



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-26-139
Meeting 26-24
September 23, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 6

AGENDA ITEM

Grant Application with the California Wildlife Conservation Board to fund specific elements of the Purisima-to-the-Sea Parking Project

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

⑤1 *den*

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.

SUMMARY

Following an invitation by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), the General Manager recommends that the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board of Directors (Board) adopt a resolution authorizing the General Manager to submit a full application to the WCB for up to \$1,860,000 in grant funding and, if awarded, negotiate a WCB grant agreement. This grant would provide critical funding to complete the construction of wildlife-oriented public access elements and the general condition and site preparation activities of the Purisima-to-the-Sea Parking Project (MAA03-009). WCB requires a resolution to apply for grant funding from the District's Board prior to reviewing the project and potentially awarding funds up to \$1,860,000.

DISCUSSION

In alignment with the 2025 update to the Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Strategic Plan, grant funding is available for public access projects. The Grants Program has identified the Purisima-to-the-Sea Parking (Project) project as one that advances WCB's priority to "*expand public access to nature*" by promoting diverse outdoor experiences, including "*projects that have a primary purpose of non-consumptive wildlife recreation, such as bird watching or hiking.*" On June 30, 2026, the Grants Program submitted a pre-application and received an invitation from WCB on July 21 to submit a full application. WCB requires a resolution to apply for grant funding from the District's Board prior to reviewing the project and potentially awarding funds up to \$1,860,000. WCB does not require a deed restriction.

The Project purpose is to provide new public access facilities and amenities to enhance visitor access to Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve and provide new opportunities for ecologically-sensitive connections to nature. The Project will construct a new parking facility at

Verde Road and establish two connector trails and two at-grade multi-use crossings that will enable access to the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail project (MAA03-010). The new parking facility on Verde Road will address current parking constraints at the existing trailheads by adding 107 new parking stalls, including 7 with electric vehicle charging stations, 8 ADA space, and 5 for equestrian trailers. The planned parking area will increase parking capacity for the preserve by nearly 70 percent, and ease overflow shoulder parking that has frustrated neighbors along Purisima Creek Road and Skyline Boulevard.

With completion of the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail project, visitors using the Verde Road parking facility will gain direct access to the lower portion of the preserve and to 7.2 miles of newly constructed and improved trails that connect seamlessly with the existing upper trail network. A resulting 15-mile continuous alignment will establish a critical east–west regional link between two major state-supported trail systems—the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the California Coastal Trail. In addition, one of the project’s two connector trails and its associated crossing will provide a dedicated access point to the California Coastal Trail.

The new parking facility will support non-consumptive wildlife-oriented recreation, consistent with the WCB grant funding goals, by providing an outdoor nature education area for environmental education groups, an overlook for wildlife observations, and interpretative signage. The project will also feature a bioretention area for storm water runoff that will create new wildlife habitat for birds and small mammals. Separately, new native vegetation and seeds to be planted throughout the parking facility will provide food and shelter for many species but especially for several pollinator species of concern identified in the California State Wildlife Action Plan.

WCB requires a resolution to apply for grant funding from the District’s Board prior to reviewing the project and potentially awarding funds up to \$1,860,000. The resolution for this project (Attachment 1) would authorize the General Manager or their designee to sign the application for WCB funds and to execute a grant agreement for the funding, if awarded. WCB grant funding would be specifically applied to the Project’s wildlife-oriented features (i.e., the bioretention area, overlook and lookout, a group education area, and interpretive signage), and the associated general conditions and site preparation costs.

FISCAL IMPACT

Upon review and approval by WCB, this funding opportunity would have a positive impact of up to \$1,860,000.

PRIOR BOARD OR COMMITTEE REVIEW

None

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

Submitting grant applications to secure funding is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The WCB requires that grantees comply with CEQA and certify that the CEQA analysis for any project encompasses all aspects of the work to be completed with grant funds. Analysis of potential environmental impacts of the Project in accordance with CEQA is anticipated to be completed in Winter 2026/27.

NEXT STEPS

If approved by the Board, District staff will complete a WCB grant full application for the Parking Project and the General Manager will submit the grant application to the WCB for consideration. Upon review and approval by WCB, District staff will work with WCB staff to develop a grant agreement for grant funding that the General Manager can execute.

Attachment

1. Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Approving the Application for a Wildlife Conservation Board Grant for the Purisima to the Sea Parking Project

Responsible Department Head:

Stefan Jaskulak, Chief Financial Officer, Administrative Services

Prepared by / Staff contact:

Carol Schimke, Grants Program Manager, Administrative Services

RESOLUTION NO. 26-XX

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA
REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT APPROVING THE APPLICATION
FOR A WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD GRANT FOR THE PURISIMA-TO-
THE-SEA PARKING PROJECT**

WHEREAS, funds were made available to the Wildlife Conservation Board (“WCB”) for the expansion of public access to nature; and

WHEREAS, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (“District”) intends that the Purisima-to-the-Sea Project will complete construction of the Verde Road parking facility, two at-grade crossings, and two connector trails that together expand access to nature and offer specific wildlife-oriented recreational and other features.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District hereby:

1. Approves the filing of a full application for funding from the WCB.
2. Further commits to the terms and conditions specified in the grant agreement.
3. Authorizes the General Manager or designee as a representative of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to conduct negotiations, execute, submit and sign all documents including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests, and other documents which may be necessary to administer grant funding for the proposed project, except as limited pursuant to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District policies.

* * * * *

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on September 23, 2026, at a regular meeting thereof, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Margaret MacNiven, Secretary
Board of Directors

Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, President
Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Hilary Stevenson, General Counsel

I, the District Clerk of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District by the above vote at a meeting thereof duly held and called on the above day.

Maria Soria, District Clerk