



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

**MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT  
PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Administrative Office  
330 Distel Circle  
Los Altos, CA 94022

**Tuesday, September 24, 2019**

**2:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kishimoto called the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee to order at 2:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Jed Cyr and Yoriko Kishimoto

**Members Absent:** Karen Holman

**Staff Present:** General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Jennifer Woodworth, Natural Resources Manager Kirk Lenington, Senior Resources Management Specialist Coty Sifuentes-Winter

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

No speakers present.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chair Kishimoto reported the minutes would be discussed at the end of the meeting.

**Motion:** Director Cyr moved, and Director Kishimoto seconded the motion to adopt the amended agenda.

**VOTE: 2-0-0** (Director Holman absent)

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

Item 1 was heard after Item 2.

**1. Approve the September 17, 2019 Planning and Natural Resources Committee Minutes**

**Motion:** Director Cyr moved, and Chair Holman seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the September 17, 2019 Planning and Natural Resources Committee meeting.

**VOTE: 3-0-0**

**2. Wildland Fire Resiliency Program – Public Meetings and Resource Management Policy Update (R-19-127)**

Senior Resource Management Specialist Coty Sifuentes-Winter provided the staff presentation describing partner, stakeholder, and public outreach and wildland fire resiliency program components. Mr. Sifuentes-Winter described the public outreach meetings held in communities throughout the District and feedback received at those meetings from members of the public and partner agencies, including proposed emergency evacuation routes, impacts on wildlife, and concerns raised regarding tree removal to reduce fire risk.

Tania Treis, District consultant with Panorama Environmental, provided an overview of the policy review, including the purpose of the policy review, program objectives and goals, methods used, and a summary of recommended changes to the policies.

Mr. Sifuentes-Winter reviewed the proposed timeline for the project and the General Manager's recommendation.

Director Cyr commented that by having this program in place, the District will be better prepared to address wildland fires and their effects when they occur.

Director Holman requested additional information regarding the proposed scenic and aesthetic changes.

Ms. Treis commented the proposed policy changes would allow for limited scenic and aesthetic changes due to vegetation control for fuel management.

Director Holman suggested increased communication when fuel is cleared to alert the Board and members of the public to the change and the reasoning behind it. This includes when the District learns of clearances not on District land.

Director Kishimoto inquired regarding the number and size of fire breaks on District lands.

Mr. Sifuentes-Winter reported the District's fire break locations are often determined on an ad hoc or opportunistic basis using recommendations by District or other partner agency staff. The size of the fire break also depends on topography and vegetation. Mr. Sifuentes-Winter also commented that the program seeks to address the issue as a whole for the region including the need for fuel breaks on District land and neighboring properties.

Director Holman inquired regarding dynamic mapping of projects both on and off District lands.

GIS Data Analyst Nathan Grieg reported the District does maintain active maps of projects, and the District currently shares and receives data from other agencies. Currently staff is working to improve the sharing of data to create a more active and dynamic sharing environment.

Public comment opened at 2:59 p.m.

Karen Maki with the Sierra Club requested the District put a higher priority on carbon sequestration in order to combat climate change and reduce the occurrence of wildfires.

Public comment closed at 3:02 p.m.

Director Holman spoke in favor of placing a higher priority on carbon sequestration, including considering an incentive program to encourage grazing tenants to change feedstock to reduce methane production.

Natural Resources Manager Kirk Lenington reported staff has explored this issue as part of the Climate Action Plan, including carbon offsets for methane production. The District's current policy allows for other grazing options besides cattle, but there are no current operations for other grazing options on the San Mateo Coast.

General Manager Ana Ruiz noted that managing vegetation to reduce catastrophic fires and managing forests for increased carbon sequestration are addressed in Policy CC-3.

Director Cyr commented staff may further study carbon sequestration options and more information may come forward as the topic is studied further.

Mr. Sifuentes-Winter suggested additional monitoring of carbon emissions to help provide additional data on carbon sequestration.

Chair Kishimoto spoke in favor of highlighting the District's role in carbon sequestration in the preamble for the specific climate change policy.

The Committee members offered suggested edits and areas for clarification, which are outlined below:

- Fourth bullet in Policy WF-1: Work cooperatively with these groups to permit as appropriate installation and maintenance of new needed infrastructure
- Second bullet in Policy WF-3: Implement fire clearance recommendations and defensible space on District-owned properties (e.g., residences owned by the District) adjacent to the preserves, as appropriate.
- Fourth bullet in Policy WF-8: *Add language related to use of dynamic mapping and sharing of information with partner agencies.*
- Fifth bullet in WF-8: *Clarify and clean up this bullet and separate into a few different ideas. Address dynamic and interactive mapping and data sharing as well as technology to monitor conditions on the watershed.*
- Fourth bullet in Policy CC-3: Improve data on carbon sequestration in District lands with a goal to pursue and maximize opportunities.

**Motion:** Director Cyr moved, and Director Holman seconded the motion to forward the recommended updates to the Resource Management Policies, as they relate to Wildland Fire, to

the full Board of Directors for consideration with the addition and changes described by the Committee.

**VOTE: 3-0-0**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kishimoto adjourned the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 1:59 p.m.

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Jennifer Woodworth, MMC  
District Clerk