



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Administrative Office
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022

June 5, 2018

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Director Harris called the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee to order at to order at 2:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Cecily Harris, Larry Hassett, and Pete Siemens

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Acting General Manager Ana Ruiz, Acting General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Acting Assistant General Manager Christine Butterfield, Acting Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Natural Resources Manager Kirk Lenington, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Jennifer Woodworth, Water Resources Specialist Aaron Hébert

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No speakers present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Siemens moved, and Director Hassett seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

VOTE: 3-0-0

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approve the April 30, 2018 Planning and Natural Resources Committee Minutes

Motion: Director Harris moved, and Director Hassett seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the April 30, 2018 Planning and Natural Resources Committee meeting.

VOTE: 3-0-0

2. Highway 17 Project Alternatives and Caltrans Project Study Report (R-18-54)

Resource Specialist III Julie Andersen and Planner III Leslie Chan provided the staff report reviewing the project to date, including project origin, project goals, and Measure AA funding sources. In addition to the proposed wildlife crossing to increase wildlife connectivity, regional trail connections are needed and would help close gaps in the Bay Area Ridge Trail, connect Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve (OSP) and El Sereno OSP, and provide an opportunity to establish a north-south connection from the Los Gatos Creek Trail to Bear Creek Redwoods OSP. Ms. Andersen and Ms. Chan described the project criteria for the potential wildlife and regional trail crossings and evaluated each of the eight options for crossings against the various criteria, costs, and advantages and disadvantages. Ms. Andersen described potential opportunities for grant and partner funding of the project and described various opportunities for stakeholder and public input. Finally, Ms. Andersen outlined the project next steps.

Director Hassett inquired regarding the likelihood of mountain lions of using an overcrossing.

Ms. Andersen reported mountain lions will often use whichever means available to seek out prey and will more likely follow deer onto an overcrossing.

Director Hassett inquired regarding potential funding partners.

Ms. Andersen reported various stakeholders and interested parties have expressed interest in providing project funding, but a project design must first be selected.

Director Siemens spoke in favor of moving the project forward and in favor of outside funding opportunities to offset District costs.

Director Harris inquired potential safety measures to protect hikers on a recreational crossing.

Ms. Andersen explained the proposed overcrossings are designed to a width to allow multi-use.

Public comment opened at 2:44 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 2:44 p.m.

Motion: Director Hassett moved, and Director Siemens seconded the motion to:

1. Recommend eight alternatives advance to the Board of Directors for approval to begin the Caltrans Project Study Report and Project Development Support (PSR-PDS) phase.
2. Recommend Board of Directors authorize the Acting General Manager to amend a contract with TrailPeople to bring all eight alternatives through the next phase of the Caltrans process.

VOTE: 3-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

Director Harris adjourned the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 2:45 p.m.

Jennifer Woodworth, MMC
District Clerk