



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Two new directors joining Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's board**

**Los Altos, CA**—The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Directors unanimously appointed Moss Beach resident Zoe Kersteen-Tucker to fill an open board seat at their public meeting last night. The vacancy, created by the departure of Cecily Harris in October, was filled by appointment rather than special election saving San Mateo County taxpayers approximately \$414,000.

Kersteen-Tucker will serve the remaining two years of Harris's term, representing residents in El Granada, Half Moon Bay, Montara, Moss Beach, San Carlos and parts of Redwood City and Woodside. She is the first Coastside resident to serve on the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's board since the organization's boundaries expanded to include the San Mateo County Coast in 2004.

In the general election on November 6, local voters elected Karen Holman to fill retiring Director Nonette Hanko's board seat, representing residents in the Palo Alto area. Hanko was instrumental in leading the grassroots effort that resulted in voters creating the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in 1972, and has served on its board for 46 consecutive years. Hanko will be recognized at her last public board meeting on December 12.

"Zoe Kersteen-Tucker and Karen Holman are both experienced public servants with a passion for local open space, making them valuable additions to the leadership of this organization," said Board President Jed Cyr.

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a public agency spanning parts of San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties with the mission of preserving, restoring and providing access to a regional greenbelt of open space. It is governed by seven publicly elected directors serving four-year terms.

Kersteen-Tucker is a consultant to nonprofit organizations. Previously, she held the role of executive director for the Coastside Land Trust and the Committee for Green Foothills. She recently served on the San Mateo County Transit District's board and the San Mateo County Planning Commission. Kersteen-Tucker has been an active volunteer and public servant for

many years supporting coastal and environmental protection. She holds a Ph.D. in neuropsychology from University of California, Berkeley.

Holman is a graphic design professional and former Palo Alto city councilmember and mayor. Born and raised in Missouri, Holman has lived in Palo Alto since 1975 where she has been active in public and community service including with the Palo Alto Planning and Transportation Commission, neighborhood associations, the Palo Alto Zero Waste Task Force and the Palo Alto History Museum. Holman holds a B.A. in graphic arts from the University of Arkansas.

Holman and Kersteen-Tucker will be sworn in at the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's January 9 public board meeting.

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*The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a public agency created by voters in 1972. Its mission is 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. Midpen has successfully protected more than 63,000 acres of open space throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.*

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