



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

## LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

R-19-27

March 12, 2019

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### AGENDA ITEM

Legislative Briefing on Matters of Interest to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

**GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS:** *den*

Receive Legislative Action Report and provide feedback on bill selections for priority action.

#### SUMMARY

The Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC, Committee) will review and provide feedback on a list of state legislation and bills for priority action that are of high interest to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) (Attachment 1).

#### DISCUSSION

The 2019 Legislative Program, which the Board approved at its January 9, 2019 meeting, reflects Board policy positions on issues affecting the District, its mission, and annual strategic goals. The 2019 Legislative Program identifies priority legislation to track this year. Staff and the District's legislative consultants actively use the Board-approved Legislative Program to communicate District positions on bills, budget recommendations, and other legislative items to the respective authors and/or legislative committees, as appropriate. Throughout the session, staff fields time-sensitive requests from partners and monitors evolving pieces of legislation based on Board Policy 1.11 (Attachment 2). Legislation deemed a priority by the Board, pursuant to Board Policy 1.11, are tracked and, when appropriate, either supported or opposed. The General Manager keeps the Board notified of actions taken via separate memo. Please refer to Attachment 1 for an overview of the initial list of bills for District priority action in the 2019-20 legislative session.

February 22, 2019 was the submittal deadline for new bills by State Assemblymembers and Senators. District Legislative Consultants, Public Policy Advocates (PPA) and Environmental and Energy Consulting (EEC), reviewed every bill submitted to determine whether it had the potential to affect District interests, recommending a position and priority.

Priority definitions:

- **Priority 1:** Bills with major importance and direct impact to the District, and/or have the potential to set a critical precedent. These bills receive active attention by the Public Affairs Department and the affected department(s), which may include extensive

testimony in committee, meetings with the Legislature, discussions with partner organizations and public/media education, as appropriate.

- **Priority 2:** Bills with significant impact on the District and/or have the potential to set a critical, relevant precedent. The District sends a position letter or signs on to a coalition letter, and may discuss the item with the Legislature and provide testimony in committee, as time permits.
- **Priority 3:** Bills with a potential notable effect on the District, and/or that may set a meaningful precedent, but are determined to be of lower priority for District resources. Public Affairs Department staff, in collaboration with the appropriate department(s), may sign on to a coalition letter. Committee testimony or discussions with the Legislature may also be conducted.

Appropriate department managers have assisted with a review of all the potential bills of interest and provided a recommended position and priority for each bill (Attachment 1). Approximately 140 bills are currently tracked, though only bills that would initiate action by the District at this time – Priorities 1 and 2 – are presented. At this time, four bills are deemed Priority 1 and 18 are Priority 2. As the legislative session progresses, each bill may change (sometimes substantially), which warrants further consideration and disposition concurrent with Board Policy 1.11.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this briefing.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW**

Legislative updates are periodically brought to the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee each year.

### **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**

The Governmental Affairs Specialist will bring legislative updates and proposals to LFPAC throughout the state legislative session.


### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1 – MROSD Legislative Tracking Matrix
- Attachment 2 – MROSD Legislation Position and Priorities
- Attachment 3 – MROSD Bill Disposition Process
- Attachment 4 – MROSD Legislative Program for 2019
- Attachment 5 – State Legislative Calendar – 2019
- Attachment 6 – Board Policy 1.11 - Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy

Attachment 7 – General Manager Memo Regarding Interim Legislative Actions

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 <b>MROSD Legislative Tracking Matrix</b>						
Updated: 3/6/2019						
Measure	Author	Category	Topic	Brief Summary	Recommended Position	Priority
<a href="#">SB 45</a>	<a href="#">Allen D</a>	Climate Change	Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020.	Would enact the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of \$4,300,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects to restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources.	Support	1
<a href="#">ACA 1</a>	<a href="#">Aguiar-Curry D</a>	Finance	Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval.	The California Constitution prohibits the ad valorem tax rate on real property from exceeding 1% of the full cash value of the property, subject to certain exceptions. This measure would create an additional exception to the 1% limit that would authorize a city, county, or city and county to levy an ad valorem tax to service bonded indebtedness incurred to fund the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure or affordable housing, if the proposition proposing that tax is approved by 55% of the voters of the city, county, or city and county, as applicable, and the proposition includes specified accountability requirements.	Support	1
<a href="#">AB 1190</a>	<a href="#">Irwin D</a>	Safety	Unmanned aircraft: state and local regulation: limitations.	Would, among other things, prohibit a state or local agency from adopting any law or regulation that bans the operation of an unmanned aircraft system. The bill would include the operation of small unmanned aircraft systems within the definition of hazardous recreational activity for purposes of public entity liability. The bill would authorize a state or local agency to adopt regulations to enforce a requirement that a small unmanned aircraft system be properly registered under existing federal regulations.	Oppose	1
<a href="#">AB 1788</a>	<a href="#">Bloom D</a>	Stewardship	Pesticides: use of anticoagulants.	Current law regulates the use of pesticides and authorizes the Director of Pesticide Regulation to adopt regulations to govern the possession, sale, or use of any pesticide, as prescribed. Existing law prohibits the use of any pesticide that contains one or more of specified anticoagulants in wildlife habitat areas, as defined. Current law exempts from this prohibition the use of these pesticides for agricultural activities, as defined. Current law requires the director, and each county agricultural commissioner under the direction and supervision of the director, to enforce the provisions regulating the use of pesticides. A violation of these provisions is a misdemeanor. This bill would expand this prohibition to the entire state.	Support	1



### MROSD Legislative Tracking Matrix

Updated: 3/6/2019

<a href="#">AB 293</a>	<a href="#">Garcia, Eduardo D</a>	Climate Change	Greenhouse gases: offset protocols.	Current law, until January 1, 2031, establishes the Compliance Offsets Protocol Task Force to provide guidance to the state board in approving new offset protocols for a market-based compliance mechanism for the purposes of increasing offset projects with direct environmental benefits in the state while prioritizing disadvantaged communities, Native American or tribal lands, and rural and agricultural regions. This bill would require the task force to consider the development and adoption of additional offset protocols, including, but not limited to, protocols for the enhanced management or conservation of agricultural and natural lands, and for the enhancement and restoration of wetlands.	Support	2
<a href="#">AB 65</a>	<a href="#">Petrie-Norris D</a>		Coastal protection: climate adaption: project prioritization.	Would require specified things of the State Coastal Conservancy when it allocates any funding appropriated pursuant to the The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, including that it prioritize projects that use natural infrastructure to help adapt to climate change. The bill would require the conservancy to provide information to the Office of Planning and Research on any projects funded pursuant to the above provision to be considered for inclusion into the clearinghouse for climate adaption information.	Support	2
<a href="#">SB 168</a>	<a href="#">Wieckowski D</a>		Climate change: Chief Officer of Climate Adaptation and Resilience.	Would establish the Chief Officer of Climate Adaptation and Resilience in the Office of Planning and Research to serve as the statewide lead for planning and coordination of climate adaptation policy and implementation in California, and would specify the duties of the chief officer. The bill would make the chief officer, or the chief officer's designee, a member of the advisory council and would designate the chief officer, or the chief officer's designee, as the chair of the advisory council. The bill would include additional expertise members of the advisory council are to have. The bill would specify that members of the advisory council serve staggered 4-year terms, except as provided.	Support	2
<a href="#">AB 968</a>	<a href="#">Garcia, Cristina D</a>	Education	Naturalist Pathway Pilot Program.	Would, on or before the start of the 2020–21 academic year, require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to develop and implement a pilot program, at a voluntarily participating community college located in a disadvantaged community, that provides a pathway for participating students to become naturalists and achieve careers providing public access to, or preserving, restoring, or enhancing outdoor areas. The bill would require the chancellor to submit a report on the pilot program to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2024, and would repeal the pilot program on July 1, 2025.	Support	2
<a href="#">SB 367</a>	<a href="#">Hueso D</a>		State Coastal Conservancy: grants: educational projects and programs.	Current law establishes the State Coastal Conservancy and prescribes the membership, functions, and duties of the conservancy with regard to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of specified coastal lands in the state. Current law authorizes the conservancy to fund and undertake plans and feasibility studies and to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for these purposes. This bill would additionally authorize the conservancy to provide technical assistance, and award grants for that purpose.	Support	2



### MROSD Legislative Tracking Matrix

Updated: 3/6/2019

<a href="#">AB 1486</a>	<a href="#">Ting D</a>	Government	Local agencies: surplus land.	Current law prescribes requirements for the disposal of surplus land by a local agency. This bill would expand the definition of "local agency" to include sewer, water, utility, and local and regional park districts, joint powers authorities, successor agencies to former redevelopment agencies, housing authorities, and other political subdivisions of this state and any instrumentality thereof that is empowered to acquire and hold real property, thereby requiring these entities to comply with these requirements for the disposal of surplus land.	Oppose	2
<a href="#">AB 510</a>	<a href="#">Cooley D</a>		Local government records: destruction of records.	Current law authorizes the head of a department of a county or city, or the head of a special district to destroy recordings of telephone and radio communications maintained by that county, city, or special district after 100 days if that person receives approval from the legislative body and the written consent of the agency attorney. This bill would exempt the head of a department of a county or city, or the head of a special district from these recording retention requirements if the county, city, or special district adopts a records retention policy governing recordings of routine video monitoring and recordings of telephone and radio communications.	Support	2
<a href="#">AB 707</a>	<a href="#">Kalra D</a>		Santa Clara Valley Water District: contracts.	Current law prescribes competitive bidding procedures for any improvement or unit of work not performed by the personnel of the Santa Clara Valley Water District if the district estimates the work to cost over \$25,000. This bill would raise that competitive bidding threshold to work estimated to cost over \$50,000 and would authorize the district board of directors to further raise the threshold amount, as prescribed. The bill would define terms for purposes of current law.	Support	2
<a href="#">AB 825</a>	<a href="#">Mullin D</a>		San Mateo County Flood Control District.	Current law, the San Mateo County Flood Control District Act, establishes the San Mateo County Flood Control District for the purpose of controlling the floodwater and stormwater of the County of San Mateo. The act makes the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo the board of supervisors of the district, and assigns specified powers and duties to the district. This bill would make nonsubstantive changes in the section naming the act.	Support	2
<a href="#">AB 556</a>	<a href="#">Carrillo D</a>	Public Access	Outdoor experiences: community access program: grant program.	Would require the Natural Resources Agency to develop and implement a community access program focused on engagement programs, technical assistance, or facilities that maximize safe and equitable physical admittance, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities, to natural or cultural resources, community education programs, or recreational amenities. The bill would authorize the agency to develop a grant program for innovative transportation projects that provide disadvantaged and low-income youth with access to outdoor experiences, as specified.	Support	2



### MROSD Legislative Tracking Matrix

Updated: 3/6/2019

<a href="#">SB 127</a>	<a href="#">Wiener D</a>		Transportation funding: active transportation: complete streets.	Would establish a Division of Active Transportation within the Department of Transportation and require that an undersecretary of the Transportation Agency be assigned to give attention to active transportation program matters to guide progress toward meeting the department's active transportation program goals and objectives. The bill would require the California Transportation Commission to give high priority to increasing safety for pedestrians and bicyclists and to the implementation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.	Support	2
<a href="#">AB 782</a>	<a href="#">Berman D</a>		California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: public agencies: property transfers.	Would exempt from CEQA the acquisition, sale, or other transfer of property by a public agency for certain purposes, or the funding of that acquisition, sale, or other transfer by a public agency, if the public agency conditions those transactions on compliance with CEQA before making physical changes to the transferred property.	Support	2
<a href="#">AB 933</a>	<a href="#">Petrie-Norris D</a>		Ecosystem resilience: watershed protection: watershed coordinators.	Would authorize the Department of Conservation, to the extent funds are available, to establish and administer the Ecosystem Resilience Program to fund watershed coordinator positions, and other necessary costs, throughout the state for the purpose of achieving specified goals, including the goal of developing and implementing watershed improvement plans aligned with multiple statewide and regional objectives across distinct bioregions. The bill would authorize the department to develop performance measures and accountability controls to track progress and outcomes.	Support	2
<a href="#">SB 226</a>	<a href="#">Nielsen R</a>		Watershed restoration: grant program.	Current law authorizes the Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency to jointly develop and submit to the Legislature a plan for forest and water restoration investments for the drainages that supply specified reservoirs. This bill would require the agency to develop and implement a watershed restoration grant program, as provided, for purposes of awarding grants to private property land owners to assist them with watershed restoration on watersheds that have been affected by wildfire, as specified. The bill would require the agency to provide technical resources to the private property land owners seeking assistance with watershed restoration, as provided.	Support	2
<a href="#">AB 448</a>	<a href="#">Garcia, Eduardo D</a>		Water	Water rights: stockponds.	Would provide that the owner of a stockpond built prior to January 1, 2019, that does not have a capacity greater than 10 acre-feet has a valid water right for the principal purpose of watering livestock if that person files a claim for a water right with the State Water Resources Control Board accompanied by a fee not later than December 31, 2021.	Support



## MROSD Legislative Tracking Matrix

Updated: 3/6/2019

<a href="#">AB 454</a>	<a href="#">Kalra D</a>	Wildlife	Migratory birds: Migratory Bird Treaty Act.	Would make unlawful the taking or possession of any migratory nongame bird designated in the federal act as of January 1, 2017, any additional migratory nongame bird that may be designated in the federal act after that date, or any part of those migratory nongame birds, except as provided by any provision of the Fish and Game Code, or any rule, regulation, or order made or adopted pursuant to the code, that is consistent with, or more protective than, rules and regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of the Interior under the federal act. Under existing law, a violation of the Fish and Game Code is a crime.	Support	2
<a href="#">SB 1</a>	<a href="#">Atkins D</a>		California Environmental, Public Health, and Workers Defense Act of 2019.	Essentially, this bill seeks to maintain parity with existing federal law through state law in the face of threats to weaken certain provisions.  Current state law regulates the discharge of air pollutants into the atmosphere. The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act regulates the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the state. The California Safe Drinking Water Act establishes standards for drinking water and regulates drinking water systems. The California Endangered Species Act requires the Fish and Game Commission to establish a list of endangered species and a list of threatened species, and generally prohibits the taking of those species. This bill would require specified agencies to take prescribed actions regarding certain federal requirements and standards pertaining to air, water, and protected species, as specified.	Support	2



## MROSD Bill Positions and Priorities

### **Support:**

- **Support** – A position given to bills and propositions that would be a benefit to Midpen’s ability to serve its communities.
- **Support if Amended** – A position given to bills that may be a benefit to the Districts’ ability to serve its communities, so long as specific amendments are taken to the bill. If the requested amendments are taken by the author, Public Affairs Department staff may recommend changing MROSD’s position to support.
- **Recommend Support**– Position recommended by Legislative Consultant, along with a potential priority number, prior to staff review.

### **Oppose:**

- **Oppose** – A position given to bills and propositions that would be a detriment to Midpen’s ability to serve its communities.
- **Oppose if Amended** – A position given to bills that may impede the Districts’ ability to serve its communities, so long as specific amendments are taken to the bill. If the requested amendments are taken by the author, Public Affairs Department staff may recommend changing MROSD’s position to support.
- **Concerns** – A position given to bills that could be a detriment to the District, but for political, policy, or other reasons do not warrant or lend themselves to a full oppose position.
- **Recommend Oppose** – Position recommended by Legislative Consultant, along with a potential priority number, prior to staff review.

### **Watch:**

- **Watch** – A position given to bills that may directly affect MROSD, but does not provide a significant benefit or impose a significant detriment to the District. Also includes bills that are in spot bill form on a subject area that concerns special districts and bills that are of notable interest to special districts, but do not warrant an active position or expenditure of MROSD resources. No position is taken, however, the progress and outcome of the bill is tracked. A position may be considered at a later date.
- **Recommend Watch** – Position recommended by Legislative Consultant.

### **Investigate:**

- **Investigate** – More information is needed before a position can be taken.

### **Remove:**

- **Remove** – Legislation is of no interest to the District or does not apply.

**Priority:**

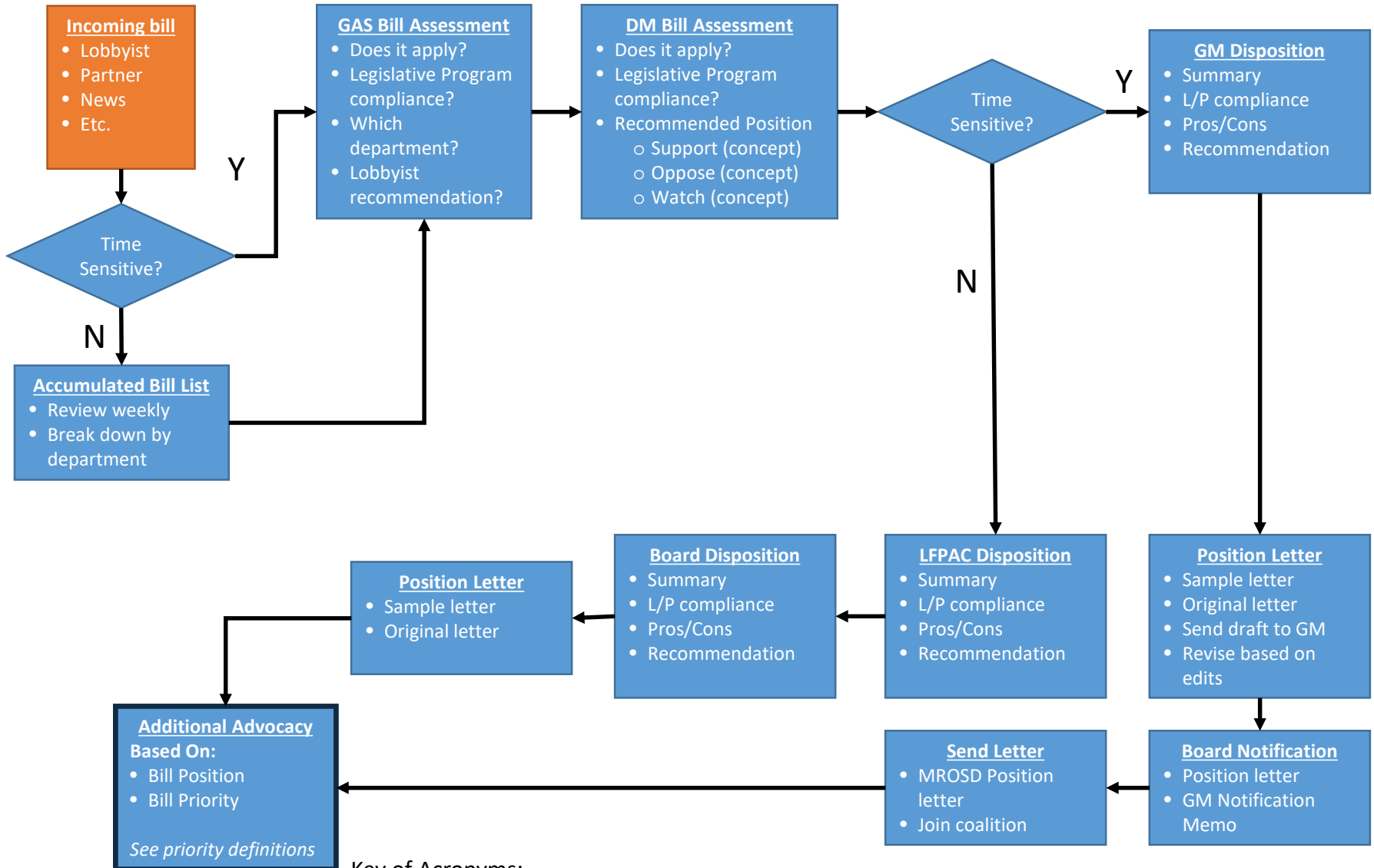
**Priority 1:** Bills given a “1” priority have a major importance and directly affects the District, and/or may set a critical precedent. These bills will receive active attention by the Public Affairs Department and the affected department. This may include extensive testimony in committee, meetings with the Legislature, discussions with partner organizations, and public/media education, as appropriate.

**Priority 2:** Bills given a “2” priority have a significant impact on the District and/or set a critical, relevant precedent. The District sends a position letter or signs on to a coalition letter, and may discuss the item with the Legislature and provide testimony in committee as time permits.

**Priority 3:** Bills given a “3” priority may have a notable effect on the District, and/or set a meaningful precedent, but are determined to be a lower priority for District resources. Public Affairs Department staff, in collaboration with the appropriate department, may choose to not write a position letter on these bills, but may sign on to a coalition letter. Committee testimony or discussions with the Legislature may be conducted.

# MROSD Legislative Bill Disposition Process

## Board Policy 1.11



### Key of Acronyms:

- GM: General Manager
- GAS: Governmental Affairs Specialist
- DM: Department Manager
- L/P: Legislative Program

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
Legislative Session Program  
2019

Adopted 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 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.

#### San Mateo County Transit District, Measure W Implementation

The District supports allocation guideline development that enables regional bicycle/pedestrian network connectivity with District projects and regional trail plans.

### Regional Collaboration

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

**2019 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK  
October 31, 2018 (revised)

**DEADLINES**

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		<u>1</u>	2	3	4	5
6	<u>7</u>	8	9	<u>10</u>	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	<u>21</u>	22	23	24	<u>25</u>	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- [Jan. 1](#) Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- [Jan. 7](#) Legislature **reconvenes** (J.R. 51(a)(1)).
- [Jan. 10](#) Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- [Jan. 21](#) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- [Jan. 25](#) Last day to submit **bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	<u>18</u>	19	20	21	<u>22</u>	23
24	25	26	27	28		

- [Feb. 18](#) Presidents' Day.
- [Feb. 22](#) Last day for **bills to be introduced** (J.R. 61(a)(1)), (J.R. 54(a)).

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	<u>29</u>	30
31						

- [Mar. 29](#) Cesar Chavez Day observed.

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	<u>11</u>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	<u>22</u>	23	24	25	<u>26</u>	27
28	29	30				

- [Apr. 11](#) **Spring recess** begins upon adjournment of this day's session (J.R. 51(a)(2)).
- [Apr. 22](#) Legislature **reconvenes** from Spring recess (J.R. 51(a)(2)).
- [Apr. 26](#) Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to **fiscal committees** **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(2)).

MAY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	<u>3</u>	4
5	6	7	8	9	<u>10</u>	11
12	13	14	15	16	<u>17</u>	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	

- [May 3](#) Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the Floor **nonfiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(3)).
- [May 10](#) Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 3 (J.R. 61(a)(4)).
- [May 17](#) Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(5)). Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to June 3 (J.R. 61(a)(6)).
- [May 27](#) Memorial Day.
- [May 28-31](#) **Floor Session Only.**  
No committees, other than conference or Rules committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(a)(7)).

- [May 31](#) Last day for bills to be **passed out of the house of origin** (J.R. 61(a)(8)).

\*Holiday schedule subject to Rules committee approval.



## 2019 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK  
October 31, 2018 (revised)

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	<b>3</b>	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	<b>15</b>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

**Jun. 3** Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(a)(9)).

**Jun. 15** **Budget Bill** must be **passed by midnight** (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)(3)).

JULY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	<b>4</b>	5	6
7	8	9	<b>10</b>	11	<b>12</b>	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**Jul. 4** Independence Day.

**Jul. 10** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report **fiscal bills** to **fiscal committees** (J.R. 61(a)(10)).

**Jul. 12** Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(a)(11)). **Summer recess** begins upon adjournment of this day's session, provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(a)(3)).

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	<b>12</b>	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	<b>30</b>	31

**Aug. 12** **Legislature reconvenes** from Summer recess (J.R. 51(a)(3)).

**Aug. 30** Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills to Floor (J.R. 61(a)(12)).

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	7
8	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**Sep. 2** Labor Day.

**Sep. 3-13** **Floor Session Only**. No committees, other than conference and Rules committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(a)(13)).

**Sep. 6** Last day to **amend bills on the floor** (J.R. 61(a)(14)).

**Sep. 13** Last day for **each house to pass bills** (J.R. 61(a)(15)). **Interim Study Recess** begins upon adjournment of this day's session (J.R. 51(a)(4)).

\*Holiday schedule subject to Senate Rules committee approval.

### IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING INTERIM STUDY RECESS

#### **2019**

**Oct. 13**

Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature on or before Sep. 13 and in the Governor's possession after Sep. 13 (Art. IV, Sec.10(b)(1)).

#### **2020**

**Jan. 1**

Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).

**Jan. 6**

Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51 (a)(4)).

## Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

## Board Policy Manual

<b>Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy</b>	<b>Policy 1.11</b> <b>Chapter 1 – Administration and Government</b>
Effective Date: 4/13/16	Revised Date: N/A
Prior Versions: N/A	

**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

# Memorandum

DATE: March 12, 2019  
 MEMO TO: Legislative, Finance, and Public Affairs Committee Members  
 FROM: Ana M. Ruiz, General Manager *AMR*  
 SUBJECT: Legislative Actions Update

## BACKGROUND

Board Policy 1.11 titled "Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy," Section 2.0b, provides the General Manager the ability to take position on pending legislation in time-sensitive situations. More specifically:

- 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.

## DISCUSSION

On behalf of the District, the General Manager has taken the following time-sensitive action:

- **SB 45 (Allen): Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020.**

**Action:** At the behest of the statewide Wildlife Corridors Working Group and open space legislative consultants, Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and signed onto a group letter addressed to the Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on March 6, 2019, ahead of their March 12 hearing.

**Bill Summary:** Would enact the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of \$4,300,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects to restore fire damaged areas, reduce wildfire risk, create healthy forest and watersheds, reduce climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations, protect water supply and water quality, protect rivers, lakes, and streams, reduce flood risk, protect fish and wildlife from climate impacts, improve climate resilience of agricultural lands, and protect coastal lands and resources.

### **Consistency with Legislative Program:**

- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – 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."
- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – 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.
- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – Wildlife Corridors:** The District supports efforts to bring greater funding opportunities and permit streamlining to conservation related to wildlife corridors.
- **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES – 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.
- **Natural Resources Protection and Restoration #8** – Supports wildfire management to become a more natural component of the ecosystem, and minimize negative effects on the community and environment.
- **Natural Resources Protection and Restoration #14b** – Forest health programs that reduce GHG emissions through fuel reduction.
- **Natural Resources Protection and Restoration #14c** – Expands funding for wildlife corridor projects that improve wildlife habitat connectivity.

### **AB 209 (Limón): Parks: environmental education: grant program.**

**Action:** At the behest of the California State Parks Foundation, Midpen has taken a SUPPORT position and signed onto a group letter to the Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee on March 5, 2019, ahead of their March 12 hearing.

**Bill Summary:** Would require the Director of Parks and Recreation to establish the Outdoor Equity Grants Program, to increase the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor environmental educational experiences at state parks and other public lands where outdoor environmental education programs take place. The bill would require the director to, among other things, give priority for funding to outdoor environmental education programs that primarily provide outreach to and serve students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, foster youth, or pupils of limited English proficiency, as provided.

### **Consistency with Legislative Program:**

- **District Priority:** 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.

**Attachments:**

1. SB 45 Support Letter
2. AB 209 Support Letter

**Prepared by:** Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Specialist



March 6, 2019

The Honorable Henry Stern, Chair  
 Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
 State Capitol Building  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 45 (Allen) – SUPPORT: Wildfire, Drought and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020

Dear Chair Stern,

The undersigned organizations are respectfully requesting your favorable consideration of the subject bill when it appear before your committee on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

As you know, this measure would place a funding mechanism before the voters in 2020 that is designed to invest in nature-based, solution oriented projects that begin to armor California’s landscapes and population centers from the effects of climate change. Californians are all too aware of the recent effects of climate change and its impacts on our eco-systems, our economy, the health of our citizens, and the omnipresent risks that are borne by inaction. Fires, floods, mudslides, and drought are becoming the new normal and California needs to make a comprehensive and sustained investment in reversing these phenomena. While it goes without saying that such phenomena are presenting challenges to the continued health of our natural infrastructures (forests, watershed, and coastlines), investments in our outdoor, park and trail infrastructures, and infrastructure that supports the state’s burgeoning \$93 billion outdoor economy, is also imperiled as many of these lands and the amenities they support are often at the intersect between our natural and active landscapes.

SB 45 in its current iteration, while skeletal in form, will provide for a portfolio of investments to serve as a blueprint for the planning, management, and implementation of projects that offer regional solutions to adapt to climate change by building more resiliency in our landscapes.

Having said that, while the undersigned support SB 45, we appreciate and would like to reserve the opportunity to work further with the author to flesh-out the language of the measure to better accommodate the priorities and needs to everyone’s satisfaction.



Sincerely,

Stephanie Stephens, Executive Director  
California Park & Recreation Society

Robert E. Doyle, General Manager  
East Bay Regional Park District

David Polivy, Owner  
Tahoe Mountain Sports

Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager  
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Sean Barclay, General Manager  
Tahoe City Public Utility District

Jeff Darlington, Executive Director  
Placer Land Trust

Bridget Fithian, Executive Director  
Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Jenny Hatch, Executive Director  
Sierra Nevada Alliance

Perry Norris, Executive Director  
Truckee Donner Land Trust

Kay Ogden, Executive Director  
Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Erika Seward, Co-Executive Director  
Bear Yuba Land Trust

Kevin Tatsugawa, PhD, Associate Professor  
Westfield State University

Ann Van Leer, Executive Director  
Escondido Creek Conservancy

Bert Whitaker, Director  
Sonoma County Regional Parks

Matt Lyon, Chair of Board of Directors  
California Outdoor Recreation Partnership (CORP)

Joshua Hugg, Governmental Affairs Specialist  
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Rachel Norton, Executive Director  
California State Parks Foundation

Amy Lethbridge, Executive Director  
Community Nature Connection

Marissa Christiansen, Executive Director  
Friends of the LA River

David Weinstein, State and Local Policy Director  
Outdoor Industry Association (OIA)

Shelana deSilva, Director of Government Affairs  
& Public Funding  
Save the Redwoods League

John Wentworth, Board President  
Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access  
Foundation

Tori Kjer, Executive Director  
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Rico Mastrodonato, Senior Government Relations  
Manager  
The Trust for Public Land

Cc: The Honorable Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Senator Ben Allen  
Kip Lipper, Chief Policy Advisor, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins  
Tina Andolina, Senior Policy Consultant, Office of Senator Ben Allen  
Bill Craven, Chief Consultant Senate Natural Resources Water Committee  
Patty Hanson, Committee Assistant, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Todd Moffitt, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



March 5, 2019

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia  
 State Capitol, Room 4140  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 209 (Limón) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Garcia,

On behalf of our collective organizations, we urge you to support Assembly Bill (AB) 209.

We believe we have a responsibility to advocate for park and environmental policies and resources that enhance the health and happiness of our children - and by doing so, we will foster the next generation of empowered parks stewards who, in return, have an appreciation for the significant benefits of the outdoors and parks.

California is home to some of the most unique and world-famous natural resources and state and national parks that draw thousands of tourists annually. Parks offer incredible places for play – to explore, gain appreciation for the treasures around them, imagine and peek curiosity.

Yet many Californians, especially those from disadvantage communities, do not experience these treasures in their own backyard.

As you know, unfortunately not all Californians who reflect the diversity of the state are experiencing and visiting state parks. This is especially true of the younger generations who are spending more and more time indoors. At a national level, children are spending less time outside than prison inmates, with the average child playing freely outside for just four to seven minutes a day, according to the recent report *The Path Ahead*. Additional research shows that children are spending half as much time outside today as they did 20 years ago. Couple that with the fact that 40% of U.S. School Districts have eliminated recess, and outdoor education programs and field trips have declined significantly over the years.

AB 209 works to give more of California's youth the opportunity to have enriched, meaningful experiences in the outdoors, fostering the future generation of empowered park stewards.

For the above reasons, we are proud to support AB 209 and urge your support.

Sincerely,

Rachel Norton  
Executive Director  
California State Parks Foundation

Kay Ogden  
Executive Director  
Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Katie Goodwin  
California Regional Director  
Access Fund

Martin Lowenstein  
Executive Director  
Friends of China Camp State Park

Erika Seward  
Co-Executive Director  
Bear Yuba Land Trust

John Lauretig  
Executive Director  
Friends of Joshua Tree

Matt Lyon  
Chair of Board of Directors  
California Outdoor Recreation Partnership,  
Inc. (CORP)

Marissa Christiansen  
Executive Director  
Friends of the Los Angeles River

Stephanie Stephens  
Legislative Chair  
California Park & Recreation Society

Tori Kjer  
Executive Director  
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Anthony J. Tannehill  
Legislative Representative  
California Special Districts Association

Jenny Heckeroth  
Executive Director  
Mendocino Area Parks Association

Amy Lethbridge  
Executive Director  
Community Nature Connection

Elizabeth Cameron  
Director of Development  
Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association

Robert E. Doyle  
General Manager  
East Bay Regional Park District

Joshua Hugg  
Governmental Affairs Specialist  
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Saundra Holloway  
Owner  
Monarch Ranch

Geoff McQuilkin  
Executive Director  
Mono Lake Committee

Brenda Holmes  
Executive Director  
Mountain Parks Foundation

Austin McInerney  
President  
National Interscholastic Cycling Association

David Weinstein  
State and Local Policy Director  
Outdoor Industry Association

Ben McCue  
Executive Director  
Outdoor Outreach

Jeff Darlington  
Executive Director  
Placer Land Trust

Andrea Mackenzie  
General Manager  
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Katherine O'Dea  
Executive Director  
Save Our Shores

Steve Frisch  
President  
Sierra Business Council

Bridget Fithian  
Executive Director  
Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Jenny Hatch  
Executive Director  
Sierra Nevada Alliance

Bert Whitaker  
Director  
Sonoma County Regional Parks

Michele Luna  
Executive Director  
Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Perry Norris  
Executive Director  
Truckee Donner Land Trust

Rico Mastrodonato  
Senior Government Relations Manager  
Trust for Public Land

Mark Stanley  
Executive Officer  
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