007 we have sought to introduce and pass a bill but at present we see no possibility to overcome this obstacle and will instead work on a long-term goal to obtain legislative approval.

Proposed action

Work to implement a long-term goal of creating a bill to change the District's enabling legislation by amending Public Resources Code Sec. 5544.2 to allow 30 years for repayment of district indebtedness. Work with the Assembly and the Senate to pass the bill.

**Integrate open space and recreational uses on Williamson Act lands**

Goal statement

Pursue methods to streamline the process of integrating open space and recreational uses on Williamson Act lands at the County and State level and promote the compatibility of open space and recreational uses and conservation easements with Williamson Act contracts.

Problem/opportunity description

The District, like many other agencies, owns land subject to old and antiquated Williamson Act contracts which state that open space and recreational uses are not consistent. These older contracts were written prior to modern amendments made to the Williamson Act but they nevertheless remain in effect. As a result, it can be difficult to integrate open space and recreational uses with our contracts. For example, for even a minor addition such as a parking lot, the District, under the old Williamson contracts, has to obtain a permit from the county (called a "Compatible Use Determination"). This amounts to a waste of time and money because the modern Williamson Act states that open space and recreational uses *are* compatible.

Proposed action

Work with cities and counties to integrate open space and recreational uses on open space lands under the Williamson Act and partner with the California Council of Land Trusts and other 5500 Districts to pursue a legislative solution.

**Subdivision Map Act**

Goal statement

Streamline District projects by establishing that property conveyances to and from regional open space and park districts for open space purposes are exempt from the Subdivision Map Act.

Problem/opportunity description

The District would like to exempt regional park and open space districts from provisions of the Subdivision Map Act which add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy to the purchase of open space by specifying that land uses must first be submitted to the local planning agency for review before it acquires real property. This is because the primary purpose of the Map Act is to regulate

the design of development but special districts can only buy land for park and open space purposes upon which there will be no development so that there is no need for the regulation of subdivision design

#### Proposed action

As directed by Sacramento legislative staff, make a good-faith effort on the local level by working to formalize a verbal agreement with Santa Clara County and is negotiate an agreement with San Mateo County. If efforts fail, work on a legislative solution in the state's capital by developing a bill to amend Government Code Section 66412 of the Government Code to clearly establish that property conveyances to and from regional open space and park districts solely for open space purposes are exempt from the Subdivision Map Act. To this end, add the following section to the Government Code:

66412.4. This division shall not apply to conveyances of land or interests in land, to or from a regional park and open space district established pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 5500) of Chapter 3 of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code, when the conveyances are solely for the purposes of open space preservation.

### **General plan conformity**

#### Goal statement

Facilitate the acquisition and preservation of public open space by streamlining the acquisition process.

#### Problem/opportunity description

Prior to acquiring real property, a local agency such as the District must submit the proposal to the applicable county or city planning agency which then has 40 days to provide a report that the proposal conforms to the applicable general plan. The District is technically allowed to ignore the ruling it gets back, but in some counties the simple act of inquiring and getting an answer back delays the purchase process by weeks and adds an extra public notice cycle. This can be a problem because real estate transactions regularly need to occur as promptly as possible or the purchase opportunity may be lost to a private buyer. We would like to change the law by seeking an exemption because this statute can significantly interfere with the preservation of open space, yet serves no useful purpose since the statutory purpose of open space districts is the acquisition and preservation of open space. Development on such lands is by definition minor and any development would still be subject to the full regulatory processes of the city and county in which the land is located, even with the exemption we are proposing below.

#### Proposed action

As directed by Sacramento legislative staff, make a good-faith effort on the local level by obtaining a letter similar to the one obtained from Santa Clara County stating that the District transactions conform to their general plan with the exception that agricultural lands will be exempted in order to honor the wishes of the District's partners in the coastside farming community. If efforts fail, work on a legislative solution in the state's capital by seeking a narrow exemption to Government Code Section 65402(c) for regional park and open space districts by amending the last sentence of this statute to read as follows (add language that's in italics): "Local agency does not include the state, or county, or a city, *or a regional park and open space district established pursuant to Division 5, Chapter 3, of the Public Resources Code.*"



## **Future District funding measure**

### Goal statement

Begin laying the groundwork for a future District funding measure to be submitted to the voters.

### Problem/opportunity description

In order to ensure the long-term success of the District, if LFPAC and the Board determine that a funding measure should be brought before the voters, begin laying the groundwork for a measure.

### Proposed action

Carry out activities that lay the groundwork for a future District funding measure to be submitted to the voters.

## **Review state legislation**

### Goal statement

Ensure that legislators understand the impact of proposed legislation on District constituents, the natural environment, and on the District itself.

### Problem/opportunity description

During each legislative session bills are forwarded that would have a negative impact on the District just as there are bills whose effects would be positive. In each case the District needs to take a position opposing or supporting bills.

### Proposed action

Review state legislation and support, oppose, or seek amendments to those bills that impact the District.

## **Goals for Federal Legislative Activity**

### **Cleanup for the former Almaden Air Force Station**

#### Goal statement

Seek Federal legislative assistance in securing funding for the cleanup of the former Almaden Air Force Station (AFS) at Mt. Umunhum in the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve.

#### Problem/opportunity description

Continue to work with the District's congressional delegation to obtain additional federal funding to help with the cleanup.

#### Proposed action

Seek federal legislative assistance in securing funding for the cleanup of the former Almaden Air Force Station.

## **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

### Goal statement

Work with the administration to ensure full funding of the stateside Land and Water Conservation Funds.

### Problem/opportunity description

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act designated that a portion of receipts from offshore oil and gas leases be placed into a fund annually for state and local conservation, as well as for the protection of our national treasures such as parks, forest and wildlife areas.

LWCF is authorized at \$900 million annually, a level that has been met only twice during the program's 40-year history. On July 30, 2010 for the first time in over a decade, the House of Representatives passed a bill to fully dedicate the Land and Water Conservation Fund at its authorized level of \$900 million a year.

### Proposed action

If the Senate has not fully funded the program by the November 2010 elections, work with the administration and the federal legislature in the coming federal fiscal years to ensure full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Funds.

## **Moffett Field**

### Goal statement

Support efforts to build levees in order to restore the salt ponds at Site 25 to tidal standard.

### Problem/opportunity description

The District persuaded the EPA and the Regional Water Board to convince the Navy that the area should be cleaned up to the higher, tidal wave standard. We also convinced the Navy that Hangar One needs to be cleaned up before the District can be satisfied with the overall cleanup effort.

### Proposed action

Continue to support efforts by third parties designed to seek assistance from the Corps of Engineers to build levees in order to restore the salt ponds at Site 25 to tidal standard.

## **Review federal legislation**

### Goal statement

Ensure that federal legislators understand the impact of proposed legislation on District constituents, the natural environment, and the District itself.

### Problem/opportunity description

During each federal legislative session bills may be forwarded that would have a negative impact on the District just as there are bills whose effects would be positive. In each case the District should take a "support" or "oppose" position.

Proposed action

Review specific pieces of Federal legislation and support, oppose, or seek amendments to those bills that impact the District.