



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-25-09
Meeting 25-01
January 8, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 10

AGENDA ITEM

Annual Findings for up to Six Compensated Board Meetings Per Month

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopt a Resolution making annual findings that more than five Board meetings per month are necessary for the effective operation of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

SUMMARY

In January 2019, the Board of Directors (Board) increased the total number of compensable meetings in a month from five to six pursuant to new legislation (AB 2329). This legislation enables the board of directors of various special districts, including regional park and open space districts, to increase the number of compensable meetings in a month from five to six upon annually adopting written findings that more than five meetings are necessary for the effective operation of the District. Annually since January 2020, the Board has made findings that more than five meetings per month are necessary for the effective operation of the District. The proposed maximum of six compensable Board meetings per month is included in Board Policy 6.06, *Meeting Compensation*, and in the Board-approved Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget.

DISCUSSION

Findings supporting the need for up to six Board meetings per month.

Due to the volume of projects requiring Committee/Board consideration, including review of Vision Plan/Measure AA projects and policy updates, Board members have attended between five (5) and eleven (11) meetings per month in the last three years (not including the Bear Creek Stables Ad Hoc Committee meetings), with numerous months posting six or more meetings for individual Board members. Findings supporting the need for more than five Board meetings a month are included in Attachment 1, which explains the substantial growth in District operations and Board activities as of 1984 when the number of compensable Board meetings was previously set at no more than five. The findings set forth in Attachment 1 support continuing the policy of up to six compensable Board meetings per month, which is permissible under state law.

Per-meeting compensation

A state law enacted in 2019 allows the Board to consider increasing the per-meeting compensation up to 5% for each calendar year following the operative date of the last adjustment, by ordinance.

The Board most recently adopted an ordinance in April 2024, increasing the per-meeting compensation to \$121.28 per meeting. The increase became operative on June 10, 2024.

The General Manager will agendize a future Board item in May 2025 to consider increasing Board compensation by up to 5% pursuant to state law.

Prior to 2019, the amount of \$100 per meeting had not changed since 1984. Therefore, while the size and complexity of the District and the responsibilities of Board members has significantly grown over the last 40 years, Board member compensation for attendance at a meeting has increased by only \$21.28 in that time.

FISCAL IMPACT

The adopted FY24-25 Budget provides up to \$49,350 for Board meeting compensation and is expected to be sufficient to cover the anticipated costs. If it is later determined that additional funds are required, a budget adjustment may be requested.

PRIOR BOARD OR COMMITTEE REVIEW

None

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

Board compensation is addressed by the Board annually to allow the Board to make the findings required by law to receive compensation for up to six meetings per month.

Attachments:

1. Resolution making annual findings for up to six compensable Board meetings per month
2. Board Policy 6.06, Meeting Compensation, Reimbursement of Authorized Necessary Expenses for Performance of Official Duties, and Adoption of Ethics Training Requirements Pursuant to Government Code Section 53232 *et seq.*

Responsible Department Head:
Ana Ruiz, General Manager

Prepared by/Contact person:
Hilary Stevenson, General Counsel

RESOLUTION NO. 25-01**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT MAKING FINDINGS SUPPORTING THE NEED FOR MORE THAN FIVE MEETINGS PER MONTH FOR THE EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF THE DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, California Public Resources Code section 5536 provides that Board members may be compensated for up to six meetings in a calendar month, provided that the Board makes annual written findings that more than five meetings per month are necessary for the effective operation of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors (Board) hereby makes the following findings to support the need for up to six compensable meetings per calendar month; and

WHEREAS, the Board directs that Board compensation be reflected in the District's Classification and Compensation Policy.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District does resolve as follows:

SECTION ONE. FINDINGS:

1. The number of compensable Board meetings established pursuant to Public Resources Code section 5536 was five (5) starting in 1984. Although the monthly limit of five compensable meetings did not change between 1984 and 2019, the scope of Board member responsibilities and the complexity of policy oversight substantially increased.
2. Since 1984, the District's budget grew from \$13.9 million to \$89.4 million.
3. Since 1984, District protected lands have grown from 18,300 acres to over 70,000 acres.
4. In 1984, the District operated in two counties and the District boundary was limited to the southern bayside area of San Mateo County. Now, the District operates in three counties, including an additional 144,000 acres of the San Mateo County Coast that was annexed into District boundaries in 2004.
5. Since 1984, the District's constituent population has grown from 570,000 to over 770,000.
6. The District secured a substantial funding source for capital projects with the passage of a \$300 million general obligation bond approved by voters in 2014.
7. There are currently at least two Regular Meetings of the Board every calendar month.
8. Currently, there is an average of at least one standing committee meeting held every calendar month in order to effectively advise the Board in the following areas: Real Property acquisitions, Planning and Natural Resources issues, the Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs program, the annual Action Plan and Budget, and performance evaluations of Board appointees.
9. Currently, the Board typically holds numerous other special meetings during the course of the year, which may include but are not limited to: community workshops, study sessions, site visits, committees established by other organizations, and other similar meetings.

10. The number of annual compensable meetings per month has increased consistently since 2015, to as many as 11 in one month at the highest end.

SECTION TWO. More than five compensable meetings per month are necessary for the effective operation of the District. Therefore, the Board hereby reaffirms that Board members may be compensated for up to six (6) meetings per month as reflected in Board Policy 6.06.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on January 8, 2025, at a Regular Meeting thereof, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Secretary
Board of Directors

President
Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Hilary Stevenson, General Counsel

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

Maria Soria, District Clerk