



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-19-01
January 9, 2019
Meeting 19-01

AGENDA ITEM 7

AGENDA ITEM

2019 Legislative Program

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Adopt, and amend as needed, the Legislative Program for 2019, which outlines the 2019 legislative priorities and policies for Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

SUMMARY

Each year, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) reviews numerous proposed legislation at the local, state, and federal levels to identify opportunities that further the mission, strategic and action plan priorities, and key projects. Most bills are considered on a “case by case” basis as to how it fits with the District’s mission. The 2019 Legislative Program provides a publically accessible, transparent, and proactive summary of the issues. It also has the added benefit of prompting the District to think about its work in policy terms, rather than just project execution. This promotes a high degree of interdepartmental coordination and a culture of “continuous improvement.”

On October 30, 2018, the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) received an overview of the 2019 Legislative Program (Attachment 2) and commented on the legislative policy proposals. Staff incorporated the comments from LFPAC and now present the final 2019 Legislative Program to the full Board for consideration and adoption.

DISCUSSION

A well-written, clear, and specific Legislative Program document crystalizes and articulates the priorities of the Board of Directors (Board). Many municipalities, including counties, in the District’s jurisdiction create similar documents to clarify, guide, and streamline their own advocacy efforts. This important tool has the added benefit of targeting and aligning the efforts of staff and elected officials in considering positions or actions on the Legislative Program, consistent with Board Policy 1.11 (Attachment 1).

Each year, LFPAC reviews and provides feedback on the draft Legislative Program. Following this, the Board reviews and considers approval of the final Legislative Program, typically the first regular meeting in January – at the beginning of the new legislative session. The Legislative Program serves as the touchstone for all legislative activities during the new session.

Legislative Program Structure

The Legislative Program is broken into several sections:

- **Legislative Priorities** – The top state and local legislative priorities for the District. These priorities are grouped by key strategic areas, and reflect the Board’s organizational priorities as expressed in the recently adopted FY2019-20 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives (refer to Attachment 3).
- **District Legislative Policy Positions** - The District’s ability to deliver its mission and remain a sustainable organization can be impacted by legislation proposed at the local, state, or federal level. To this end, proactive, Board-approved policy positions taken by the District on a variety of issues helps to crystalize thinking among Board members and staff, and ensure consistency in advocacy. These policy positions are grouped in the document by key focus area, consistent with the annual Fiscal Year Major Accomplishment report. (https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/FY2017-18_Accomplishments_Report.pdf)
- **Federal Legislative Priorities** – The top federal legislative priorities for the District.

Modifications to Policy Positions and Priorities:

In July and August 2018, Department Managers were asked to review the adopted 2018 Legislative Program to determine if they recommended any revisions for the 2019 session with respect to their departmental work. Based on those discussions, edits were made to prepare the draft 2019 Legislative Program. Obsolete items, like the passage of Prop 68, were simply deleted while new additions are shown in yellow highlight throughout Attachment 2, and listed below in **bold text**. The numbers in front of each item listed below correspond to the order of numbering and appearance in the document. Staff received feedback from LFPAC at their October 30 meeting, and their comments are reflected in *bold italic* below.

Priorities:

- 4. Anticoagulant Rodenticides:** The District supports efforts to ~~to reduce or~~ eliminate the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides to protect raptors, large mammals, and other non-target wildlife.
- 1. Proposition 68 Implementation:** The District supports efforts to ensure that parks bond funds are allocated in a timely, equitable, and responsible manner, and that resulting grant programs are designed appropriately *to benefit the District*.
- 3. Regional Benefits:** The District supports efforts to work with regional and statewide partners to ensure that relevant statewide funding sources are optimized and made available for Bay Area needs, and to ensure that underserved communities in the region benefit from these state resources.

Policy Positions: The District supports legislation that:

Public Access and Education:

5. Keeps preserves safe, clean, **accessible**, and inviting for healthy exercise and enjoyment
18. Increases environmental education access opportunities, including volunteer opportunities, for underserved **and non-English speaking** communities
21. **Limits** public use of drones (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles), consistent with Board policies, and allows for agency use of drones for land management and visitor safety purposes
- 24. Provides funding to implement Americans with Disability Act (ADA) improvements and meet other accessibility standards in District preserves**

25. Promotes awareness and access to programs and activities that increase outdoor physical activity, i.e., Healthy Parks, Healthy People (HPPH)

Land Acquisition and Restoration:

8. Ensures that urban growth boundaries do not expand further than their current limits

General/Midpen-wide Support of Mission:

10. Enables streamlining of contracting and bidding processes and attracts greater contractor and vendor competition

FISCAL IMPACT

None. Staff will provide the fiscal impact summary of individual legislative priorities as they evolve and arise based on the 2019 Legislative Program in upcoming Legislative Update Reports presented to LFPAC and the Board.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

This item was reviewed by LFPAC on October 30, 2018. The final 2019 Legislative Program under Board consideration incorporates LFPAC feedback.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. No additional notice is required.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

NEXT STEPS

Upon Board adoption, the General Manager will follow the 2019 Legislative Program to guide the District's legislative work during the 2019 legislative session.

Attachments:

1. Board Policy 1.11: Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy
2. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Legislative Session Program – 2019
3. FY2019-20 Board Approved Strategic Goals

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Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Board Policy Manual

<p style="text-align: center;">Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Policy 1.11 Chapter 1 – Administration and Government</p>
<p>Effective Date: 4/13/16</p>	<p>Revised Date: N/A</p>
<p>Prior Versions: N/A</p>	

Purpose

To establish a policy governing positions on local and state ballot measures/propositions and state and federal legislative advocacy. It is intended to cover all matters before the Legislature and the voters.

Definitions

For the purposes of the *Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy* policy, the following terms and definitions shall be used:

Measure – may be included on a municipal, county, or district ballot and includes ordinances, initiatives, referenda, advisory measures, issuance or refunding of bonds, city or county charter amendments, or any other measure or proposition a legislative body may submit to the voters within the body’s jurisdiction.

Ballot Proposition – can be a referendum or an initiative measure that is submitted to the electorate for a direct decision or direct vote. Propositions may be placed on the ballot by the California State Legislature or by a qualifying petition signed by registered voters.

Initiative – power of the electors to propose legislation, and to adopt or reject them. Any proposed ordinance may be submitted to the legislative body by means of a petition.

Referendum – applies to the process for repealing newly enacted legislation. Within specified time limits, the electors may file a petition protesting the adoption of that legislation.

Local Legislation – typically ordinances, which are the laws of a city, charter, or district, often having the force of law, but only within the local jurisdiction.

State or Federal Legislation – bills or proposed legislation under consideration by the legislature at the state or federal level.

Policy

1. Positions on Matters Before the Voters
 - a. From time to time the Board of Directors may be asked or may desire to take a position on local or state measures. The Board may consider taking a position on the measure/proposition if the measure/proposition:
 - i. Would directly impact the District's finances, responsibilities, legal authority, or operations; AND
 - ii. Is in line with or inconsistent with the District's mission and/or commitment to preserve open space within its boundaries and sphere of influence.

The Board, by majority vote, may direct the General Manager to research the measure/proposition and return to the Board at a future meeting with information and a General Manager recommendation. At that time, the Board may vote to take a position on a measure/proposition.
 - b. Measures/propositions determined to not impact District business may nonetheless be analyzed by the General Manager when directed by a majority vote of the Board, of which the analysis report would include possible alternatives for Board action, but no position recommendation.

2. Local, State, and Federal Legislative Advocacy
 - a. The Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) receives periodic updates regarding the District's legislative program. When LFPAC determines that proposed legislation may affect District business, it may direct the General Manager to prepare a recommendation for consideration by the full Board or where there is not adequate time to convene the full Board, may direct the General Manager to take action to support or oppose the legislation without full Board approval. In such cases, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose legislation at or before the next Board meeting.
 - b. When time is so short that neither the full Board nor LFPAC can be convened to consider positions to support or oppose local, state or federal legislation, the General Manager is authorized to take a position on behalf of the District if the legislation:
 - i. Is related to the District's mission; AND
 - ii. Would directly impact the District's business, such as project delivery, operations, finances, legal authority, or other District responsibilities; AND
 - iii. The position being taken is consistent/inconsistent with existing District policy, past action, or District Strategic Plan; OR
 - iv. The legislation carries other considerations that make it contrary to the District's interests.

In such instances, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose the legislation at or before the next Board meeting.
 - c. Full Board action is required regarding legislation that is not clearly within the criteria listed above under Section 2.b. or guided by direction previously given by LFPAC.

3. Full Board action is required to support or oppose any type of grassroots advocacy action, such as social, political, or economic movements, that are not legislation.
4. Board members representing the District in their official capacity on regional or other bodies may, at his or her discretion, take actions based on the principles above consistent with previously approved Board positions and policies.
5. This policy is not intended to limit the prerogative of individual Board members from expressing their individual support for or opposition to any local ballot measure, State proposition, State or Federal legislation, or grassroots advocacy actions. However, in doing so, the member should clearly state they are speaking for themselves, and not in an official capacity on behalf of the Board or the District. Individual Board Members who take a position in support or opposition to ballot measure or legislation for which the Board has not previously taken a position are encouraged as a professional courtesy to include the language *for identification purposes only* parenthetically following their signature referencing their position on the Board.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Legislative Session Program 2019

DRAFT

Note: Fields in yellow are substantive changes to the 2018 Legislative Program. Edits in red are recommended changes by LFPAC on October 30.

Updated January 9, 2019

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Introduction:

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Mission:

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.

In addition, as part of the District's 2004 annexation of the San Mateo County coast area, a Coastal Protection Area Service Plan was adopted as well. The mission for the Coastal Annexation Area is:

To acquire and preserve in perpetuity open space land and agricultural land of regional significance, protect and restore the natural environment, preserve rural character, encourage viable agricultural use of land resources, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

To further the agency's mission, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (the District) annually reviews its opportunities and challenges, and establishes priorities and policy statements prior to the start of each legislative year, typically late in the calendar year, to guide its advocacy activities at the regional, state, and federal levels. The 2019 Legislative Session Program outlines the District's priorities in the coming year and details the District's legislative policies—providing general direction for advocacy. It reflects the District's commitment to the mission, the goals outlined in the 2014 Vision Plan, and the District's Strategic Plan, along with the Board-approved Capital Improvement and Action Plan.

Advocacy of the District's Interests

While this document attempts to cover a wide variety of legislative issues that may impact the District, it is not comprehensive, complete, or final. Throughout the state and federal legislative sessions, the District will review and take positions on various policies and state or federal budget items.

Per Section 2.0 of Board Policy 1.11, legislative advocacy are considered in the following manner:

Section 2.0: Local, State, and Federal Legislative Advocacy

- a. The Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) receives periodic updates throughout the year regarding the District's legislative program. When LFPAC determines that proposed legislation may affect District business, it may direct the General Manager to prepare a recommendation for consideration by the full Board or, when there is not adequate time to convene the full Board, may direct the General Manager to take action to support or oppose the legislation without full Board approval. In such cases, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose legislation at or before the next Board meeting.

- b. When time is so short that neither the full Board nor LFPAC can be convened to consider positions to support or oppose local, state or federal legislation, the General Manager is authorized to take a position on behalf of the District if the legislation:
 - i. Is related to the District's mission; AND
 - ii. Would directly impact the District's business, such as project delivery, operations, finances, legal authority, or other District responsibilities; AND
 - iii. The position being taken is consistent/inconsistent with existing District policy, past action, or [District Strategic Plan](#); OR
 - iv. The legislation carries other considerations that make it contrary to the District's interests.

In such instances, the General Manager or designee shall report to the Board any actions taken to support or oppose the legislation at or before the next Board meeting.

- c. Full Board action is required regarding legislation that is not clearly within the criteria listed above under Section 2.b. or guided by direction previously given by LFPAC.

All legislation on which the District takes a position will be closely tracked by the General Manager's Office (GMO) and reported to the Board of Directors and departments. Contracted state and federal advocacy teams will represent the District interests based upon the policies contained in the Board-approved Legislative Session Program. In addition to District position letters, Board members and District staff may be asked to testify or meet with relevant legislators or members of the Executive branch to advocate on issues requiring heightened advocacy. If this is the case, District staff must first notify and/or confirm approval of the GMO to ensure that positions taken are consistent with the District's Board-approved Legislative Session Program.

Legislative Priorities:

The following are the top legislative priorities for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in the first year of the 2019-20 State Legislative Session. They are categorized by the Board's Strategic Plan Goals/Strategy areas (<https://www.openspace.org/about-us/strategic-plan>) to provide a clear connection to organizational priorities:

Promote, establish, and implement a common environmental protection vision with partners

1. **Watershed Protection:** The District supports legislative or regulatory efforts that enhance the ability to protect watershed land, as well as restore and maintain associated habitats.
2. **Regional Conservation:** The District supports legislation that enhances and funds regional collaboration and coordination of conservation efforts.
3. **Wildlife Corridors:** The District supports efforts to bring greater funding opportunities and permit streamlining to conservation related to wildlife corridors.
4. **Anticoagulant Rodenticides:** The District supports efforts to ~~to reduce or~~ eliminate the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides to protect raptors, large mammals, and other non-target wildlife.

Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision

1. **Equitable Access:** The District supports efforts to enhance funding eligibility and access to greenspace for underserved communities in high-cost regions like the Bay Area. Low-income areas in and around the District's purview are under increasing cost pressures due to the continuing tech boom in Silicon Valley. These communities also have difficulty accessing state funding due to formulas that fail to recognize their status relative to other parts of the state that accommodate similar populations with economic struggles.
2. **Every Kid in a Park Initiative:** The District supports national and state efforts to mobilize children and parents to visit and enjoy America's outdoor spaces to encourage the next generation to discover America's public lands and waters.
3. **Trail Corridors:** The District supports policy that helps link preserve trails to other regional trails and ultimately to the places where people live and work.

Position the District for long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the District's mission on behalf of the public

1. **Proposition 68 Implementation:** The District supports efforts to ensure that parks bond funds are allocated in a timely, equitable, and responsible manner, and that resulting grant programs are designed appropriately to benefit the District.
2. **Cap and Trade/Climate-related Funding:** The District supports efforts to emphasize and increase the recognition for the use of natural and working land (NWL) for the purposes of carbon sequestration and subsequent allocations of Cap and Trade funding. With the passage of SB 32 (Pavely, 2016) there is increased pressure to not only eliminate sources of greenhouse gas generation, but also find ways to capture emissions as well. This further promotes the recognition of the region's greenbelt as its "life support system."
3. **Regional Benefits:** The District supports efforts to work with regional and statewide partners to ensure that relevant statewide funding sources are optimized and made available for Bay Area needs, and to ensure that underserved communities in the region benefit from these state resources.

District Legislative Policy Positions:

The ability of the District to deliver its mission and remain a sustainable organization can be impacted by legislation proposed on the local, state, or federal level. To this end, proactive, Board-approved policy positions taken by the District on a variety of relevant issue areas help to not only crystalize thinking among Board members and staff, but also ensures consistency in advocacy. To be consistent with other District processes and performance metrics, these policy positions have been broken down by areas specified in the annual Fiscal Year Major Accomplishments report (<http://www.openspace.org/about-us/public-information/accomplishments-15>).

Vision Plan Implementation

Entrusted by taxpayers in 2014 with the passage of its \$300 million Measure AA bond, the District supports legislation that:

1. Streamlines project timelines and reduces delivery costs to implement the Priority Action portfolio of the Vision Plan (<https://www.openspace.org/our-work/projects/vision-plan>)

Public Access and Education

The District supports legislation that:

1. Protects cultural resources

2. Increases public access to preserved land region-wide
3. Helps link preserve trails to other regional trails and ultimately to the places where people live and work
4. Helps provide educational opportunities for preserve visitors about natural and cultural resources and the benefits of open space
5. Keeps preserves safe, clean, **accessible**, and inviting for healthy exercise and enjoyment
6. Promotes involvement and engagement of communities in ongoing conservation
7. Funds and enables programs that hires youth to work in parks and open space and encourages them to consider careers in conservation
8. Creates or augments grant programs to enhance public access, provide fire clearance, and enable housing rehabilitation on District holdings
9. Helps fund and streamline emergency repairs to District infrastructure
10. Funding that supports partnership approaches to environmental education and public outreach efforts on local and state levels. For example, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), California Education and the Environment (<http://www.californiaeei.org/>) and ChangeScale (<http://changescale.org/who-we-are/>)
11. Streamlines permits for trail maintenance and construction, including grading
12. Improves and streamlines the permitting and CEQA review and compliance process
13. Provides parks and open space districts the authority to utilize a variety of contracting methods to construct projects, including design-build methodologies
14. Legislation that promotes implementation and education of sustainable design and construction; including but not limited to LEED buildings, stormwater treatment and runoff reduction, local (within 150-mile radius of project) contractor/consultant hiring and construction materials, reuse and recycle materials, renewable energy, and landscaping
15. Transportation measures that enhance community member opportunities to access open space preserves and state parks
16. Improves local transportation, which enables better connectivity between the built and natural environment, i.e. Transit to trails
17. Enables Native American community involvement in cultural and land management practice awareness
18. Increases environmental education access opportunities, including volunteer opportunities, for underserved and **non-English speaking** communities

19. Enhances the ability to engage and involve a diverse team of Bay Area volunteers in the protection, conservation, restoration, and enhancement of the District's natural resources, trails, and facilities.
20. Provides prevailing wage exemptions for volunteers
21. **Limits** public use of drones (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles), consistent with Board policies, and allows for agency use of drones for land management and visitor safety purposes
22. Helps eradicate marijuana growing on public lands and restore lands damaged by its growth.
23. Aids enforcement of marijuana laws related to the implementation of Prop 64 (2016)
24. **Provides funding to implement Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and other accessibility standards in District preserves**
25. **Promotes awareness and access to programs and activities that increase outdoor physical activity, i.e., Healthy Parks, Healthy People (HPHP)**

Natural Resources Protection and Restoration

The District supports legislation that:

1. Supports working farms and ranches
2. Supports farm labor housing
3. Enhances management of water quality for all priority watersheds
4. Protects local and regional watershed holdings and water quality protection
5. Enables Cal Fire to continue inmate work programs.
6. Promotes expedited tree and brush removals by public agencies for fire protection and public access.
7. Ensures reasonable setback requirements that allow minimum defensible space clearances to be met by private property owners.
8. Supports wildfire management to become a more natural component of the ecosystem, and minimize negative effects on the community and environment
9. Connects habitats that support a diverse array of native plants and animals
10. Supports maintaining state and federal lists of endangered species justified through conclusive biological evidence
11. Incentivizes agricultural operations to invest in energy efficient irrigation technologies that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and water use

12. Provides funding to local partners to provide technical support for agriculture and natural resources enhancement
13. Creates or enhances new funding sources to implement local or state government programs that benefit the environment such as: watershed protection, groundwater recharge and sustainability, water conservation, GHG reduction, Areas of Special Biological Significance compliance, Rare, Threatened, and Endangered species management and recovery
14. Expands funding for:
 - a. Wetland restoration projects that provide carbon sequestration benefits.
 - b. Forest health programs that reduce GHG emissions through fuel reduction.
 - c. Wildlife Corridor projects that improve wildlife habitat connectivity
15. Ensures maintenance of adequate open space through increased funding for development easements, needed restoration, and rehabilitation activities
16. Encourages public road management agencies to control invasive plant populations, and incorporates safe pedestrian and wildlife crossings across roadways and highways.
17. Emphasizes the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices that aligns with the District's program
18. Reduces/further regulates the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides
19. Supports increased knowledge, management, and ultimately the eradication, of Sudden Oak Death disease.
20. Ensures "Open Space" zoning for permanently protected lands that allow for typical maintenance and construction activities.
21. Furthers implementation of Senate Bill 32 (Chapter 249, Statutes of 2016), the Global Warming Solutions Act that establishes a GHG reduction target for the state of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.
22. Enhances wildland fire management and promotes climate adaptation planning
23. Promotes the development of new mechanisms for sustainable and environmentally responsible economic development and redevelopment of housing, neighborhood, and commercial properties to minimize the carbon footprint of the built environment and reduce the pressure to sprawl into open space lands.
24. Helps efforts to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the natural resources of the District, its coast and adjacent waters for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations
25. Recognizes and incentivizes the use of natural and working lands for the purpose of carbon sequestration

26. Supports the development of effective and comprehensive Districtwide, regional, and statewide measures to adapt to sea level rise, community resilience, and other effects of climate change
27. Enhances or streamlines the identification, creation, and maintenance of wildlife corridors both within District lands and adjacent entities, which may extend to statewide and international linkages
28. Promotes advance mitigation programs and wildlife corridor networks
29. Enhances regulatory permit and closer collaboration and coordination between regulatory agencies

Land Acquisition and Restoration

The District supports legislation that:

1. Expands protected land, to enhance biodiversity, climate change resilience and scenic, rural character
2. Protects watershed lands
3. Promotes the use of urban infill to reduce greenhouse gas generation and protect natural and working lands and enables a balance between jobs and housing
4. Enhances the District's ability to purchase or otherwise acquire regional and strategic open space lands and connect District lands to federal, state, county, city, and other protected open space, parklands, bay lands, watershed lands, wildlife corridors, and agricultural lands.
5. Enhances the District's ability to create and pursue opportunities to acquire an integrated greenbelt of protected open space, trails, and habitat corridors throughout our jurisdiction
6. Facilitates the protection of the District and the public's open space, park, and natural resources, property rights, interests, and easements
7. Preserves prime and sustainable agricultural lands through State Budget proposals that provide funding for long-term protection of these lands.
8. Ensures that urban growth boundaries do not expand further than their current limits.

General/Midpen-wide Support of Mission

The District supports legislation that:

1. Preserves existing tax revenues and tax authority.

2. Lowers the vote threshold for locally imposed special taxes, from two-thirds to fifty-five percent.
3. Maximizes funding flexibility for use within the designated programs
4. Preserves tax-exempt status for municipal bonds on a state and federal level
5. Expands state and federal incentives that promote the issuance of green bonds
6. Enables statewide efforts to increase broadband connectivity to public agency infrastructure in remote areas
7. Preserves and promotes cost-effective, fair, and efficient contracting practices that give taxpayers the best value for their dollar
8. Preserves and promotes managerial discretion in effective and productive recruiting, hiring, firing, and day-to-day oversight of staff at all levels
9. Preserves and promotes open, transparent, accountable government administrative practices that promote the efficient and timely delivery of public services, facilitates public involvement, and supports effective and timely decision-making
10. Enables streamlining of contracting and bidding processes and attracts greater contractor and vendor competition

2019 Federal Legislative Priorities

Given the tumult and outcomes of the 2016 federal elections, very little progress has been made forwarding a pro-environmental agenda at the national level. It is necessary for active advocacy to occur to defend existing environmental priorities and regulations. Statements made by both the Governor of California and the State Legislature have made clear that an active effort to preserve environmental regulations, with California at the lead, is necessary.

Priority Areas:

In 2019, the District will remain focused on federal policy relevant to the following:

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The District supports full funding of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LCWF).

Infrastructure Investment

The District supports the inclusion of active transportation and parks-related projects in federal funding allocations for infrastructure.

National Monument Preservation

The District supports the protection and the designation of national monuments within our region that are important to fulfilling the District's mission.

2019 Regional/Local Priorities

Local land use authority predominates California planning processes even though there is a growing recognition of the importance of regional planning and coordination of efforts. This is true for both the built as well as the natural environment.

Priority Areas:

In 2019, the District supports:

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA), Measure AA Implementation

The District supports guideline development for SFBRA's Measure AA funds that enables implementation of District priority projects.

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), Measure B Implementation

The District supports advance mitigation allocation guideline development for VTA's recently passed Measure B funds that enables implementation of District priority projects.

Regional Collaboration

The District supports efforts to enhance and fund regional collaboration and coordination of conservation plans.

FY2019-20 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives: Recommended Updates

Goal 1 – Promote, establish, and implement a regional environmental protection vision with partners

- Objective 1 – Continue implementation of the District’s Vision Plan and communicate progress on projects through reporting results and building partner relationships
- Objective 2 – Build and strengthen diverse partnerships to implement a collaborative and science-based approach to environmental protection on the Peninsula, South Bay and San Mateo Coast
- Objective 3 – Build and strengthen relationships with legislators to advocate environmental protection goals
- Objective 4 – Take a regional leadership role in promoting the benefits of open space and sustainable agriculture
- Objective 5 – Expand regional climate change resiliency and adaptation to preserve healthy natural systems
- Objective 6 – Work with fire agencies and surrounding communities to strengthen the prevention of, preparation for, and response to wildland fires

Goal 2 – Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision

- Objective 1 – Communicate the purpose of the regional environmental protection vision
- Objective 2 – Refine and implement a comprehensive public outreach strategy, including the engagement of diverse communities and enhanced public education programs
- Objective 3 – Expand opportunities to connect people to their public open space preserves consistent with an environmental protection vision

Goal 3 – Strengthen organizational capacity to fulfill the mission

- Objective 1 – Provide the necessary resources, tools, and infrastructure, including technology upgrades and capacity building
- Objective 2 – Continuously improve recent process and business model changes to effectively and efficiently deliver Vision Plan projects and the District’s ongoing functions
- Objective 3 – Reflect the changing community we serve in the District’s visitors, staff, volunteers, and partners
- Objective 4 – Build state of readiness for potential disruptions by completing a risk assessment and creating a business continuity plan

Goal 4 – Position the District for long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the District’s mission on behalf of the public

- Objective 1 – Continue to engage constituents for bond sales and via the work of the Bond Oversight Committee – “Promises made, promises kept.”
- Objective 2 – Pursue discretionary funding opportunities and partnerships to augment operating, capital, and bond funding sources
- Objective 3 – Ensure discretionary funding opportunities are available and successful through advocacy and education
- Objective 4 – Ensure large capital expenses are evaluated within the long-term financial model and remain financially sustainable
- Objective 5 – Ensure land acquisitions, including associated public access and land management costs, are evaluated within the long-term financial model and remain financially sustainable