



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Report 18-19
Meeting 18-09
February 28, 2018

AGENDA ITEM 3

AGENDA ITEM

Board Policy 3.10 – District Grantmaking Program

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Approve Board Policy 3.10 – District Grantmaking Program as a Replacement to the Resource Management Grant Program.

SUMMARY

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) has supported academic research on District lands through its Resource Management Grant Program, which was approved as a Board policy on November 14, 2007, and subsequently amended on November 17, 2010. This program has awarded small grants to local researchers to support work that furthers the District's mission, enhances public education, and advances scientific understanding of natural processes while strengthening local partnerships with researchers. In 2016, the Board of Directors (Board) discussed future investment in this program. The conversation led to a broader discussion as to whether the District should increase its grantmaking investment, as well as consider broadening the categories of available funding.

Going forward, the District can increase its impact by enhancing the investment made in this program, both by increasing the staff and financial investment, as well as by updating the grantmaking focus areas. The General Manager recommends replacing the prior program/policy with Board Policy 3.10, District Grantmaking Program, to expand the program focus and consider a broader range of projects that better reflect the diversity of District work. Under this proposed policy, future grantmaking investments emphasize regional approaches to resource management, and support new partnership avenues with the District and other stakeholders. Eligible project categories include applied science research and proof-of-concept; network and partnership support; and access, education, and interpretation.

DISCUSSION

Program purpose and history

Since 2007, the District's Resource Management Grant Program has awarded small grants to support academic research on District land that furthers the mission, enhances public education, and advances scientific understanding of natural processes. This grantmaking also serves to:

- Build District partnerships within the conservation community by supporting their work;
- Influence the conservation field by steering grantees towards priority areas of focus for the District;

- Increase the conservation field's capacity to address regional gaps in conservation, recreation, and restoration; and
- Provide an avenue of communication from which to learn from and facilitate ongoing input on the work of partner organizations.

To date, 15 grants have been awarded through two grant application rounds to researchers with connections to established academic institutions, for a total District investment of approximately \$183,000 (approximately \$101,000 between 2007-2014 and approximately \$77,000 between 2014-2018). Projects have focused on research relating to natural resource management, operational and maintenance actions, public outreach, or public use decisions that provide educational benefit. To solicit proposals, grant solicitations have twice been issued when funding is available. A review committee consisting of District staff with relevant expertise evaluated the proposals and selected grantees. Award limits have been up to \$5,000 per year, with the possibility of renewing the grant for up to five years, for a total of \$25,000. Grant monitoring included yearly reports and periodic check-ins with grantees to ensure objectives were being met.

The District's grantmaking program has successfully funded research to advance resource management on District land. For example, San Jose State University (SJSU) received a grant to collect and manage wildland fuels and meteorology data for use in fire weather research. With data collected from Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, SJSU has been providing real-time fuels data to the public and land managers through the National Fuels Monitoring Database and fireweather.org. The collected data aids in better understanding and effectively forecasting potentially hazardous fire weather conditions in Bay Area coastal mountainous areas, which can help inform the District's land management and better predict fire risks within its preserves. Additionally, University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) mountain lion research, partially funded through a District grant, identified critical bottlenecks caused by major highways in the region and correlations between animal behavior and human disturbance levels. This information is being used in regional planning to develop wildlife corridors and target important habitat for conservation, and has informed the District's own approach to enhancing preserve connectivity.

Beyond the applied and academic value of this research, the District's funding has contributed to developing and strengthening partnerships with local researchers. For example, funding for a study by San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO) to compare the diversity of grassland bird species across 10 habitat types, with and without grazing and prescribed burns, has strengthened the District's relationship with the organization. Since the project began, the lead researcher has provided outreach assistance with the District's Wingding event, which helps connect the public to research on District preserves. District staff has also attended SFBBO trainings to enhance their understanding of habitat management techniques.

Future Investment

In 2016, the Board discussed the District's future investment in this program. This discussion was prompted by a conversation about the concept of non-dilutive financing, in which investors provide seed money for graduate students to advance innovative ideas for products, services, or resource management strategies. The conversation led to a broader discussion as to whether the District should increase its grantmaking investment, as well as consider broadening the categories of available funding.

Going forward, the District can grow its impact by increasing the investment made in this program. Past grants have been successful, but the small scale of the program limits what can be

achieved. In order to attract more organizations to apply and increase the impact of projects, the General Manager will recommend increasing the dollar amount available for grantmaking to up to \$250,000 per year for the next budget cycle. If approved by the Board, individual awards will be for up to \$50,000 and can be equally or unequally apportioned among years, up to three years of the award date. Requests for Proposals will be issued every year or every other year, depending on staff time and budget available for the program.

Future programmatic priorities

The last two grant rounds focused on academic research projects. However, to stay aligned with the District's evolving priorities, the General Manager recommends expanding the grant categories and updating the name of the program, from the Resource Management Grant Program to the Grantmaking Program. The expanded funding categories are described below:

Applied Science - Advancing scientific understanding of resource management issues affecting District lands remains a priority funding focus. These grants foster and strengthen partnerships with academic institutions, advance the scientific understanding of natural processes, and further the District's mission to ensure sound resource stewardship. Grantmaking will continue to focus on applied science projects that support the protection and enhancement of natural resources on District lands. This includes academic research as well as proof-of-concept projects that demonstrate the viability of innovative land management techniques. Potential metrics of success include peer-review research published, natural resource management techniques developed, demonstrated potential for scaling, developed techniques, etc.

Network and Partnership Support - The District recognizes that partnerships are key to addressing long-term conservation challenges and that building strong networks is one way to ensure a ready and engaged partnership community. Without local, regional, and state partners, the District is limited in its ability to broaden its impact and ensure its priorities align with multi-jurisdictional conservation and recreation plans. Likewise, the conservation community as a whole is more effective when strong partnerships exist. Consequently, proposals that cultivate, sustain, or grow conservation networks would be accepted. Examples may include funding to support staff time to provide organizing support (i.e., meeting facilitation, coalition-building, etc.) for regional trail coordination. Other support may include funds for a network to utilize consultants to develop a strategy for members to collaborate around a particular issue, such as regional wildlife corridors. Potential metrics of success include the strength of these partnerships, depth of understanding of partner work, amount of collaboration on joint priorities, number of joint meetings, etc.

Access, Interpretation and Education - Stewarding the current and next generation of passionate environmental stewards is more important now than ever before. At the same time, funding opportunities to encourage access to outdoor recreation and for environmental interpretation and education is lacking. Only about 3% of private grants awarded for environmental protection and stewardship typically go to environmental education. Providing grants to educate children and adults about our natural world and facilitate access to the outdoors is critical to fostering appreciation for open space protection and continuing to build enduring support for the District's work. Further, these dollars are highly impactful given how much programming can be provided on a small budget. Therefore, proposals that advance access to outdoor recreation, particularly for traditionally underserved communities, as well as environmental interpretation and education within District boundaries, will be

considered. Potential metrics for success include educational programming or interpretation opportunities developed, number of adults or students served, new populations served, etc.

Proposal solicitation, programmatic administration, and oversight

The District values diversity and encourages residents of all socio-economic backgrounds to enjoy their public preserves. The District also focuses on developing partnerships with organizations that help welcome and excite diverse and underserved residents to experience their preserves. Consequently, the District will be committed to soliciting proposals from a diverse range of organizations. Application solicitations will be broadly disseminated with the assistance of groups that hold connections to underserved audiences, such as the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. In addition to broadly circulating the solicitations, the District will consider past District funding in its scoring criteria to increase the competitiveness of organizations that have not previously received District funding.

If approved, the District's Grantmaking Program will be administered by the Grants Program, and an associated Administrative Policy will be developed after the application solicitation is developed. Results will be shared with District staff, the Board, and public via annual updates to demonstrate how funds are spent, assess the value of the program, and broadly disseminate outcomes.

An important distinction between grantmaking and consulting arrangements is the autonomy by which an organization is allowed to operate. Although both approaches help fulfill the District's mission, work performed by consultants is dictated by the District with a high degree of control and oversight. In contrast, grants are structured such that the grantee retains autonomy in how the objectives of the grant are met. In this way, the grantee is empowered to manage the project independently, with the District overseeing progress. Consequently, application solicitations will focus on categories of funding and outline parameters for eligible projects, and will not suggest specific projects or specify a particular methodology.

FISCAL IMPACT

If the replacement policy is approved, the General Manager will request an allocation of \$250,000 per year, beginning in the FY18-19 budget.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

This policy was reviewed by both the Action Plan and Budget Committee (ABC) and Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC). An ABC meeting was held December 5, 2017 at the District's Administrative Office. Two ABC members were in attendance. Following a staff presentation, the ABC recommended forwarding the proposed policy to the full Board by a 2-0 vote. Subsequent to the ABC meeting, on January 16, 2018, the proposed policy was reviewed by LFPAC, which recommended forwarding to the full Board by a 2-0 vote, with the exception of the policy/advocacy funding category. Following this vote, the policy language was revised to remove this section.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and no environmental review is required. Awarded grants will be required to comply with CEQA, as appropriate.

NEXT STEPS

If approved, the 2018 application solicitation will be released in summer/fall 2018. A review committee that includes content experts from Visitor Services, Natural Resources, and other departments as appropriate, will review and evaluate the proposals. Successful grantees will be notified late 2018 or early 2019.

Attachments:

1. Board Policy 3.10 - District Grantmaking Program
2. Resource Management Grant Program Policy
3. Action Plan and Budget Committee draft minutes from December 5, 2017 meeting
4. Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee draft minutes from January 16, 2018 meeting

Responsible Department Head:

Stefan Jaskulak, CFO/Director of Administrative Services

Prepared by:

Melanie Askay, Grants Specialist, Administrative Services

Board Policy
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
GRANT PROGRAM

Adopted by the Board of Directors
November 14, 2007
Amended: November 17, 2010

Purpose:

The District encourages and supports applied academic research on District preserves. Partnerships with researchers from academic institutions can provide the District and the larger scientific community with information that furthers the District's mission, enhance public education, and advances scientific understanding of natural processes. The goal for the Resource Management Grant Program is to develop and strengthen local partnerships with researchers in support of the District's mission. This policy establishes the guidelines by which District staff will solicit, review, award, and administer grant funds to meritorious projects.

Background:

Numerous academic research institutions are located within the San Francisco Bay Area, providing opportunities for the District to partner with researchers to make better informed decisions about land management and public outreach.. Numerous research projects have been conducted on District lands, however, given the diversity of natural habitats found on District lands and the volume of research questions of direct interest to District staff, fostering research opportunities will provide the District with applied research that is targeted specifically to the District's needs. Partnerships with local academic institutions are a vital component to achieving the District's mission to "protect and restore the natural environment".

Procedures:

The following procedures will assist the General Manager in soliciting, reviewing, and awarding grant funds to research projects consistent with the District's mission:

1. The Resource Management Grant Program (Program) will be an interdepartmental program jointly administered by the Planning, Operations, and Public Affairs Departments. Staff from these departments will collaboratively administer all aspects of the Program.
2. Grant awards will not exceed \$5,000 for any one project annually and total annual Program funding will not exceed \$25,000. Multi-year projects will be considered provided that the total amount of funding does not exceed \$25,000 over five consecutive years, subject to approval in the District's annual budget and an annual review by District staff to ensure satisfactory progress.

3. Eligible projects must, at a minimum, be sponsored by a faculty member of an accredited academic research institution.
4. Eligible projects must contribute information that aids in resource management, operational and maintenance actions, public outreach, or public use decisions by the District or provide a larger educational purpose that furthers the District mission.
5. Eligible projects must not result in permanent damage and/or impairment to habitats or natural resources on District lands and will be in compliance with the District's Permit to Enter procedures (required for each research project).
6. The General Manager will establish a detailed evaluation and selection process to be used in reviewing eligible proposals in the form of Administrative Guidelines. Evaluation criteria will include but not be limited to the proposal promoting and accomplishing the District's mission, advancing the District's management of natural resources, enhancing the District's interface with the public, establishing collaborative partnerships with research institutions, and advancing the general understanding of the natural environment.
7. A Request for Proposals will be released annually to solicit proposals for consideration for funding provided funding is available. Proposals will also be accepted throughout the year and considered for funding as received and as funding is available.
8. The General Manager will prepare an annual report to the Board of Directors on the Resource Management Grant Program that details the proposals received as well as those selected for funding, and the results of research received.
9. This Policy will be reviewed every five years from the date of approval.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Board Policy Manual

District Grantmaking Program	Policy 3.10 Chapter 3 – Fiscal Management
Effective Date: xx/xx/2017	Revised Date: N/A
Prior Versions: 11/17/2010; 11/14/2007	

Purpose

The purposes of the District’s Grantmaking Program are to a) support projects that further the District’s mission, b) build the capacity of academic and nonprofit institutions in order to sustain and grow the conservation field; and c) facilitate the District’s mission and work by building and strengthening partnerships.

Grantmaking programmatic focus areas

Programmatic priorities

The District’s Grantmaking Program will include a broad focus to ensure a range of projects are considered and reflect the diversity of work in which the District engages. Grantmaking will be guided by an emphasis on investments that reflect a regional focus and provide avenues for partnership, both with the District as well as among other stakeholders.

Using these guiding principles, eligible project categories will include proposals focusing on applied science; networks, partnerships; and access, education and interpretation. General grant parameters for each grant proposal category are outlined below, with the grant solicitation providing additional detail for each category.

Applied Science

Research proposals will include academic or practitioner science projects that support the protection and enhancement of natural resources on District lands. The purpose of this support is to develop and disseminate information that advances scientific understanding of natural processes. Projects with potential to increase the effectiveness of applied stewardship of resources on District lands will be preferentially considered. Types of projects may include applied academic research or proof-of-concept, with focus areas including topics such as integrated pest management, species habitat, restoration, or similar topics relating to natural resource management. Faculty at accredited academic institutions must sponsor research-related projects and field research must take place on District lands. Practitioner science projects other than peer-reviewed research may require faculty sponsorship, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Network and Partnership Support

In order to broaden its impact and ensure District priorities are aligned with multi-

jurisdictional conservation and recreation plans, grant proposals that cultivate, sustain, or grow established conservation networks will be accepted. Network or partnership support could take the form of facilitation or other consulting support, staff time for network participation, outreach, meeting supplies, etc.

Access, Interpretation and Education

Funding for access, environmental interpretation and education will be directed towards ensuring equal opportunity for all residents to take advantage of District lands while fostering an appreciation for open space protection, outdoor recreation, and environmental stewardship. The focus will be on funding projects that encourage access to and use of District preserves by all and in creating and executing nature-based educational and interpretive experiences for children and adults. Funding can be used for staff time to create or execute programming, transportation, educational and interpretive programming materials or supplies, facilitate knowledge of outdoor recreational opportunities, access to the outdoors, and environmental stewardship activities.

Grant management and internal controls

Program administration

The Grants Specialist will oversee the grant solicitation, selection, and grant management once selected. Other departments, including Visitor Services and Natural Resources, will be brought in for technical expertise to assist in evaluating proposals through a review committee. Once the grants have been selected, the Grants Specialist will oversee the administrative requirements for grant management, with at least one technical content expert from the relevant department assigned to assist in evaluating grant progress.

Proposal solicitation, selection and due diligence

The District is committed to soliciting proposals from a diverse range of organizations and application solicitations will be broadly disseminated to encourage organizations that reach underserved communities to apply. Additionally, the District will consider past District funding in its scoring criteria in order to increase the competitiveness of organizations that have not previously received District funding.

Eligible grantees will include accredited academic institutions, 501(c)(3) nonprofits, or public entities. Organizations without an IRS-designated status will be eligible for funding if a fiscal sponsorship is established prior to application submittal. A formal evaluation criteria will be used to select proposals for funding, including the organization's ability to administer the grant. Example evaluation categories include the applicant's ability to successfully complete the proposed work in the anticipated timeline and budget, past District funding, fit with District's mission, Board priority, and potential to develop new partnerships.

Grant terms and internal controls

The maximum award for individual grants will be \$50,000. The award can be expended as necessary within a three-year grant term, contingent on satisfactory progress on grant objectives. Grants will be administered on a reimbursement basis, with up to 15% available up front if the grantee has a demonstrable need. Grantees will be eligible for reimbursement costs

up until the original grant amount, contingent on satisfactory progress toward grant goals.

Grant applications and reporting

Grantees will be responsible for submitting annual or semi-annual reports that summarize activities and any relevant findings, alongside periodic check-ins with District staff. Additionally, grantees may also be asked to present the grant outcomes to the District staff and/or the Board in addition to formal reporting. Additionally, reimbursement submissions will require expenses to date recorded against the budget, along with invoices and accomplishments and milestones achieved during the reimbursement period.

The application and reporting process will be specific to a) the grant category, and b) the dollar amount awarded. Applications and reporting procedures will have two tiers of requirements (up to \$25,000 and up to \$50,000). This structure will ensure that smaller grantees are not prohibited from applying due to cumbersome application and reporting requirements in relation to the funding received. Additionally, the District will require that grantees make any acquired data, educational/interpretive materials, or conclusions available to the public. The Board will receive updates on the status of the grants and outcomes through an annual report.

Additional grant requirements and process

- Application solicitations will be released every year or every other year when funding is available and the District Grantmaking Policy will be evaluated every three years and updated as necessary. Grantees will continue to be eligible for additional application cycles, with no funding tenure limit.
- Eligible projects must not result in permanent damage and/or impairment to habitats or natural resources on District lands and will be in compliance with the District's Permit to Enter procedures (required for research projects).
- If indirect costs are costs incurred that do not have directly attributable expenses, they may be charged at no more than 10% of total grant cost. Examples include general and administrative costs, general equipment purchase or maintenance, and salaries and benefits of executive or administrative personnel who may not be directly engaged in the project. Subcontractors are excluded from indirect cost calculations.



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

ACTION PLAN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Administrative Office
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022

December 5, 2017

DRAFT MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Director Cyr called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

Members Present: Jed Cyr and Yoriko Kishimoto

Members Absent: Curt Riffle

Staff Present: Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Sheryl Schaffner, Chief Financial Officer Stefan Jaskulak, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Jennifer Woodworth, Grants Specialist Melanie Askay, Budget Analyst II Marion Shaw, Budget Analyst I Elissa Martinez

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to adopt the agenda and moved Item 4 to be heard after Item 1.

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Riffle absent)

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No speakers present.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approve the May 31, 2017 Action Plan & Budget Committee Minutes.

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to approve the Action Plan and Budget Committee minutes for May 31, 2017.

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Riffle absent)

2. Establish a Public Agencies Post-Employment Benefits Section 115 Trust administered by Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) to provide the District with an alternative investment strategy to pre-fund a portion of the pension obligations (R-17-114)

Chief Financial Officer Stefan Jaskulak presented the staff report explaining any payments into PARS would help the District diversify and maintain additional control over its pension funds.

Direction Kishimoto inquired regarding any additional fees for using the PARS.

Mr. Jaskulak explained the differences in fees is absorbed in a higher anticipated rate of return for PARS as compared to the lower net return for CalPERS.

Mr. Jaskulak also explained Controller Mike Foster has been involved in the process of evaluating PARS and is in favor of the proposed change.

Public comment opened at 2:42 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 2:42 p.m.

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to recommend approval to the Board of Directors the District's proposal to establish a Section 115 Trust, administered by Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS), for pre-funding of the District's pension obligations as related to the unfunded actuarial accrued liability.

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Riffle absent)

3. Update to Board Policy 3.10 – District Grantmaking Program (R-17-133)

Grants Specialist Melanie Askay provided the staff presentation describing the District's current grant program and summarized the work of previous recipients of District grants. Ms. Askay summarized proposed updates to four funding categories: applied science; increasing capacity support for networks and partnerships; increased policy advocacy via networks and partnerships, subject to internal policy controls; and funding education and interpretation opportunities. The revised process and controls include internal controls to ensure grants awarded support the District's mission, grant funds are spent as approved, and grant application and reporting framework. Finally, depending on Committee and Board approval, the first grants could be issued under the new policy before the end of 2018.

Director Kishimoto suggested the grants for education and interpretation should align the District's emphasis on diversity.

Ms. Askay reported engagement with diverse organizations is key to encourage their involvement.

Director Cyr cautioned that policy and advocacy grants must be carefully reviewed and monitored.

Action Plan & Budget Committee**December 5, 2017**

Public comment opened at 3:20 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 3:20 p.m.

Motion: Director Kishimoto moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to recommend approval of updates to Board Policy on the District's Grantmaking Program with the suggested edits.

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Riffle absent)

4. Budget Process Update (R-17-134)

Mr. Jaskulak outlined the proposed budget process enhancements, including additional coordination department meetings, combination of the capital improvement program and action plan to increase accuracy and efficiency, and improvements to three-year project budgeting. However, the Board will continue to adopt the budget on an annual basis. Staff will also be introducing departmental performance metrics to help measure effectiveness of department activities. The proposed changes to the budget process timeline include additional departmental meetings to coordinate multi-department project phases and Board and Committee review of the proposed capital improvement and action plan and annual budget.

Director Kishimoto suggested performance metrics should flow from the District's mission statement and Measure AA commitments to deliver on all 25 projects.

Public comment opened at 3:45 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 3:45 p.m.

No Committee action required.

Directors Cyr and Kishimoto suggested providing and informational update to the full Board on the new process.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Cyr adjourned the meeting of the Action Plan and Budget Committee of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 3:50 p.m.

Jennifer Woodworth, MMC
District Clerk



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

**MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Administrative Office
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022

Tuesday, January 16, 2017

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Director Cyr called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 2:37 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Cecily Harris, Jed Cyr

Members absent: Nonette Hanko

Staff present: Grants Specialist Melanie Askay, Chief Financial Officer Stefan Jaskulak, District Clerk Jennifer Woodworth, Acting General Manager Ana Ruiz, Acting General Counsel Hilary Stevenson

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No speakers present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Cyr moved, and Director Harris seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Hanko absent)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approve the October 24, 2017 Legislative, Funding, & Public Affairs Committee meeting minutes.

Motion: Director Harris moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to approve the October 24, 2017 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs committee meeting minutes.

LFPAC
October 24, 2017

Public comment opened at 2:39 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 2:40 p.m.

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Hanko absent)

2. Update to Board Policy 3.10 – District Grantmaking Program (R-18-06)

Staff presented an overview of the history of the District's current grantmaking program and its achievements to date. Staff proposed several broad policy-level proposals to expand and deepen the impact of the current program. Some of the proposals included updating the funding categories priorities to reflect the current mission and goals, increasing the dollar investment, and revising the framework for internal processes and controls. Staff presented an overall timeline for the proposed updates to the program.

Director Cyr asked for clarification on how the district funds will be leveraged or used with respect to the Access, Education and Interpretation funding category. Director Cyr also expressed the need to be careful and thoughtful when determining our legislative priorities. Staff replied that this could be interpreted as providing information and educating the public about access opportunities and encouraging access.

Director Harris applauded the existing program's emphasis on Applied Science and supports the proposed funding priority of Access, Education, and Interpretation, but acknowledges that funding opportunities are more available now for environmental education and interpretation than there were two decades ago.

Director Harris expressed concerns regarding the Capacity Support for Networks/Partnerships and Policy/Advocacy via Networks/Partnerships categories. Director Harris inquired about how tax dollars would be spent and what the reporting requirements would be for partner groups. Staff responded that we can determine the funding reporting procedures.

Director Harris asked what qualifies as Networks/Partnerships and highlighted that other organizations have different missions than that of Midpen. Director Harris stated the differences between single-species groups, land management groups, and outdoor recreation groups. Staff responded that all the above could apply given that they are existing networks or groups with missions that align with Midpen.

Director Harris asked if municipal non-profits would be eligible for a partnership, and posed that many do not have a non-profit status. Staff responded that in the future we would consider it, as it adds an extra layer of complexity by adding those kind of partnerships. Staff added that many of these groups can easily attain a non-profit status through a fiscal sponsor.

Director Harris stated that bi-annual reports are more effective than annual reports to track funding and expressed concerns about how partnerships would report their funding. Staff responded that we could choose the reporting criteria.

LFPAC
October 24, 2017

Director Cyr thanked staff for the presentation.

Director Harris expressed concern about the Policy/Advocacy funding priority, and that the District is not in a place to understand the potential implications of the Policy/Advocacy via Networks/Partnerships category.

Public comment opened at 3:09 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 3:10 p.m.

Motion: Director Harris moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to approve the motion to approve of updates to Board Policy on the District's Grantmaking Program.

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Hanko absent)

3. Consideration of Commemorative Trail and Bench for Stephen E. Abbors in the Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve (R-18-05)

Staff provided locations of and specifications for the trail and bench dedication. Staff provided information about the project timeline and the discussions currently held with Santa Clara County Parks on renaming their portion of the trail.

Public comment opened at 3:15 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 3:16 p.m.

Motion: Director Cyr moved, and Director Harris seconded the motion to consider the Commemorative Trail and Bench for Stephen E. Abbors in the Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve.

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Hanko absent)

ADJOURNMENT

Director Cyr adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 3:17 p.m.

Jordan McDaniel
Public Affairs Administrative Assistant