



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 27, 2018

Contact: Leigh Ann Gessner

650-691-1200, lgessner@openspace.org

Cecily Harris stepping down from Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Board of Directors

LOS ALTOS, Calif. — Cecily Harris announced her resignation from the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Board of Directors at their regular public last night. Harris, who currently resides in San Carlos, is moving to Minnesota to begin the next chapter of her life in parks and politics. Her last meeting as a director will be October 10.

"My ten years of service on the Midpen board have been an extraordinary experience," Harris said. "Midpen has undergone significant changes during this time with major growth in staff size, opens space land acquisitions, numerous habitat restorations and additional trail miles. It has been an honor to be a part of these transformations. I know that current and future staff and boards are well positioned to continue this world-class organization."

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. Harris was elected to the board in 2008 representing residents in Ward 7 which includes El Granada, Half Moon Bay, Montara, Moss Beach, San Carlos and parts of Redwood City and Woodside.

Harris participated in creating a 40-year vision plan for the organization alongside the public, which was supported by local voters who passed Measure AA in 2014. During her tenure, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District also preserved an additional 7,600 acres of land and opened new areas to the public, including La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve and Mount Umunhum in the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve.

The board is expected to vote on how to fill Harris's vacant seat at an upcoming public meeting. They can either hold a special election in San Mateo County, or appoint a new director to serve for the remainder of Harris's term until the seat is up for election again in 2020.

Two other Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District board seats will appear on the upcoming November 6 general election ballot. Local voters are to decide who will replace retiring Ward 5 Director Nonette Hanko, representing the Palo Alto area; and who will represent Ward 1 in the South Bay area, a seat currently held by incumbent Pete Siemens.

Read Harris's biography and learn more about the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Board of Directors at: openspace.org/about-us/board-directors.