



## Proclamation of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Honoring

# *Supervisor Joe Simitian*

**WHEREAS**, The Honorable Joe Simitian has served the public as a legislator with distinction since 1983 with an unparalleled career spanning local, regional, and state offices, including the Palo Alto Unified School District, Palo Alto City Council, California State Assembly, California State Senate, and most recently a second term with the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. Currently representing the northern and western regions of District 5 in Santa Clara County, Supervisor Simitian has consistently championed the needs of his constituents with unwavering leadership on issues affecting environmental protection, public health, education, and civic engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor Simitian has consistently supported the values and mission of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) by advancing mutual goals of preserving the open spaces that provide sanctuary for wildlife, opportunities for recreation, and invaluable contributions to the health of the environment and the physical and mental well-being of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, for several years Joe Simitian has served as a valued member of Midpen's Finance Authority whose purpose is to provide financing assistance to fund the acquisition and preservation of open space land and to finance public capital improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his legislative career, Joe Simitian has worked in a bi-partisan manner, actively reaching consensus across the aisle to create real solutions for Californians, as is evident by his prolific record of getting impactful bills signed into law, including Senate Bill (SB) 729 that improved the efficiency and effectiveness of state and regional water quality control boards in protecting water quality and the integrity of clean water sources; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2002, then-Assemblymember Simitian authored AB 953 to support Midpen's open space preservation goals by providing added flexibility in the exchange of easements as a land conservation tool and by reducing administrative burdens and costs associated with small-scale contracts; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, Supervisor Simitian supported the allocation of Stanford Recreation Mitigation Funds for the Alpine Regional Trail Improvement Project to convert a closed, 2.3-mile portion of Alpine Road into a multi-use trail for hiking, mountain biking and equestrian use that directly links trail users from the foothills area through Portola Valley to the Skyline Area Regional Trail System; and

**WHEREAS**, through his tenacious oversight, perseverance and grit, and inventive and strategic thinking, Joe Simitian solidified protection of the ridgeline above Rancho San Antonio County Park and Preserve from any further damage by Lehigh Quarry, rallying a diverse coalition of stakeholders behind the "Don't Chop the Top" movement, with Santa Clara County granting Midpen an enforcement role to protect the scenic Ridgeline Easement that forms the backdrop of Santa Clara Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, his leadership on holding Lehigh Quarry accountable for their impacts to the environment and to public health eventually led to closure of the Lehigh Cement Plant and the ceasing of Lehigh Quarry mining activities; and

**WHEREAS**, Joe Simitian's deep connection to the community, his focus on thoughtful policymaking, and his dedication to preserving the environment have left an indelible legacy on Santa Clara County and the entire State of California;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District does hereby express its individual and collective gratitude and respect for the Honorable Joe Simitian, for his service to the State of California, and Santa Clara County, and wishes upon him success and prosperity in whichever capacity he may find it upon himself to continue to serve his community.

---

Craig Gleason, Director, Ward 1

---

Curt Riffle, Director, Ward 4

---

Yoriko Kishimoto, Director, Ward 2

---

Karen Holman, Director, Ward 5

---

Jed Cyr, Director, Ward 3

---

Margaret MacNiven, Director, Ward 6

---

Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Director, Ward 7