



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-24-35
Meeting 24-07
March 13, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 7

AGENDA ITEM

Legislative Position Recommendations

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: *den*

Approve the recommended list of legislative positions for the 2024 state legislative session.

SUMMARY

Each year, the state legislature introduces over a thousand new bills for consideration. Legislative consultants and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) staff have reviewed these bills and identified specific legislation (Attachment 1) that merit action. **Important Note:** Most bills will change over the course of the legislative session. The legislative process is fluid and often moves fast. Based upon the guiding documents of Board Policy 1.11 (Attachment 2) and the Board of Directors (Board)-adopted Legislative Program (Attachment 3), the General Manager and staff will pursue an appropriate position for each bill to ensure that District interests are promoted and protected.

DISCUSSION

The 2024 Legislative Program, which the Board approved on December 13, 2023, guides District priorities on legislative proposals affecting the District, its mission, and annual strategic goals. Throughout the session, staff fields time-sensitive requests from partners and monitors evolving pieces of legislation based on Board Policy 1.11 and the approved Legislative Program, using the bill disposition process described in Attachment 4 to assess and determine appropriate actions. Legislation deemed a priority by the Board pursuant to Board Policy 1.11 are tracked and, when appropriate, either supported or opposed. The General Manager keeps the Board notified of actions taken via separate memo (Attachment 5 - Example Memo). Please refer to the Recommended Legislative Positions (Attachment 1) for an overview of the current list of bills identified for District priority action in the second year of the 2023-24 legislative session, along with position definitions.

February 16, 2024 was the submittal deadline for new bills by state assemblymembers and senators (see Attachment 6 - Legislative Calendar). District legislative consultants Public Policy Advocates (PPA) and Environmental and Energy Consulting (EEC) reviewed every bill submitted (2,124 for the 2024 session) to determine whether it had the potential to affect District interests, recommending an initial position and priority.

Based on the list of identified legislation, department managers assisted with a review of all the potential bills of interest and provided their recommended position and priority for each. Approximately 100 bills are currently tracked, though only bills that may initiate action by the District at this time, i.e., those recommended as priority 1 or 2, are presented. At this time, 2 bills are recommended as priority 1 and 10 bills as priority 2. As the legislative session progresses, each bill may change (sometimes substantially), which warrants further consideration concurrent with Board Policy 1.11.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

PRIOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW

On December 13, 2023, the full Board adopted the 2023 Legislative Program ([R-23-144, minutes](#)), accepting recommendations from the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC).

On November 7, 2023, LFPAC reviewed and provided input on the draft 2024 Legislative Program and took action to forward the item to the full Board of Directors for approval with their recommended changes incorporated ([R-23-130](#), draft minutes - Attachment 7).

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.

NEXT STEPS

Based on the Board-adopted 2024 Legislative Program and the bills identified as “priority 1” by the Board at this meeting, staff, the Board President and Vice-President are tentatively scheduled to meet with the District’s state legislative delegation later in March to communicate District interests. Priority 2 bills will have position letters sent to their respective authors and policy committee chairs as appropriate.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – District Legislative Tracking Matrix
- Attachment 2 – Board Policy 1.11 - Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy
- Attachment 3 – District Legislative Program for 2024 – Adopted
- Attachment 4 – District Bill Disposition Process
- Attachment 5 – Example of GM Legislative Memo to the Board
- Attachment 6 – State Legislative Calendar – 2024
- Attachment 7 – Draft Minutes for November 7, 2023 LFPAC Meeting

Responsible Department Head:

Stefan Jaskulak, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services, Acting Public Affairs Manager

Prepared by:
Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Program Manager

**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Legislative Positions Recommendations**

Measure	Author	Issue Area	Topic	Brief Summary	Position*	Priority
AB 2103	Pellerin D	Land Protection	Department of Parks and Recreation: land acquisition.	Under existing law, the Department of Parks and Recreation controls the state park system, which is made up of units. Existing law authorizes the department to acquire title to or any interest in real property, including personal property incidental to the purchase of real property and options to purchase property, that the department deems necessary or proper for the extension, improvement, or development of the state park system. Existing law requires that all land and other real property to be acquired by or for any state agency be acquired by the State Public Works Board, except as specified. This bill would additionally exempt from that requirement property acquired for Big Basin Redwoods, Año Nuevo, and Butano State Parks by the department.	Recommend Support	2
AB 2440	Reyes D	Land Protection	30x30 goal: partnering state agencies: Department of Parks and Recreation.	By Executive Order No. N-82-20, Governor Gavin Newsom directed the Natural Resources Agency to combat the biodiversity and climate crises by, among other things, establishing the California Biodiversity Collaborative and conserving at least 30% of the state's lands and coastal waters by 2030. Current law provides that it is the goal of the state to conserve at least 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030, known as the 30x30 goal. Current law requires the Natural Resources Agency to prioritize specified actions, including partnering with federal agencies to leverage strategic funding and resources in achieving the 30x30 goal. This bill would also require the agency to prioritize promoting and supporting partnering state agencies and departments, including, but not limited to, the Department of Parks and Recreation, in the acquisition and responsible stewardship of state land.	Recommend Support	2
SB 1402	Min D	Land Protection	30x30 goal: state agencies: adoption, revision, or establishment of plans, policies, and regulations.	Current law requires the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to prepare and submit, on or before March 31, 2024, and annually thereafter, a report to the Legislature on the progress made in the prior calendar year toward achieving the goal to conserve 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030. This bill would require all state agencies, departments, boards, offices, commissions, and conservancies to consider the 30x30 goal when adopting, revising, or establishing plans, policies, and regulations.	Recommend Support	2

Measure	Author	Issue Area	Topic	Brief Summary	Position*	Priority
AB 2091	Grayson D	Public Access	California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: public access	<p>The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of an environmental impact report on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect.</p> <p>This bill would exempt from CEQA a change in use to allow public access, as provided, for nonmotorized recreation, as defined, in areas acquired for open space or park purposes where there are preexisting roads, trails, or pathways or other disturbed areas suitable for use as access points for park and open space purposes. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2030.</p>	Recommend Support	1
AB 2869	Friedman D	Public Access	Department of Transportation: trail access: infrastructure projects.	<p>Current law authorizes the Department of Transportation to do any act necessary, convenient, or proper for the construction, improvement, maintenance, or use of all highways that are under its jurisdiction, possession, or control. This bill would require the department to mitigate the impact of infrastructure projects that interfere with or eliminate trail access to parks and recreational areas by maintaining safe access for users of existing trails or providing alternative safe access to those parks and recreational areas.</p>	Recommend Support	2
AB 1889	Friedman D	Stewardship	General plan: wildlife connectivity element.	<p>The Planning and Zoning Law requires the legislative body of a city or county to adopt a comprehensive general plan that includes various elements, including land use and housing elements, as specified. This bill would require a general plan to include a wildlife connectivity element, or related goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements, that considers the effect of development within the jurisdiction on fish, wildlife, and habitat connectivity, as specified. The bill would require the wildlife connectivity element to, among other things, identify and analyze connectivity areas, permeability, and natural landscape areas within the jurisdiction, incorporate and analyze specified guidelines and standards, incorporate and analyze relevant information from specified sources, and incorporate and analyze relevant best available science. The bill would require a city or county subject to these provisions to adopt or review the wildlife connectivity element, or related goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements, upon the adoption or next revision of one or more elements on or after January 1, 2025.</p>	Recommend Support	2

Measure	Author	Issue Area	Topic	Brief Summary	Position*	Priority
AB 2196	Connolly D	Stewardship	Beaver restoration.	<p>Current law, except as provided, authorizes any owner or tenant of land or property that is being damaged or destroyed or is in danger of being damaged or destroyed by certain animals, including, among others, the beaver, to consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on non-lethal methods to address the beaver damage, and if necessary, to apply for a permit to kill the animals. Under current law, it is unlawful for any person to trap any fur-bearing mammal for purposes of recreation or commerce in fur. Under current law, a violation of the Fish and Game Code, or of any rule, regulation, or order made or adopted under that code, is a crime. This bill would require the department to, through consultation with beaver restoration program partners, as defined, develop a program to promote beaver restoration across California, as provided. The bill would, no later than January 1, 2026, require the department to expand the program by, among other things, developing a licensing scheme that includes the issuance and administration of permits for the capture, handling, transport, and release of beavers on public and private lands, except as specified. This bill would allow licensed non-CDFW practitioners to participate in the relocation of beavers believed to be causing property damage to expand the state's capacity in performing non-lethal mitigation measures to relocate beavers and also support land restoration benefits associated with their creation of dams and wetland habitat when beavers are relocated to new restoration site.</p>	Recommend Support	2
AB 2320	Irwin D	Stewardship	Wildlife Connectivity and Climate Adaptation Act of 2024: wildlife corridors.	<p>Current law requires the Natural Resources Agency, in implementing actions to achieve the goal to conserve at least 30% of the state's lands and coastal waters by 2030 established by executive order, to prioritize specified actions. Current law requires the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to prepare and submit an annual report to the Legislature on the progress made during the prior calendar year toward achieving that goal, as provided. Current law requires that annual report to include certain information, including, among other information, the progress made in the prior calendar year to address equity as part of the above-described goal. This bill, the Wildlife Connectivity and Climate Adaptation Act of 2024, would additionally require the agency, as part of that report, to identify key wildlife corridors connections between large blocks of natural areas and habitats, progress on protecting additional acres of wildlife corridors, and goals for wildlife corridor protection in the next 5 years, as provided.</p>	Recommend Support	1

Measure	Author	Issue Area	Topic	Brief Summary	Position*	Priority
AB 2509	Kalra D	Stewardship	Integrated pest management: invasive species: definitions.	<p>Current law, the Food and Agricultural Code, uses the term “invasive species” in a variety of contexts, including, among others, by establishing in state government the Invasive Species Council of California to help coordinate a comprehensive effort to prevent the introduction of invasive species in the state, as provided. This bill would define “integrated pest management” for purposes of the Food and Agricultural Code, excluding the Healthy Schools Act of 2000, to mean, among other things, a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks. The establishment of a statutory definition will help ensure legislation that utilizes either term will not inadvertently undermine the scientific basis for this conservation practice through the creation alternative definitions.</p>	Recommend Support	2
AB 2552	Friedman D	Stewardship	Pesticides: first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides.	<p>Current law prohibits the use of a second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide and diphacinone, as defined, in a wildlife habitat area. Existing law prohibits the use of a second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide in the state until the director certifies to the Secretary of State that, among other things, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, has adopted any additional restrictions necessary to ensure significant reductions to the detectable levels of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides or any of their metabolites, as provided. Current law also prohibits the use of diphacinone in the state until the director certifies to the Secretary of State that the Department of Pesticide Regulation has completed any pending reevaluation of diphacinone and, in consultation with, and with the concurrence of, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, has adopted any additional restrictions that are necessary to ensure significant reductions to the detectable levels of diphacinone or any of its metabolites, as provided. Current law exempts the use of a second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide or diphacinone from these prohibitions under certain circumstances, including for agricultural activities. Current law requires the director, and each county agricultural commissioner under the direction and supervision of the director, to enforce the provisions regulating the use of pesticides. This bill would expand the definition of a wildlife habitat area to include an open-space land, as defined. The bill would additionally prohibit the use of a second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide within 5,000 feet of a wildlife habitat area, and prohibit the use of first-generation anticoagulant rodenticide, defined as a pesticide product containing the active ingredients diphacinone, chlorophacinone, or warfarin, in a wildlife habitat area or within 5,000 feet of a wildlife habitat area, as specified.</p>	Recommend Support	2

Measure	Author	Issue Area	Topic	Brief Summary	Position*	Priority
AB 2558	Hart D	Stewardship	Department of Transportation: projects: fish passage.	Current law, through the year 2025, requires the Department of Transportation to prepare an annual report to the Legislature describing the status of the department’s progress in locating, assessing, and remediating barriers to fish passage. Current law requires the department to pursue development of a programmatic environmental review process with appropriate state and federal regulatory agencies for remediating barriers to fish passage that will streamline the permitting process for projects. This bill would extend this annual reporting requirement until the year 2030 and would require the reports to include other specified information. The bill would impose a deadline of January 1, 2026, for the department to implement the programmatic environmental review process.	Recommend Support	2
AB 2827	Reyes D	Stewardship	Invasive species: prevention.	Would find and declare that it is a primary goal of the state to prevent the introduction, and suppress the spread, of invasive species within its borders. The bill would require, in carrying out this goal, state agencies, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to, among other things, develop and implement strategies to detect, control, monitor, and eradicate invasive species to protect the state’s agriculture, environment, and natural resources. The bill would require the Department of Food and Agriculture, in consultation with other relevant state agencies, to allocate funds, if available, to implement and enforce these provisions.	Recommend Support	2
AB 2875	Friedman D	Stewardship	Wetlands: state policy.	Existing law, the Keene-Nejedly California Wetlands Preservation Act, requires the Natural Resources Agency to prepare a plan for the acquisition, protection, preservation, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands, including funding requirements and the priority status of specific proposed wetlands projects. By Executive Order No. W-59-93, former Governor Pete Wilson declared it to be the policy of the state that its Comprehensive Wetlands Policy rests on three primary objectives, including the objective of ensuring no overall net loss and long-term net gain in the quantity, quality, and permanence of wetlands acreage and values, as provided. This bill would declare that it is the policy of the state to ensure no net loss and long-term gain in the quantity, quality, and permanence of wetlands acreage and values in California. The bill would make related legislative findings and declarations.	Recommend Support	2
* Position Definitions:						

Recommend Support– Position recommended by legislative consultant and/or staff, along with a potential priority number, prior to GM or Board review.

Support – A position given to bills and propositions that would be a benefit to Midpen’s mission and/or ability to serve its communities.

Measure	Author	Issue Area	Topic	Brief Summary	Position*	Priority
<p>Oppose – A position given to bills and propositions that would be a detriment to Midpen’s mission and/or ability to serve its communities.</p>						
<p>Oppose unless Amended – A position given to bills that may impede the District’s mission and/or ability to serve its communities, unless specific amendments are taken to the bill.</p>						
<p>Recommend Oppose – Position recommended by legislative consultant and/or staff. Often staff and consultants will engage with the author’s office prior to officially assigning this designation.</p>						
<p>Watch – A position given to bills that may directly affect Midpen but does not provide a significant benefit or impose a significant detriment to the District. Also includes bills that are in spot bill form. <i>These are tracked separately.</i></p>						

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Board Policy Manual

<p>Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy</p>	<p>Policy 1.11 Chapter 1 – Administration and Government</p>
<p>Effective Date: 4/13/16</p>	<p>Revised Date: N/A</p>
<p>Prior Versions: N/A</p>	

Purpose

To establish a policy governing positions on local and state ballot measures/propositions and state and federal legislative advocacy. It is intended to cover all matters before the Legislature and the voters.

Definitions

For the purposes of the *Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy* policy, the following terms and definitions shall be used:

Measure – may be included on a municipal, county, or district ballot and includes ordinances, initiatives, referenda, advisory measures, issuance or refunding of bonds, city or county charter amendments, or any other measure or proposition a legislative body may submit to the voters within the body’s jurisdiction.

Ballot Proposition – can be a referendum or an initiative measure that is submitted to the electorate for a direct decision or direct vote. Propositions may be placed on the ballot by the California State Legislature or by a qualifying petition signed by registered voters.

Initiative – power of the electors to propose legislation, and to adopt or reject them. Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the legislative body by means of a petition.

Referendum – applies to the process for repealing newly enacted legislation. Within specified time limits, the electors may file a petition protesting the adoption of that legislation.

Local Legislation – typically ordinances, which are the laws of a city, charter, or district, often having the force of law, but only within the local jurisdiction.

State or Federal Legislation – bills or proposed legislation under consideration by the legislature at the state or federal level.

Policy

1. Positions on Matters Before the Voters
 - a. From time to time the Board of Directors may be asked or may desire to take a position on local or state measures. The Board may consider taking a position on the measure/proposition if the measure/proposition:
 - i. Would directly impact the District's finances, responsibilities, legal authority, or operations; AND
 - ii. Is in line with or inconsistent with the District's mission and/or commitment to preserve open space within its boundaries and sphere of influence.

The Board, by majority vote, may direct the General Manager to research the measure/proposition and return to the Board at a future meeting with information and a General Manager recommendation. At that time, the Board may vote to take a position on a measure/proposition.
 - b. Measures/propositions determined to not impact District business may nonetheless be analyzed by the General Manager when directed by a majority vote of the Board, of which the analysis report would include possible alternatives for Board action, but no position recommendation.

2. Local, State, and Federal Legislative Advocacy
 - a. The Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) receives periodic updates regarding the District's legislative program. When LFPAC determines that proposed legislation may affect District business, it may direct the General Manager to prepare a recommendation for consideration by the full Board or where there is not adequate time to convene the full Board, may direct the General Manager to take action to support or oppose the legislation without full Board approval. In such cases, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose legislation at or before the next Board meeting.
 - b. When time is so short that neither the full Board nor LFPAC can be convened to consider positions to support or oppose local, state or federal legislation, the General Manager is authorized to take a position on behalf of the District if the legislation:
 - i. Is related to the District's mission; AND
 - ii. Would directly impact the District's business, such as project delivery, operations, finances, legal authority, or other District responsibilities; AND
 - iii. The position being taken is consistent/inconsistent with existing District policy, past action, or District Strategic Plan; OR
 - iv. The legislation carries other considerations that make it contrary to the District's interests.

In such instances, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose the legislation at or before the next Board meeting.
 - c. Full Board action is required regarding legislation that is not clearly within the criteria listed above under Section 2.b. or guided by direction previously given by LFPAC.

3. Full Board action is required to support or oppose any type of grassroots advocacy action, such as social, political, or economic movements, that are not legislation.
4. Board members representing the District in their official capacity on regional or other bodies may, at his or her discretion, take actions based on the principles above consistent with previously approved Board positions and policies.
5. This policy is not intended to limit the prerogative of individual Board members from expressing their individual support for or opposition to any local ballot measure, State proposition, State or Federal legislation, or grassroots advocacy actions. However, in doing so, the member should clearly state they are speaking for themselves, and not in an official capacity on behalf of the Board or the District. Individual Board Members who take a position in support or opposition to ballot measure or legislation for which the Board has not previously taken a position are encouraged as a professional courtesy to include the language *for identification purposes only* parenthetically following their signature referencing their position on the Board.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Legislative Program 2024

Adopted: December 13, 2023



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Introduction

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Mission:

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.

As part of the Coastside Protection Area Service Plan, a Coastside mission was adopted in 2004:

To acquire and preserve in perpetuity open space land and agricultural land of regional significance, protect and restore the natural environment, preserve rural character, encourage viable agricultural use of land resources, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

To further these missions, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) annually reviews opportunities and challenges and establishes legislative priorities and policy statements to guide its advocacy activities at the regional, state and federal levels.

Advocacy of the District's Interests

While this document attempts to cover a wide variety of legislative issues that may impact the District, it is not comprehensive, complete or final. Throughout the state and federal legislative sessions, the District will review and act on various proposed policies and state or federal budget items. In instances where time is so short that neither the full Board, nor LFPAC, can be convened to consider a particular legislative position, the General Manager will take action and report back to the Board through Board Policy 1.11 utilizing appropriate due diligence and consideration of public sensitivity, which may include consultation with the Board President.

Per Section 2.0 of Board Policy 1.11, legislative advocacy is considered in the following manner:

Section 2.0: Local, State, and Federal Legislative Advocacy

- a. The Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) receives periodic updates throughout the year regarding the District's legislative program. When LFPAC determines that proposed legislation may affect District business, it may direct the General Manager to prepare a recommendation for consideration by the full Board or may direct the General Manager to take action to support or oppose the legislation without full Board approval when there is not adequate time to convene the full Board. In such cases, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose legislation at or before the next Board meeting.
- b. When time is so short that neither the full Board nor LFPAC can be convened to consider positions to support or oppose local, state or federal legislation, the General Manager is authorized to take a position on behalf of the District if the legislation:
 - i. Is related to the District's mission; AND

- ii. Would directly impact the District's business, such as project delivery, operations, finances, legal authority, or other District responsibilities; AND
- iii. The position being taken is consistent/inconsistent with existing District policy, past action, or the District's annual Strategic Plan
[https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/Attachment 2 FY24 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives.pdf](https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/Attachment%20FY24%20Strategic%20Plan%20Goals%20and%20Objectives.pdf); OR
- iv. The legislation carries other considerations that make it contrary to the District's interests.

In such instances, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose the legislation at or before the next Board meeting.

- c. Full Board action is required regarding legislation that is not clearly within the criteria listed above under Section 2.b. or guided by direction previously given by LFPAC.

All legislation on which the District takes a position will be closely tracked by the General Manager's Office (GMO) and reported to the Board of Directors. Public Affairs staff will be responsible for reporting similar information to key departments. Contracted state and federal legislative consultants will represent District interests based upon the policies contained in this Legislative Program. In addition to District position letters, Board members and District staff may be asked to testify before or meet with relevant legislators or members of the executive branch to discuss issues requiring heightened advocacy. If this is the case, District staff must first notify and/or confirm approval from the GMO to ensure that positions taken are consistent with the Board-approved Legislative Program.

State Legislative Priorities

The following are the legislative priorities for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District during the 2024 State Legislative Session. Annual priority-setting considers a combination of issues that relate directly to important District-led projects or initiatives, opportunities to support or oppose state legislative initiatives sponsored by others that affect the District's mission, and any issues that are identified by the Board as particularly significant. Funding measures are the most common of these priorities and are generally tied to the creation of new funding sources or the processes that prescribe the allocation of existing funding sources. The 2024 legislative priorities are listed and grouped below consistent with the Board's annual Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives (See Appendix A) to provide a clear connection to agency priorities:

Goal 1: Promote, establish, and implement a regional environmental protection vision with partners

- **Wildlife Corridors:** Enable greater funding opportunities, permit streamlining, and intentional public roadway infrastructure design to preserve and enhance wildlife corridors; promote wildlife permeability in the built environment with a particular focus on local roadways.
- **Climate Adaptation Strategy:** Support and influence the development and implementation of the state's various climate adaptation, resiliency, and biodiversity initiatives to incorporate District priorities, including the California Climate Adaptation Strategy, Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, California Air Resources Board (CARB) Scoping Plan and Pathways to 30x30 Strategy.
- **Exempt Conveyance:** Explore the feasibility of clarifying language in the Subdivision Map Act regarding transfers of property to public agencies.

Goal 2: Protect the positive environmental values of open space and agricultural lands

- **Ecologically Sensitive Vegetation Management:** Promote effective guidelines, streamlining, and funding for wildland fire fuel reduction efforts that minimize potential impacts to rare and endangered species and the risk of exacerbating the spread of invasive species.
- **Permit Streamlining and Cutting the Green Tape:** Support efforts by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to streamline permitting processes for environmental restoration and stewardship projects. This includes the extension of California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP).

- **Sustainable Patterns of Development:** Encourage state agencies that regulate community growth plans to focus new development in ways that prevent an increase in wildland fire hazards and protect landscape-scale ecosystems and their ability to adapt to climate change.

Goal 3: Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision

- **Equitable Public Access:** Enhance funding resources that support expanding access to greenspace opportunities and a sense of belonging and inclusion for under-resourced communities and individuals with disabilities.
- **Multimodal and Public Access Infrastructure:** Prioritize multi-benefit active transportation modes that safely connect people with parks, open space and trails. Expand funding and resources for the District to pursue strategies to address parking and traffic congestion issues, manage visitation, increase greener modes of transportation, improve accessibility for users with limited mobility and provide new transit connections to communities, including expanding transit-to-trails programs.
- **Environmental Education and Interpretation:** Pursue the creation of programmatic funding sources and other resources that provide accessible public environmental education and interpretation, including signage in multiple languages.

Goal 4: Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission

- **State Funding:** Pursue funding that benefits a wide range of open space priorities and promotes landscape-level climate resilience, staffing capacity, conservation workforce development and equitable access to nature, particularly in the Bay Area. This includes new Climate Resiliency bond funding and promoting the use of the “under-resourced communities” definition in new and existing state funding sources.
- **Workforce Development:** Support the proliferation of land stewardship workforce development programs that would expand employment opportunities and increase the diversity of applicants. This also supports the state’s [Outdoors for All Strategy](#) (#1.5.2: Explore bolstering California’s capacity to meet deferred maintenance needs through technical skill-building programs that ultimately lead to state employment opportunities)

Legislative Policy Positions

The ability of the District to deliver its mission and remain a sustainable organization can be impacted by legislation proposed at the local, state or federal level. To this end, proactive policy positions taken by the District on a variety of relevant issue areas help to ensure consistency in advocacy. District policy positions are grouped by Board-approved strategic plan goals. The District supports policy that:

Goal 1: Promote, establish, and implement a regional environmental protection vision with partners:

1. Promotes and enhances the ability to acquire open space and agricultural lands consistent with District policies and goals, as well supports land protection and biodiversity goals set forth by Executive Order N-82-20, 2020. This order elevates the role of natural and working lands and the advancement of biodiversity conservation in the fight against climate change as an administration priority. It also commits California to the goal of conserving 30 percent of statewide lands and coastal waters by 2030.
2. Protects public open space and associated property rights, interests and easements.
3. Enhances or funds regional collaboration and coordination of conservation efforts.
4. Promotes urban infill and urban growth boundaries to avoid sprawl and protect natural and working lands and prevents pressure to develop open spaces and further encroach upon the wildland-urban interface, riparian areas and open space buffer areas.
5. Ensures that the zoning of permanently protected lands supports activities that further the District's mission (preservation, natural resource protection, public access and education, agriculture).
6. Expands and restores protected open space lands to enhance biodiversity, climate change resilience, and scenic, rural character.
7. Promotes the use of green infrastructure and natural solutions in promoting climate resiliency and combating the effects of climate change.

Goal 2: Protect the positive environmental values of open space and agricultural lands:

1. Ensures reasonable setback requirements that allow minimum defensible space clearances to be met by private property owners to prevent catastrophic fires that damage habitats and pose a high public safety hazard.
2. Furthers implementation of state greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, such as Senate Bill 32 (2016), the Global Warming Solutions Act, that establishes a GHG emissions target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, and Assembly Bill 1279 (2022), that establishes a target to reach statewide net carbon neutrality no later than 2045.
3. Furthers the implementation of Assembly Bill 1757 (Garcia, 2022), which recognizes the importance of natural and working lands for the purpose of carbon sequestration and storage and requires the California Natural Resources Agency to establish a range of targets for natural carbon sequestration for 2030, 2038, and 2045.

4. Supports effective and comprehensive Districtwide, regional and statewide measures that respond to sea level rise and other effects of climate change and enhance ecological and community-wide climate resilience.
5. Enhances or streamlines the integration of wildlife corridors into transportation infrastructure planning and construction projects; promotes the protection, installation, and maintenance of wildlife corridors and related infrastructure.
6. Promotes advance mitigation programs to enhance wildlife corridor networks.
7. Connects habitats that support a diverse array of native plants and animals.
8. Encourages public road management agencies to control invasive plant populations and incorporate safe pedestrian and wildlife crossings across transportation networks.
9. Eliminates the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides.
10. Supports increased knowledge, management and ultimately the eradication of Sudden Oak Death disease.
11. Provides permit exemptions and streamlining for natural resources protection and restoration projects.
12. Provides permit exemptions and streamlining for minor trail reroutes and small trail improvements that avoid sensitive resource areas, resolve erosion and sedimentation issues and improve the health of the watershed.
13. Supports maintaining state and federal lists of endangered species justified through conclusive biological evidence.
14. Helps efforts to protect, conserve, restore and enhance the natural resources of the District, its coast, and connecting waters for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations.
15. Engages Native American communities in cultural and land management practices to restore and protect natural and cultural resources and enhance landscape resilience; supports existing and future Native American-led conservation and climate resilience initiatives.
16. Protects and restores watersheds, water quality, natural water courses, wetlands and hydrologic processes consistent with the District's Resource Management Policies.
17. Promotes expedited removal of select trees and brush by public agencies for fire protection, public safety and enhanced climate resilience, while protecting rare and endangered species and avoiding the spread of invasive species.
18. Removes barriers to carrying out prescribed fires and cultural burns as a natural component of a healthy ecosystem, such as prohibitive liability standards.

19. Supports working farms and ranches on public open space land that further conservation and climate resilience goals.
20. Supports the creation of and repairs to farm labor housing to foster farm operation sustainability that ultimately furthers conservation and climate resilience goals.
21. Incentivizes agricultural operations to invest in energy-efficient and water-efficient irrigation technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and water use.
22. Provides economic support for agricultural infrastructure maintenance and improvements.
23. Protects natural lands from the destruction caused by illegal marijuana grows, prohibits marijuana grows on public lands, and restores damaged habitats.
24. Supports efforts to create and make available more complete sets of data for managing natural and working lands.
25. Promotes access to peer-reviewed data and modeling of climate change impacts to California's natural and working landscapes and use of these resources to plan and prioritize work to enhance landscape resilience.

Goal 3: Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision

1. Helps expand educational opportunities for under-resourced and non-English speaking communities about the natural resources and benefits of open space and increases public appreciation for the environment.
2. Promotes volunteer involvement and engagement of diverse communities in ongoing conservation, restoration, enhancement and interpretation of the District's natural and cultural resources.
3. Engages children and parents in the enjoyment and appreciation of outdoor open spaces to inspire the next generation of conservation champions.
4. Funds and enables programs that hire youth to work in parks and open space and encourages them to consider careers in conservation.
5. Keeps preserves safe, clean, accessible and inviting for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.
6. Promotes awareness and equitable access to open space programs and activities that include tools and measures for addressing language, physical and transportation barriers.
7. Protects cultural resources located on natural open space and working lands.

8. Helps fund and streamline emergency repairs to District infrastructure, including trails and public access amenities.
9. Supports federal, state and regional programs that provide local mobility/multi-modal transportation alternatives for all residents.
10. Facilitates linkages between preserve trails and regional trails and ultimately to the places where people live and work.
11. Improves local transportation and promotes cleaner transportation options to enable better connectivity between communities and open space preserves.
12. Limits public use of drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) consistent with Board policies, ordinances or District permitting to preserve the tranquility of outdoor experiences, prevent disruptions and impacts to the natural resources and minimize wildfire risk.
13. Supports advances in broadband and telecommunications technology that provide cell phone reception and internet access in open space.
14. Supports electric vehicle charging infrastructure that facilitates the Governor's Executive Order N-79-20, which directs agencies to require that, by 2035, all new cars and passenger trucks sold in California be zero-emission vehicles. In addition, support the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) effort to convert all government fleets to 100% zero-emission by 2035.
15. Supports policies that facilitate meaningful engagement of tribal communities in stewardship actions and opportunities for incorporating cultural land practices.
16. Supports policies that facilitates improved access to parks and open spaces for people with disabilities

Goal 4: Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission

1. Preserves existing tax revenues and tax authority.
2. Lowers the voter threshold for locally imposed special taxes from two-thirds to 55%.
3. Preserves tax-exempt status for municipal bonds on a state and federal level.
4. Expands state and federal incentives that promote the issuance of green bonds.
5. Preserves and promotes managerial discretion in effective and productive recruiting, hiring, onboarding, professional development, firing and day-to-day oversight of staff at all levels.
6. Preserves and promotes open, transparent, accountable government administrative practices that enable efficient and timely delivery of public services, facilitate public involvement, and support effective and timely decision-making.

7. Maintains prevailing wage and workers compensation exemptions for volunteers.
8. Preserves and promotes streamlined, cost-effective, fair, and efficient contracting practices that give taxpayers the best value for their dollar and attracts greater contractor and vendor competition, particularly among local providers.
9. Enables contracting methods that aid greenhouse gas emission reductions and support the implementation of the Board-adopted Climate Action Plan.
10. Provides funding and funding flexibility, like block grants, to achieve mission-related goals, including, but not limited to:
 - a. District operations and infrastructure.
 - b. Integrated Pest Management and ecologically sensitive vegetation management, including approaches like conservation grazing.
 - c. Wildfire prevention and fuel reduction and prescribed fire implementation.
 - d. Research and action on climate change impacts, carbon sequestration and carbon storage on natural and working lands.
 - e. Programs that hire youth to work in parks and open space and encourages them to consider careers in conservation.
 - f. Environmental education partnerships and public outreach efforts at local and state levels.
 - g. Complete improvements that meet the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and other accessibility standards in District preserves.
 - h. Protect prime and sustainable agricultural lands, including investments in agricultural-support infrastructure.
 - i. Funding for local partners to receive technical support for agriculture and natural resources enhancements.
 - j. Wildlife corridors and crossing infrastructure.
 - k. Provide low-intensity, ecologically sensitive public access opportunities.
 - l. Public interpretation of natural, cultural and historic resources.
 - m. Public outreach and engagement planning of equitable public access opportunities for diverse communities.
11. Promotes closer collaboration and coordination between regulatory agencies to enhance permit processing efficiencies and reduce overall project costs.
12. Improves and streamlines permitting, CEQA and NEPA review and compliance processes for emergency repairs, routine maintenance, habitat restoration, and public access projects.

13. Builds organizational capacities of regulatory/resource agencies from whom the District needs permitting approvals for our projects
14. Provides open space districts the authority to utilize a variety of contracting methods to construct projects, including design-build methodologies.
15. Promotes implementation of and education about sustainable design and construction, including, but not limited to LEED buildings, stormwater treatment and runoff reduction, local (within 50-mile radius of a project) contractor/consultant hiring, construction material reuse/recycling, and use of green/energy efficient materials and equipment.
16. Supports the District's diversity, equity and inclusion goals.

2024 Regional Priorities

Though there is a growing recognition of the importance of regional planning and coordination, local land use authority dominates California planning processes in both the built and natural environments.

In 2024, the District will focus on the following regional topics:

Local Permit Streamlining

Develop more in-depth relationships with San Mateo and Santa Clara Board Supervisors and staff to facilitate greater understanding of the District's work and its status as a government agency to facilitate streamlining/exemptions from local permitting processes.

Plan Bay Area 2050

Monitor to ensure that the implementation of Plan Bay Area 2050's environmental strategy, Expand Access to Parks and Open Space, continues to pursue urban growth boundaries, protect and manage high-value conservation and agricultural lands, and expand parks, trails and recreation facilities. In addition, actively participate in the re-scoping of the Priority Conservation Area (PCA) program to ensure District priorities are supported and monitor developments regarding subsequent revisions of Plan Bay Area ([Plan Bay Area 2050+](#)) to ensure the District's interests are maintained.

Regional Collaboration

Participate in regional collaboration and coordination efforts that focus on land conservation, resource protection, and ecologically sensitive public access.

Active Transportation Programs

Promote funding for the construction of bicycle/pedestrian paths, installation of bike racks, pedestrian safety improvements (e.g., signalized street intersections, roadway crossings, etc.) and other projects and programs (e.g., Vision Zero, Complete Streets, Safe Routes to Schools, etc.) that make multi-modal access to parks and open spaces, including walking and biking easier, safer and more convenient.

Promote funding and support for natural surface recreational trails as a means for the public to access and enjoy natural landscapes, as well as the expansion of funding for transit options to access public open space, parks and trailheads.

2024 Federal Policy and Funding Priorities

With a President who prioritizes climate resilience and environmental protection still in office, and conservation and climate change funding allocated through the 2022 [Inflation Reduction Act](#) and the 2021 [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#), there should still be opportunities for federal support of District priorities through at least 2024. While the priorities below may be specific to federal initiatives, the policy positions contained within the broader 2024 Legislative Program apply to all levels of government. In general, federal priorities will complement the state priorities identified above. Also, participation in federal focus areas is considered on a case-by-case basis and subject to staff capacity.

In 2024, the District will focus on the following:

Wildlife Crossings/ Trail Connections	
Topic	Action Item:
Highway 17 Project	<p>Policy: Support legislation that enables the completion of the Highway 17 Crossings project.</p> <p>Funding: Identify and obtain federal funding for the Highway 17 Crossings Project in coordination with Caltrans and VTA programming. Pursue requests for the federal FY 2024 (<i>Oct. 1, 2023 – Sept. 30, 2024</i>) appropriations process for construction funding through a Community Project Funding or Congressionally Directed Spending request.</p>
Protection of Wildlife Corridors	<p>Policy: Support legislation to increase funding opportunities for wildlife crossings and corridors. Engage in congressional hearings on the importance of wildlife crossings for both wildlife and driver safety. Engage with administration officials on the processes for future wildfire crossings and corridors programs through the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.</p> <p>Funding: Research and evaluate funding opportunities to facilitate the protection of wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity opportunities.</p>
Regional trail connections	<p>Policy: Support legislation to increase funding opportunities for trails and trail connectors.</p> <p>Funding: Identify funding sources for trail development, connections, and upgrades. Research and evaluate a Community Project Funding or Congressionally Directed Spending request for multimodal access projects in a future appropriations process.</p>

Wildfire Mitigation	
Topic	Action Item:
Fire Prevention and Resilience	<p>Policy: Support legislation to increase western wildland fire resiliency and prevention. Engage with congressional and administration staff on the continued need for, and importance of, wildfire prevention and resiliency programs and funding across the Western U.S.</p> <p>Funding: Research and evaluate a Community Project Funding or Congressionally Directed Spending request for wildfire mitigation and prevention in a future federal fiscal year appropriations process.</p>
Ecologically Sensitive Vegetation Management	<p>Policy: Support legislation that promotes the principles of ecologically sensitive vegetation management.</p> <p>Funding: Research and evaluate federal funding opportunities to support vegetation and land management, including fuel reduction and prescribed fire to promote wildfire resiliency and prevention.</p>

Conservation & Species Protection	
Topic	Action Item:
Conservation Grazing	<p>Policy: Support legislation that includes conservation grazing as a measure of wildfire mitigation and natural resource management. Engage with congressional staff on the importance of conservation grazing and its necessity as a tool for biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Funding: Research and evaluate funding opportunities and federal actions to support conservation grazing and grazing for the purpose of fuel reduction and invasive species control.</p>
Habitat Enhancements	<p>Policy: Support legislation to conserve endangered, threatened, or at-risk critical species in the Bay Area and the State of California. Join East Bay Regional Park District’s pursuit to include funding for grassland conservation in the 2024 federal Farm Bill.</p> <p>Funding: Research and evaluate federal funding to support natural and working lands, including native species and habitat.</p>

<p>Protection of Scenic Landscapes and Maintaining Healthy Working Lands</p>	<p>Policy: Identify and support measures the District can participate in with regards to the Biden Administration’s 30x30 Initiative, America the Beautiful. Research and evaluate opportunities to acquire land for conservation.</p> <p>Funding: Identify funding opportunities to support new land acquisitions and current land management and conservation efforts.</p>
<p>Cutting the Green Tape Initiative & Streamlining Permitting Processes</p>	<p>Policy: Identify and pursue congressional action and/or administrative regulation to streamline environmental review and permitting processes for environmental restoration and natural resource projects and increase regulatory staff capacity to process applications.</p>

Climate Change	
Topic	Action Item:
<p>Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions</p>	<p>Policy: Support legislation and engage in congressional action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote climate resilience. Engage with the Biden Administration’s 30x30 initiative and support provisions to reduce greenhouse emissions.</p> <p>Funding: Research and evaluate federal funding for activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and climate impacts. Pursue federal funding for electric vehicle fleet conversion and charging infrastructure.</p>
<p>Carbon Sequestration and Forest Management</p>	<p>Policy: Engage with federal legislation and regulation that encourages carbon sequestration activities, especially through natural ecosystem processes. Support legislation and regulation the promote forest management methods to improve the long-term resilience of forest carbon stocks.</p> <p>Funding: Research and evaluate federal funding to support District-related carbon sequestration activities.</p>
<p>Climate Adaptation and Resiliency for Natural and Working Landscapes</p>	<p>Policy: Support policies to gather information about climate change, impacts, and management strategies. Support legislation and regulation to increase public land resiliency to climate change. Engage in congressional hearings on the impacts of climate change on public lands. Identify and participate in legislative processes regarding partnerships on reducing invasive species and negative climate impacts. Upon more information, pursue the Biden Administration’s 30x30 initiative to provide incentives for voluntary conservation practices on working lands.</p>

Public Access	
Topic	Action Item:
Green Infrastructure	<p>Funding: Research and evaluate federal funding opportunities to increase and expand green infrastructure in rural and open space areas and to assist with operational reductions in carbon footprints. This includes funding provided by the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act and the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.</p>
Equitable Access	<p>Policy: Identify and pursue congressional action and/or administrative regulation to clearly define eligibility terms, including underserved, under-resourced, and disadvantaged. This also includes opportunities to establish definitions that recognize fundamental regional differences across the U.S.</p> <p>Funding: Research and evaluate federal funding opportunities to increase and expand park/open space access to underserved, under resourced, and disadvantaged communities. This includes equitable access for individuals with disabilities and promotes whole-access to parks, trails and open space.</p>
Multimodal Access Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces	<p>Policy: Identify and pursue congressional action and/or administrative regulation to increase multimodal access to District lands. Support legislation to promote urban connections to open space and recreation opportunities. Engage with congressional staff to place importance on open space access and the need for improved accessibility in the Bay Area.</p> <p>Funding: Research and evaluate funding opportunities to increase access and connections to bring visitors to the District, including expansion of multimodal transportation options (e.g., shuttles, ride hails).</p>
Natural Surface Recreation Trails	<p>Policy: Support federal legislation and regulation to promote natural surface recreation trails. Engage with congressional and administrative staff to emphasize the importance of natural surface recreation trails.</p> <p>Funding: Research and evaluate funding opportunities to develop and expand recreational trails.</p>

Appendix A: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Strategic Plan for FY2023-24

Online at:

[https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/Attachment 2 FY24 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives.pdf](https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/Attachment%20FY24%20Strategic%20Plan%20Goals%20and%20Objectives.pdf)

Goal 1 – Promote, establish, and implement a regional environmental protection vision with partners

Objective 1 – Continue implementation of the District’s Vision Plan and communicate progress on projects through reporting results and building partner relationships

Objective 2 – Build and strengthen diverse partnerships to implement a collaborative and science-based approach to regional environmental protection

Objective 3 – Build and strengthen relationships with legislators and other elected officials to advocate environmental protection goals

Objective 4 – Preserve and connect open space and agricultural lands of local and regional significance

Goal 2 – Protect the positive environmental values of open space and agricultural lands

Objective 1 – Take a regional leadership role in promoting the benefits of open space

Objective 2 – Protect and restore the natural environment to preserve healthy natural systems and biodiversity

Objective 3 – Implement the Climate Action Plan, expand regional resiliency, and implement climate change adaptation strategies

Objective 4 – Work with fire agencies and surrounding communities to strengthen the prevention of, preparation for and response to wildland fires for enhanced ecosystem resiliency and public safety

Objective 5 – Support the viability of sustainable agriculture and protect the character of rural communities

Goal 3 – Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision

Objective 1 – Engage the public in realizing the benefits and responsibilities of a regional environmental protection vision to further the District’s achievements in protecting open space and agricultural lands

Objective 2 – Implement and sustain diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) strategies to build and strengthen partnerships, increase broad and inclusive public

outreach and engagement, and instill DEI values across all levels of the organization

Objective 3 –Expand opportunities, including multimodal options, to equitably connect people to their public open space preserves in balance with the protection of natural resources

Objective 4 – Reflect the diverse communities we serve in the District’s visitors, staff, volunteers, and partners

Goal 4 – Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission

Objective 1 – Provide the necessary resources, tools, training, and infrastructure, including technology upgrades and capacity building

Objective 2 – Update the financial and operational sustainability model to guide strategic growth and areas of focus to effectively and efficiently deliver Vision Plan projects and priority initiatives

Objective 3 – Maintain a state of readiness for potential disruptions and leverage new resiliency practices and procedures to improve business operations, public participation, and communications

Objective 4 – Remain financially sustainable by preparing for, pursuing, and cultivating discretionary funding opportunities and partnerships

Objective 5 – Ensure large operational and capital expenses, including land acquisitions, associated public access and land management costs, are evaluated within the long-term financial model and remain financially sustainable

Objective 6 – Continue to recruit, develop and retain talented staff to implement the District's mission and strengthen our organizational capacity

Appendix B: District County, State and Federal Delegation Maps

Within the 550-square mile boundary of the District, it overlaps with a variety of jurisdictions that comprise its legislative delegation. Seventeen cities reside within the District – eight in San Mateo County and nine in Santa Clara County. At the county level, the District intersects three counties, each with five board supervisors. The County of San Mateo also has three appointed “community councils” for their North Fair Oaks, Midcoast and Pescadero unincorporated areas. At the state level, the District intersects with four Senate and four Assembly districts. And then at the federal level, the District has four members of the House of Representatives and two United State Senators as part of its delegation. Maps for these legislative districts can be found below.

County Delegation – San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties



State Delegation - Senate



State Delegation - Assembly



Federal Delegation – House of Representatives



Appendix C: 2024 State Legislative Calendar

2024 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
Revised 11-1-22

JANUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1		1	2	3	4	5	6
Wk. 2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wk. 3	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Wk. 4	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Wk. 1	28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1					1	2	3
Wk. 2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wk. 3	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Wk. 4	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Wk. 1	25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1						1	2
Wk. 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Wk. 3	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wk. 4	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Spring Recess	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Wk. 1	31						

APRIL							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1		1	2	3	4	5	6
Wk. 2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wk. 3	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Wk. 4	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Wk. 1	28	29	30				

MAY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1				1	2	3	4
Wk. 2	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Wk. 3	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
No Higs.	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Wk. 4	26	27	28	29	30	31	

DEADLINES

- Jan. 1** Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 3** Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
- Jan. 10** Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- Jan. 12** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to **fiscal committees** fiscal bills introduced in their house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(1)).
- Jan. 15** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Jan. 19** Last day for any committee to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year. (J.R. 61(b)(2)).
Last day to submit **bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Jan. 31** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(3)) (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c)).

- Feb. 16** Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(b)(4), J.R. 54(a)).
- Feb. 19** Presidents' Day.

- Mar. 21** **Spring Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Mar. 29** Cesar Chavez Day observed.

- Apr. 1** Legislature reconvenes from **Spring Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Apr. 26** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(5)).

- May 3** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the Floor **nonfiscal** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(6)).
- May 10** Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to May 28 (J.R. 61(b)(7)).
- May 17** Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(8)).
Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to May 28 (J.R. 61(b)(9)).
- May 20-24** **Floor session only.** No committee may meet for any purpose except for Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(b)(10)).
- May 24** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(b)(11)).
- May 27** Memorial Day.
- May 28** Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(b)(12)).

*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.

2024 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
Revised 11-1-22

JUNE							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4							1
Wk. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Wk. 2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Wk. 3	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Wk. 4	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Wk. 1	30						

June 15 Budget Bill must be passed by midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)).

June 27 Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 5 General Election ballot (Elections Code Sec. 9040).

JULY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1		1	2	3	4	5	6
Summer Recess	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Summer Recess	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Summer Recess	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Summer Recess	28	29	30	31			

July 3 Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(13)).

Summer Recess begins upon adjournment, provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(b)(2)).

July 4 Independence Day.

AUGUST							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Summer Recess					1	2	3
Wk. 2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wk. 3	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
No Hrgs.	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
No Hrgs.	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Aug. 5 Legislature reconvenes from **Summer Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(2)).

Aug. 16 Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(14)).

Aug. 19 – 31 Floor session only. No committee may meet for any purpose except Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(b)(15)).

Aug. 23 Last day to **amend** bills on the Floor (J.R. 61(b)(16)).

Aug. 31 Last day for each house to pass bills (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c), J.R. 61(b)(17)).

Final Recess begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(3)).

IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING FINAL RECESS

2024

Sept. 30 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1 and in the Governor's possession on or after Sept. 1 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(2)).

Oct. 2 Bills enacted on or before this date take effect January 1, 2025. (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).

Nov. 5 General Election.

Nov. 30 Adjournment *sine die* at midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).

Dec. 2 2025-26 Regular Session convenes for Organizational Session at 12 noon. (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).

2025

Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).

*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.

Appendix D: 2024 Federal Legislative Calendar

JANUARY						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17*	18*	19*	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

US Conference of Mayors 17th, 19th

FEBRUARY						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10*
11*	12*	13*	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

NACo Leg Conference 10th-13th

MARCH						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11*	12*	13*	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NLC Cong City Conference 11th-13th

APRIL						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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AUGUST						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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SEPTEMBER						
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29	30					

OCTOBER						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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DECEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Both Chambers in Session

Senate in Session

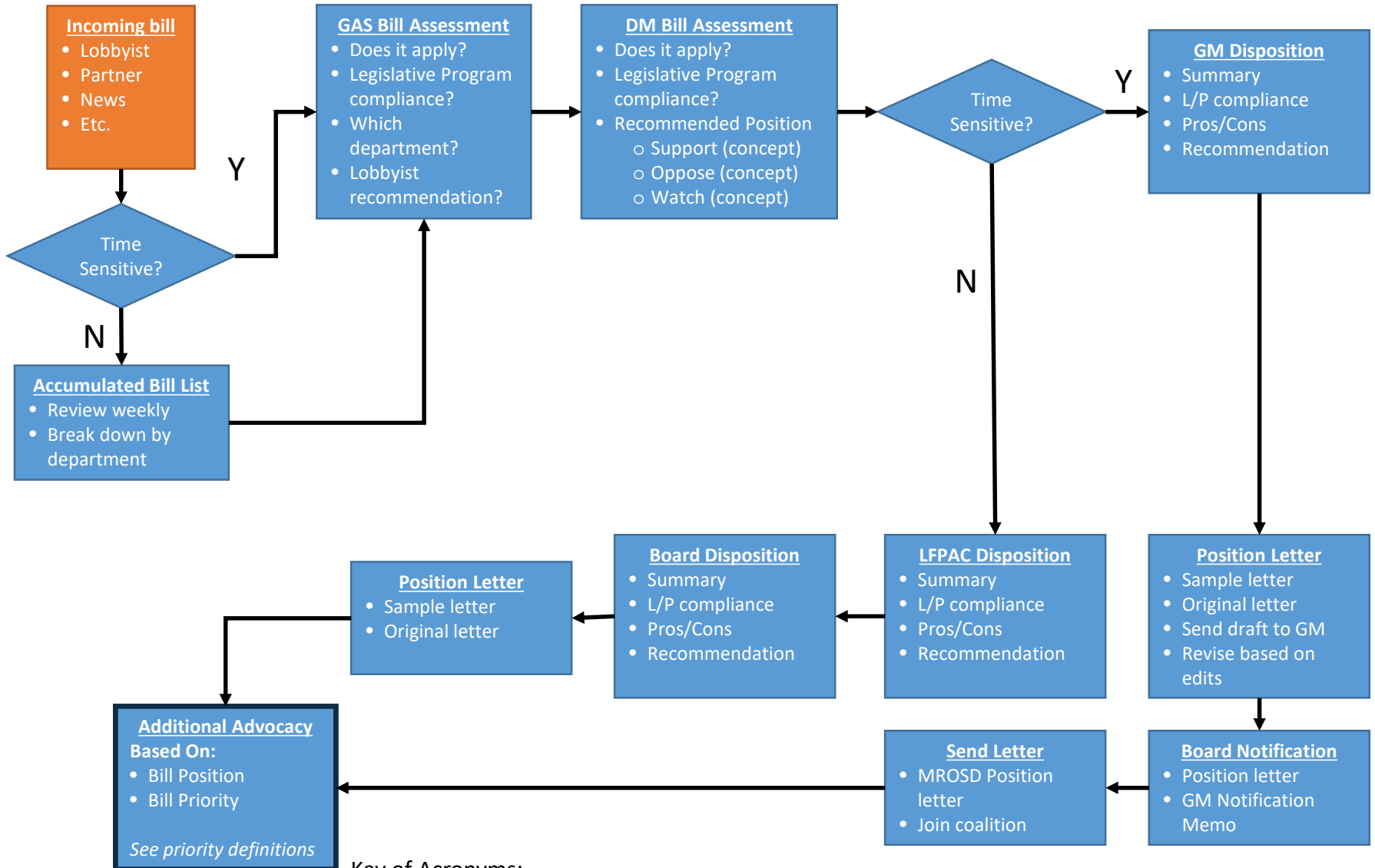
House in Session

Both House and Senate in Recess

Federal Holiday

MROSD Legislative Bill Disposition Process

Board Policy 1.11



Key of Acronyms:

- GM: General Manager
- GAS: Governmental Affairs Specialist
- DM: Department Manager
- L/P: Legislative Program



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Memorandum

DATE: March 12, 2019
 MEMO TO: Legislative, Finance, and Public Affairs Committee Members
 FROM: Ana M. Ruiz, General Manager *AMR*
 SUBJECT: Legislative Actions Update

BACKGROUND

Board Policy 1.11 titled "Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy," Section 2.0b, provides the General Manager the ability to take position on pending legislation in time-sensitive situations. More specifically:

- b. When time is so short that neither the full Board nor LFPAC can be convened to consider positions to support or oppose local, state or federal legislation, the General Manager is authorized to take a position on behalf of the District if the legislation:
 - i. Is related to the District's mission; AND
 - ii. Would directly impact the District's business, such as project delivery, operations, finances, legal authority, or other District responsibilities; AND
 - iii. The position being taken is consistent/inconsistent with existing District policy, past action, or District Strategic Plan; OR
 - iv. The legislation carries other considerations that make it contrary to the District's interests.

In such instances, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose the legislation at or before the next Board meeting.

DISCUSSION

On behalf of the District, the General Manager has taken the following time-sensitive action:

- **SB 45 (Allen): Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020.**

Action: At the behest of the statewide Wildlife Corridors Working Group and open space legislative consultants, Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and signed onto a group letter addressed to the Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on March 6, 2019, ahead of their March 12 hearing.

Bill Summary: Would enact the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of \$4,300,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects to restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources.

Consistency with Legislative Program:

- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Cap and Trade/Climate-related Funding:** The District supports efforts to emphasize and increase the recognition for the use of natural and working land (NWL) for the purposes of carbon sequestration and subsequent allocations of Cap and Trade funding. With the passage of SB 32 (Pavely, 2016) there is increased pressure to not only eliminate sources of greenhouse gas generation, but also find ways to capture emissions as well. This further promotes the recognition of the region's greenbelt as its "life support system."
- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Watershed Protection:** The District supports legislative or regulatory efforts that enhance the ability to protect watershed land, as well as restore and maintain associated habitats.
- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Wildlife Corridors:** The District supports efforts to bring greater funding opportunities and permit streamlining to conservation related to wildlife corridors.
- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Regional Benefits:** The District supports efforts to work with regional and statewide partners to ensure that relevant statewide funding sources are optimized and made available for Bay Area needs, and to ensure that underserved communities in the region benefit from these state resources.
- **Natural Resources Protection and Restoration #8** – Supports wildfire management to become a more natural component of the ecosystem, and minimize negative effects on the community and environment.
- **Natural Resources Protection and Restoration #14b** – Forest health programs that reduce GHG emissions through fuel reduction.
- **Natural Resources Protection and Restoration #14c** – Expands funding for wildlife corridor projects that improve wildlife habitat connectivity.

AB 209 (Limón): Parks: environmental education: grant program.

Action: At the behest of the California State Parks Foundation, Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and signed onto a group letter to the Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on March 5, 2019, ahead of their March 12 hearing.

Bill Summary: Would require the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish the Outdoor Equity Grants Program, to increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences at state parks and other public lands where outdoor environmental education programs take place. The bill would require the director to, among other things, give priority for funding to outdoor environmental education programs that primarily provide outreach to and serve students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, or pupils of limited English proficiency, as provided.

Consistency with Legislative Program:

- **District Priority:** Every Kid in a Park Initiative: The District supports national and state efforts to mobilize children and parents to visit and enjoy America's outdoor spaces to encourage the next generation to discover America's public lands and waters.

Prepared by: Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Specialist

Example

2024 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
Revised 11-1-22

DEADLINES

- Jan. 1** Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 3** Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
- Jan. 10** Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- Jan. 12** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to **fiscal committees** fiscal bills introduced in their house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(1)).
- Jan. 15** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Jan. 19** Last day for any committee to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year. (J.R. 61(b)(2)).
Last day to submit **bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Jan. 31** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(3)) (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c)).

- Feb. 16** Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(b)(4), J.R. 54(a)).
- Feb. 19** Presidents' Day.

- Mar. 21** **Spring Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Mar. 29** Cesar Chavez Day observed.

- Apr. 1** Legislature reconvenes from **Spring Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Apr. 26** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(5)).

- May 3** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the Floor **nonfiscal** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(6)).
- May 10** Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to May 28 (J.R. 61(b)(7)).
- May 17** Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61 (b)(8)).
Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to May 28 (J.R. 61 (b)(9)).
- May 20-24** **Floor session only.** No committee may meet for any purpose except for Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(b)(10)).
- May 24** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(b)(11)).
- May 27** Memorial Day.
- May 28** Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(b)(12)).

JANUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1		1	2	3	4	5	6
Wk. 2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wk. 3	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Wk. 4	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Wk. 1	28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1					1	2	3
Wk. 2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wk. 3	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Wk. 4	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Wk. 1	25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1						1	2
Wk. 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Wk. 3	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wk. 4	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Spring Recess	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Wk. 1	31						

APRIL							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1		1	2	3	4	5	6
Wk. 2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wk. 3	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Wk. 4	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Wk. 1	28	29	30				

MAY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1				1	2	3	4
Wk. 2	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Wk. 3	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
No Hrgs.	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Wk. 4	26	27	28	29	30	31	

*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.

2024 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
Revised 11-1-22

JUNE							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 4							1
Wk. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Wk. 2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Wk. 3	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Wk. 4	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Wk. 1	30						

June 15 Budget Bill must be passed by midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)).

June 27 Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 5 General Election ballot (Elections Code Sec. 9040).

JULY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1		1	2	3	4	5	6
Summer Recess	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Summer Recess	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Summer Recess	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Summer Recess	28	29	30	31			

July 3 Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(13)).

Summer Recess begins upon adjournment, provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(b)(2)).

July 4 Independence Day.

AUGUST							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Summer Recess					1	2	3
Wk. 2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wk. 3	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
No Hrgs.	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
No Hrgs.	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Aug. 5 Legislature reconvenes from **Summer Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(2)).

Aug. 16 Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(14)).

Aug. 19 – 31 Floor session only. No committee may meet for any purpose except Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(b)(15)).

Aug. 23 Last day to **amend** bills on the Floor (J.R. 61(b)(16)).

Aug. 31 Last day for each house to pass bills (Art. IV, Sec 10(c), J.R. 61(b)(17)).

Final Recess begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(3)).

IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING FINAL RECESS

2024

- Sept. 30 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1 and in the Governor's possession on or after Sept. 1 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(2)).
- Oct. 2 Bills enacted on or before this date take effect January 1, 2025. (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Nov. 5 General Election.
- Nov. 30 Adjournment *sine die* at midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- Dec. 2 2025-26 Regular Session convenes for Organizational Session at 12 noon. (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).

2025

- Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).

*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Administrative Office
5050 El Camino Real
Los Altos, CA 94022

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

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

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair MacNiven called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Jed Cyr, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, and Margaret MacNiven

Members absent: None

Staff present: General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Chief Financial Officer Stefan Jaskulak, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria, Executive Assistant/Deputy District Clerk Shaylynn Nelson, Governmental Affairs Specialist Joshua Hugg, Public Affairs Manager Korrine Skinner, Program Manager Deborah Hirst, and Senior Grants and Procurement Technician Samantha Powell

Chair MacNiven announced this meeting is being held in accordance with Government Code section 54953. 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.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy District Clerk Shaylynn Nelson reported there were no public speakers for this item.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Cyr moved, and Director Kersteen-Tucker seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

1. Approve the August 29, 2023 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

Public comment opened at 2:01 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 2:01 p.m.

Motion: Director Kersteen-Tucker moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to approve the August 29, 2023 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs committee meeting minutes.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

2. Draft 2024 Legislative Program (R-23-130)

Governmental Affairs Specialist Joshua Hugg provided the staff presentation and reviewed the Draft 2024 Legislative Program. Mr. Hugg stated that the District reviews numerous legislative proposals at the local, state and federal levels to identify opportunities that further the District mission, strategic goals, action plan priorities, and key projects.

Director Kersteen-Tucker inquired if there is a way to create legislation that would exempt the District from the County's subdivision process.

General Counsel Hilary Stevenson stated that the Subdivision Map Act currently has an exemption for certain transactions to or from a government agency. Each county and city adopt their own local subdivision code that enacts the state Subdivision Map Act. Ms. Stevenson said one idea is to clarify in the state Map Act how the exemption could be enacted or applied so it is not ambiguous when local agencies try to apply it. The difficulty is that every city and county have their own preferences to administer their own codes and may want to maintain their discretion in applying their own codes.

Director Kersteen-Tucker asked if the District would have to partner with other cities and counties or if there could be language specific to the District.

Ms. Stevenson highlighted the difficulty in determining if there is a specific need for specific projects in the District due to the exemption in state law. Staff have consulted with partner

**Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee
November 7, 2023**

agencies to understand their preferences, but no issues have been identified. They will continue discussions with counties, which may avoid the need to consider requesting legislation.

Director Kersteen-Tucker inquired whether the exempt conveyance will be included in the Legislative Program for next year.

Mr. Hugg stated that this is a placeholder as conversations are still ongoing. Should the need arise, the District may initiate state legislation.

Director Cyr commented that the other area where exempt conveyance may come up may be within local communities that are considering expanding housing into open space areas.

Ms. Stevenson explained that the Subdivision Map Act's application in urban-developed areas differs from rural areas, making it challenging to develop a legislative solution from a policy standpoint due to its location-specific application.

Chair MacNiven expressed her appreciation that tribal engagement and ADA access was added to the third goal, as well as for adding the maps of our state delegation to show their reach in the county.

Director Kersteen-Tucker suggested that goal three be rephrased to say, "Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision for natural and working lands," to remind us that there are environmental benefits to the work the District does on our working lands. She further commented that this potential change should be addressed at the Board retreat.

Public comment opened at 2:36 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 2:36 p.m.

Motion: Director Cyr moved, and Director Kersteen-Tucker seconded the motion to forward a recommendation, with any changes as requested by the committee, to the Board of Directors for approval of the 2024 Legislative Program.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

3. Grant Awards for the 2023 Grantmaking Program (R-23-131)

Senior Grants and Procurement Technician Samantha Powell provided the staff presentation and reviewed the program purpose and the funding priorities outlined in the Board policy. The three funding priorities are Access, Interpretation and Education, Applied Science, and Network and Partnership Support. Ms. Powell explained the request for proposals process and the evaluation criteria.

Program Manager Deborah Hirst presented on the recommended awards for the 2023 grantmaking opportunity. She proposed awarding three grants for Access, Interpretation and Education and two for Network and Partnership Support. The three proposed organizations to receive an award for Access, Interpretation and Education are Canopy, Grassroots Ecology, and

**Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee
November 7, 2023**

Saved by Nature. Tamien Nation and Together Bay Area are proposed to receive award grants for Network and Partnership Support. Currently there are no proposals moving forward for applied science. The next steps are to present the recommended awards to the Board on December 13. The District is expected to execute the agreements in the spring of 2024.

Director Cyr inquired how many disadvantaged school districts would participate in the Canopy project.

Ms. Hirst confirmed that East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks will be the three high schools participating.

Director Kersteen-Tucker asked about Ms. Hirst's thoughts on replacing the applied science category as no proposals were advanced.

Ms. Hirst inquired about the Board's willingness to evaluate the Grantmaking Program to consolidate funding and reconsider priority focus areas, highlighting applied science as an important category and its past success in advancing excellent projects.

Director Kersteen-Tucker suggested revisiting funding priorities.

General Manager Ruiz responded that there are internal discussions for improvements to the Grants Program, which will be discussed in a study session next year.

Director Kersteen-Tucker suggested that due to the program's popularity, discussing additional funding and revisiting funding priorities with the Board could be part of a larger conversation.

General Manager Ruiz stated that staff will consider this feedback as a potential opportunity to discuss it with the Board.

Director Cyr noted the thoroughness and care of the evaluations to come to the suggested choices is impressive.

Chair MacNiven commented that increasing the number of awards with less funding appears less impactful to each individual organization. However, she expressed appreciation for how the funds were distributed throughout the proposals.

Public comment opened at 3:05 p.m.

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

Public comment closed at 3:05 p.m.

Motion: Director Kersteen-Tucker moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to forward the list of recommended grant awards for the 2023 Grantmaking Program to the Board of Directors for approval with the addition of requesting a study session be introduced to the Board in the year 2024 to address funding priorities and amounts.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0

Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee
November 7, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Chair MacNiven adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 3:05 p.m.

Shaylynn Nelson
Deputy District Clerk