



SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

*The Board of Directors conducted this meeting in accordance with
California Government Code section 54953.*

DRAFT MINUTES

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA
REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT – CLOSED SESSION**

President Kersteen-Tucker called the special meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Craig Gleason, Karen Holman, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Yoriko Kishimoto, Margaret MacNiven, and Curt Riffle

Members Absent: Karen Holman

Staff Present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria, Real Property Planner III Aaron Peth, Real Property Agent II Jasmine Leong

President Kersteen-Tucker 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.

1. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54956.8)

Property: Santa Clara County APN(s): 544-03-001, 544-06-001, 544-06-002, 544-07-015, 537-01-002 and 537-02-001

Agency Negotiator: Aaron Peth, Real Property Planner III

Negotiating Party: San Jose Water Company

Under Negotiation: Purchase Terms

2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54956.8)

Property: San Mateo County APN(s): 089-150-010, 089-150-020 and 089-150-040

Agency Negotiator: Jasmine Leong, Real Property Agent II

Negotiating Party: Sempervirens Fund

Under Negotiation: Purchase Terms

3. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54956.8)

Property: Santa Clara County APN(s): 544-28-007, 544-29-008, 544-29-009, 544-29-010, 544-29-011, and 544-29-012

Agency Negotiator: Jasmine Leong, Real Property Agent II

Negotiating Party: Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST)

Under Negotiation: Purchase Terms

Public comment period opened.

District Clerk Maria Soria reported no public comments were submitted for the closed session.

Public comment period closed.

The Board convened into closed session.

Director Holman arrived at 5:26 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kersteen-Tucker adjourned the special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 6:51 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

President Kersteen-Tucker called the regular meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Craig Gleason, Karen Holman, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Yoriko Kishimoto, Margaret MacNiven, and Curt Riffle

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria, Executive Assistant/Deputy District Clerk Nelia Lopez, Senior Resource Management Specialist David Liefert, Water Resource Specialist III Jackie Van Der Hout, Senior Resource Management Specialist Coty Sifuentes-Winter

President Kersteen-Tucker 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.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

President Kersteen-Tucker reported the Board met in closed session, and no reportable action was taken.

Director Riffle dedicated the meeting to the memory of former California state legislator Byron Sher. He noted that Mr. Sher had a significant impact on the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) and provided significant lobbying and legislative assistance that helped the District gain support and secure grant funding. Director Riffle described Mr. Sher as an advocate for the District at the local and state levels, and that his focus was on sustainability and the protection of open space. Directors Kishimoto and Holman spoke about Mr. Sher's accomplishments and contributions to the community.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Public comment period opened.

District Clerk Maria Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment period closed.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: **7-0-0**

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Introduction of Staff

- Alysha Carabetta Training and Safety Specialist

CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Riffle commented on Agenda Item #5 and expressed appreciation for the report, noting that it was informative and highlighted the work accomplished by staff and volunteers.

General Manager Ana Ruiz stated that staff had prepared a short video highlighting the District's accomplishments, which would also be posted on the District's website. The video was played for the Board.

Public comment period opened.

District Clerk Maria Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment period closed.

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved, and Director Holman seconded the motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7-0-0

- 1. Approve the September 9, 2026 Board meeting minutes**
- 2. Approve Claims Report**
- 3. Amendment to the Use and Management Plan for Long Ridge Open Space Preserve to clarify the dogs-on-leash designations and to extend dog on-leash access to a 0.2-mile section of Chestnut Trail (R-26-136)**

General Manager's Recommendations:

Approve an amendment to the Use and Management Plan for Long Ridge Open Space Preserve as follows (refer also to map in Attachment A):

- A. Allow dogs-on-leash on a 0.2-mile segment of the Chestnut Trail between Castanea Ridge Road and Portola Heights Road to improve neighborhood dog access.
- B. Define and clarify that dogs-on-leash are allowed only on the trails designated for dogs-on-leash trails (i.e., the remainder of Chestnut Trail and a 0.4-mile upper segment of Peter's Creek Trail) and on the disc line that extends between the Grizzly Flat roadside parking area and Gate LR03.

- 4. Award of Contract for the Districtwide Bat Roosting Habitat Suitability Analysis (R-26-137)**

General Manager's Recommendations:

1. Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Stillwater Sciences to conduct a district-wide assessment of natural bat roosting habitat with a written report and to update bat training materials for a base contract amount not to exceed \$232,171.
2. Authorize a 10% contingency of \$23,217 to cover unforeseen tasks beyond the current scope, bringing the total not-to-exceed contract amount to \$255,388.

- 5. Annual Year-End Action Plan Progress Update and Major Accomplishments Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026 (R-26-138)**

Informational item only. No Board action required.

- 6. Grant Application with the California Wildlife Conservation Board to fund specific elements of the Purisima-to-the-Sea Parking Project (R-26-139)**

General Manager's Recommendation: Adopt a resolution authorizing the General Manager to apply for up to \$1,860,000 in grant funding and negotiate a subsequent grant agreement, if awarded, from the California Wildlife Conservation Board for the wildlife-oriented public access elements, and to support the general conditions and site preparation activities of the Purisima-to-the-Sea Parking Project.

7. Grant Funding from the California State Coastal Conservancy for the Highway 17 Wildlife and Trail Crossings Project, the El Sereno Loop Trail and a Connector Trail to the Highway Overcrossing (R-26-140)

General Manager's Recommendation: Adopt a resolution authorizing the General Manager to enter into a grant award agreement for \$4,000,000 awarded by the California State Coastal Conservancy for the Highway 17 Wildlife and Trail Crossings Project, the El Sereno Loop Trail and a Connector Trail to the highway overcrossing.

8. Award of Contract to EMID Design Group for Procurement and Installation of 21 Workstations (R-26-141)

General Manager's Recommendations:

1. Award a contract to Erin Melkonian Interior Design, Inc., (EMID Design Group) of Fresno, CA to furnish and install workstations in the Administrative Office for a not-to-exceed base amount of \$136,559.
2. Authorize a 10% contingency amount of \$13,655 to be reserved for unanticipated issues, additional furnishings and/or replacement items, for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$150,214.

BOARD BUSINESS

9. Mitigation Cooperative Agreement with the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board for the Hicks Creek Off-Site Mitigation Project at Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve (R-26-142)

Senior Resource Management Specialist David Liefert, Senior Resource Management Specialist Coty Sifuentes-Winter, and Water Resource Specialist III Jackie Van Der Hout presented. Caltrain Capital Projects and Environmental Planning Manager Bonnie O'Connor assisted with answering questions.

Director Kishimoto inquired about the relationship between the project and the Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE).

Mr. Liefert stated he was unsure, but that staff could look into it.

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 Gleason seconded the motion to adopt a resolution adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Guadalupe River Bridge Replacement Project, as amended by the First, Second and Third Addendums, in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act to analyze environmental impacts associated with the Hicks Creek Off-Site Mitigation Project, as set forth in the Mitigation Cooperative Agreement with the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board and Authorize the General Manager to execute a mitigation cooperative agreement with the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board for

implementation of the Hicks Creek Off-Site Mitigation Project at Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve to restore approximately 0.66-acre of instream, floodplain, riparian, and upland habitat, with all project costs estimated at approximately \$1.8 million fully funded by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7-0-0

10. Consideration of the Proposed Toad Hollow Wetland Mitigation Project at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (R-26-143)

Senior Resource Management Specialist Coty Sifuentes-Winter and San Jose Water Company Manager of Environmental Planning and Natural Resources Jared Lewis presented.

Public comment period opened.

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

Public comment period closed.

Motion: Director Gleason moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to confirm that the proposed San Jose Water Company mitigation project aligns with the Mitigation Policy and following confirmation, authorize the General Manager to negotiate a Mitigation Agreement with San Jose Water Company for future consideration and approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7-0-0

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

None.

B. Staff Reports

Ms. Ruiz reported that she met with Executive Director Julie Hutcheson of Green Foothills on September 18. She announced that Governor Newsom signed SB 949, designating the Santa Cruz Mountain as a resource of statewide significance, and noted that Senator Becker would be holding a press conference soon. She reported that Santa Clara County Parks will be celebrating their 70th anniversary, which she will attend on behalf of the District. She reminded the Board that the Sierra Club Guardians of Nature benefit would be held on September 25 and that Green Foothills Nature's Inspiration event will be held on September 27.

C. Director Reports

Director MacNiven reported that she and President Kersteen-Tucker met with Joe Muzzi and viewed the Lake Lucerne structure and attended the San Francisco garter snake release on September 23.

Director Kishimoto reported that she attended the Santa Clara Special Districts Association meeting representing the Local Agency Formation Commission on September 14 and attended the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission meeting on September 17.

Director Holman reported she attended the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Board meeting on September 1. She also reported that she and Director Cyr presented to the Sunnyvale City Council on September 15 and attended the San Francisco garter snake release on September 23.

Director Riffle reported he, Director Kishimoto, and staff attended a Rights Relation team meeting on September 21. He noted that the team is working on recommendations for how to incorporate working with indigenous tribes at the District and that the team will present its recommendations on October 7 in Berkeley.

Director Gleason reported that he attended the Santa Clara County Special Districts Association meeting as the District's representative. He also volunteered at Bear Creek Redwoods, working with the capital projects team, and participated in a ranger ride along on September 21.

President Kersteen-Tucker reported that the City of Sunnyvale recognized Director Cyr for 30 years of service on the Board and his longstanding commitment to the community, leadership, and protection of open space that was presented on the September 15, 2026, by the Mayor Larry Klien.

Director Cyr announced that he will resign as Ward 3 Director effective October 15, 2026, and noted that the October 14 Board meeting will be his last meeting as a director. He expressed gratitude to the Sunnyvale community for its trust and support during his 30 years of service on the Board and reflected on the District's accomplishments. He stated that it has been an honor and privilege to serve the residents of Sunnyvale and advance the District's mission not only for all residents in the region, but also for the native plants and wildlife. He also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work with his fellow Board members and District staff in making great strides in land conservation, natural resource protection, public access and supporting local agriculture.

The Board recognized Director Cyr's commitment and leadership over the years and expressed gratitude for his contributions in shaping the District and thanked him for his dedicated service.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kersteen-Tucker adjourned the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in memory and honor of Byron Sher at 8:51 p.m.

Maria Soria
District Clerk