



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Changes made to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board

Los Altos, CA— On Wednesday night, former Palo Alto Mayor Karen Holman was sworn-in as a new director on the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Board. She was also selected as board vice president for 2019.

Local voters elected Holman last November to fill retiring Director Nonette Hanko's seat, representing residents in the Palo Alto area. Holman is only the second person to fill this role since voters created the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in 1972. Hanko, who spearheaded the grassroots effort resulting in the organization's creation, has served on its board for 46 consecutive years.

In December, Moss Beach resident Zoe Kersteen-Tucker was appointed to fill an open board seat created by the departure of Cecily Harris. Her seat was filled by appointment rather than special election saving San Mateo County taxpayers approximately \$414,000. Kersteen-Tucker, who was selected as board secretary, is serving the remaining two years of Harris's term representing residents in El Granada, Half Moon Bay, Montara, Moss Beach, San Carlos and parts of Redwood City and Woodside. She is the first Coastside resident to serve on the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Board since the organization's boundaries expanded to include the San Mateo County Coast in 2004.

The incumbent directors were also sworn-in for 2019, with Director Pete Siemens chosen as board president and Director Yoriko Kishimoto was chosen as board treasurer.

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a public agency spanning parts of San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties with the mission of preserving, restoring and providing access to a regional greenbelt of open space. It is governed by seven publicly elected directors serving four-year terms. Board officers serve in their roles for one year.

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The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a public agency created by voters in 1972. Its mission is 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. Midpen has successfully protected more than 63,000 acres of open space throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

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