



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-25-32  
Meeting 25-08  
March 12, 2025

## AGENDA ITEM 7

### AGENDA ITEM

Legislative Position Recommendations

**GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:** *den*

Approve the recommended list of legislative positions for the 2025 state legislative session.

### SUMMARY

Each year, the state legislature introduces over a thousand new bills for consideration. Legislative consultants and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) staff have reviewed these bills and identified specific legislation (Attachment 1) that merit action. **Important Note:** Most bills will change over the course of the legislative session. The legislative process is fluid and often moves fast. Based upon the guiding documents of Board Policy 1.11 (Attachment 2) and the Board of Directors (Board)-adopted Legislative Program (Attachment 3), the General Manager and staff will pursue an appropriate position for each bill to ensure that District interests are promoted and protected.

### DISCUSSION

The 2025 Legislative Program, which the Board approved on December 11, 2024, guides District priorities on legislative proposals affecting the District, its mission, and annual strategic goals. Throughout the session, staff fields time-sensitive requests from partners and monitors evolving pieces of legislation based on Board Policy 1.11 and the approved Legislative Program, using the bill disposition process described in Attachment 4 to assess and determine appropriate actions. 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 (Attachment 5 - Example Memo). Please refer to the Recommended Legislative Positions (Attachment 1) for an overview of the current list of bills identified for District priority action in the first year of the 2025-26 legislative session, along with position definitions.

February 20, 2025 was the submittal deadline for new bills by state assemblymembers and senators (see Attachment 6 - Legislative Calendar). District legislative consultants Public Policy Advocates (PPA) and Environmental and Energy Consulting (EEC) reviewed every bill submitted (2,520 for the 2025 session) to determine whether it had the potential to affect District interests, recommending an initial position and priority.

Based on the list of identified legislation, department managers assisted with a review of all the potential bills of interest and provided their recommended position and priority for each.

Approximately 85 bills are currently tracked, though only bills that may initiate action by the District at this time, i.e., those recommended as priority 1 or 2, are presented. At this time, three bills are recommended as priority 1 and 10 bills as priority 2. As the legislative session progresses, each bill may change (sometimes substantially), which warrants further consideration concurrent with Board Policy 1.11.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None

### **PRIOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW**

On December 11, 2024, the full Board adopted the 2025 Legislative Program ([R-24-149, minutes](#)).

On November 5, 2024, LFPAC reviewed and provided input on the draft 2025 Legislative Program and took action to forward the item to the full Board of Directors for approval ([R-24-132, draft minutes - Attachment 7](#)).

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

### **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

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

### **NEXT STEPS**

Based on the Board-adopted 2025 Legislative Program and the bills identified as “priority 1” by the Board at this meeting, staff, the Board President and Vice-President are tentatively scheduled to meet with the District’s state legislative delegation later in March to communicate District interests. Priority 2 bills will have position letters sent to their respective authors and policy committee chairs as appropriate.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – District Legislative Tracking Matrix  
Attachment 2 – Board Policy 1.11 - Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy  
Attachment 3 – District Legislative Program for 2025 – Adopted  
Attachment 4 – District Bill Disposition Process  
Attachment 5 – Example of GM Legislative Memo to the Board  
Attachment 6 – State Legislative Calendar – 2025  
Attachment 7 – LFPAC Draft Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2024

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Prepared by:  
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Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Legislative Positions Recommendations						
Measure	Issue Area	Author	Topic	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
<a href="#">SB 427</a>	Stewardship	<a href="#">Blakespear D</a>	Habitat Conservation Fund.	<p>Chapter 31 of the Statutes of 2019 requires the State Controller to continue to annually transfer \$30,000,000 from the State General Fund, less any amount transferred to the Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) from specified accounts and funds, to the Habitat Conservation Fund until June 30, 2030, and continuously appropriates that amount on an annual basis in the same proportions to the specified entities until July 1, 2030.</p> <p>This bill would require the State Controller to continue to annually transfer \$30,000,000 from the State General Fund, less any amount transferred to the Habitat Conservation Fund from specified accounts and funds, to the Habitat Conservation Fund indefinitely, and would continuously appropriate that amount on an annual basis in the same proportions to the specified entities described above, indefinitely. The District has received several millions of dollars in HCF grants since its inception.</p>	Recommend Support	1
<a href="#">SB 653</a>	Stewardship	<a href="#">Cortese D</a>	Wildfire prevention: environmentally sensitive vegetation management.	<p>Current law establishes various programs for the prevention and reduction of wildfires.</p> <p>This bill would provide that it is the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation to define "environmentally sensitive vegetation management" (ESVM) and to encourage the use of environmentally sensitive vegetation management practices as part of future wildland fire prevention measures related to vegetation management work on open space lands. Defines ESVM as "'Environmentally sensitive vegetation management' means vegetation management that reduces catastrophic wildfire risk over the long term while supporting native wildlife and biodiversity."</p> <p>The bill specifies eligible practices that qualify as ESVM.</p> <p>This bill is co-sponsored by the District.</p>	Recommend Support	1

Measure	Issue Area	Author	Topic	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
<a href="#">AB 491</a>	Climate	<a href="#">Connolly D</a>	California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: climate goals: natural and working lands.	<p>The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 declares the policy of the state to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, but no later than 2045, and to achieve and maintain net negative greenhouse gas emissions thereafter. The act requires the State Air Resources Board to prepare and approve a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and to update the scoping plan at least once every 5 years. The act also requires the Natural Resources Agency, in collaboration with specified entities, including the state board, to determine an ambitious range of targets for natural carbon sequestration, and for nature-based climate solutions, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions for 2030, 2038, and 2045 to support state goals to achieve carbon neutrality and foster climate adaptation and resilience. The act requires these targets to be integrated into the above-described scoping plan and other state policies.</p> <p>This bill would specify that it is the goal of the state to achieve each of the targets established by the Natural Resources Agency by the applicable date for the target, with priority given to activities that most rapidly, significantly, and cost effectively reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.</p> <p>The bill would also revise the definition of “natural carbon sequestration” for purposes of the above-described provisions.</p>	Recommend Support	2

Measure	Issue Area	Author	Topic	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
<a href="#">AB 259</a>	Governance	<a href="#">Rubio, Blanca D</a>	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.	<p>In 2022, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 2449 (Rubio), a bill related to the Ralph M. Brown Act (“the Brown Act”). Beginning in 2023, local agencies were provided with alternative Brown Act meeting procedures able to be observed in the event of a board member’s absence in connection with a “just cause” or “emergency circumstances,” allowing for those members so-affected to participate in the meeting remotely consistent with the process detailed in the bill. Since that time, several special districts and other local agencies have utilized the procedures established by AB 2449, successfully facilitating remote participation for legislative policymakers that would otherwise be encumbered by illness, official travel, or medical emergency.</p> <p>Though the terms of AB 2449 have been amended since their passage (most notably by Assembly Bill 2302 (Addis, 2024)), the sunset date associated with its terms has not been changed; the alternative Brown Act meeting procedures established by the bill expire at the end of 2025. To avoid this outcome and preserve the meeting flexibility provided by AB 2449, CSDA is sponsoring legislation to remove the sunset associated with the bill.</p>	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 679</a>	Governance	<a href="#">Pellerin D</a>	Department of Parks and Recreation: Big Basin Redwoods, Año Nuevo, and Butano State Parks.	<p>Under current law, the Department of Parks and Recreation controls the state park system, which is made up of units. Current law authorizes the department to acquire title to or any interest in real property, including personal property incidental to the purchase of real property and options to purchase property, that the department deems necessary or proper for the extension, improvement, or development of the state park system. Current law requires that all land and other real property to be acquired by or for any state agency be acquired by the State Public Works Board, except as specified.</p> <p>This bill focuses on streamlining the land acquisition process for the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) specifically for Big Basin Redwoods, Año Nuevo, and Butano State Parks, which were significantly impacted by the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Wildfire. The key objectives of this act are to streamline the process of transferring high-priority lands to the Department of Parks and Recreation to fulfill the goals of enhanced visitor services, improved park operations, strengthened habitat connectivity, and enhanced climate resilience among Big Basin Redwoods, Butano, and Año Nuevo State Parks. It shortens the acquisition process for what is typically a lengthy process in light of the CZU fire impact. The bill sunsets on January 1, 2036.</p>	Recommend Support	2

Measure	Issue Area	Author	Topic	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
<a href="#">ACR 36</a>	Governance	<a href="#">Carrillo D</a>	Special Districts Week.	Would proclaim the week of May 18, 2025, to May 24, 2025, to be Special Districts Week.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 902</a>	Planning	<a href="#">Schultz, Nick D</a>	Transportation planning and programming: barriers to wildlife movement.	<p>Existing law requires certain transportation planning agencies to prepare and adopt regional transportation plans directed at achieving a coordinated and balanced regional transportation system. Each regional transportation plan must include a sustainable communities strategy prepared by each metropolitan planning organization (MPO) to achieve regional targets established by the State Air Resources Board to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles in the region for 2020 and 2035.</p> <p>This bill would require the regional transportation plan or sustainable communities strategy, upon the adoption or next revision on or after January 1, 2028, to identify and analyze connectivity areas, permeability, and natural landscape areas, and consider the impacts of development and the barriers caused by transportation infrastructure and development to wildlife and habitat connectivity.</p> <p>The bill would authorize MPOs and regional transportation agencies, in implementing the above-described requirements, to consult with specified entities and incorporate relevant information, guidelines, and standards from specified sources. This includes any open-space district that owns lands designated for conservation within the metropolitan planning organization or regional transportation agency’s region.</p> <p>This bill would require regional transportation agencies, in consultation with DFW, to assess and identify wildlife connectivity barriers and any needs for improved permeability regarding specified transportation infrastructure projects located in a connectivity area beginning on or after January 1, 2026.</p> <p>The bill would also require the regional transportation agency to submit the assessment to DFW, to remediate barriers to wildlife connectivity, as necessary, and to publish on its internet website a list of all transportation infrastructure projects requiring remediation.</p> <p>This bill would authorize regional transportation agencies to use compensatory mitigation credits ONLY if DFW concurs with the use of those credits.</p>	Recommend Support	1

Measure	Issue Area	Author	Topic	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
<a href="#">AB 454</a>	Stewardship	<a href="#">Kalra D</a>	Migratory birds: California Migratory Bird Protection Act.	The California Migratory Bird Protection Act, until January 20, 2025, made unlawful the taking or possession of any migratory nongame bird designated in the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act before 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. Current law, as of January 1, 2026, repeals this provision. This bill would instead extend the California Migratory Bird Protection Act indefinitely.	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">AB 900</a>	Stewardship	<a href="#">Papan D</a>	Environmental protection: 30x30 goals: land conservation: science-based management and stewardship.	By Executive Order No. N-82-20, Governor Gavin Newsom directed the Natural Resources Agency to combat the biodiversity and climate crises by, among other things, establishing the California Biodiversity Collaborative and conserving at least 30% of the state’s lands and coastal waters by 2030. Current law provides that it is the goal of the state to conserve at least 30% of California’s lands and coastal waters by 2030, known as the 30x30 goal. On April 22, 2022, the Natural Resources Agency issued the “Pathways to 30x30 California: Accelerating Conservation of California’s Nature” report and current law requires the Secretary of Natural Resources Agency to prepare and submit an annual report to the Legislature on progress made toward achieving the 30x30 goal, as provided.  This bill would require the agency, on or before July 1, 2026, to update the Pathways to 30x30 Report, and for the update to include, among other things, recommendations to increase science-based management and stewardship of 30x30 lands, including innovative ways to reduce barriers and increase federal, state, and local support for science-based management and stewardship, as specified.	Recommend Support	2

Measure	Issue Area	Author	Topic	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
<a href="#">SB 392</a>	Stewardship	<a href="#">Grayson D</a>	Regional park districts: East Bay Regional Park District: East Bay Hills Conservation Program.	<p>Current law establishes procedures for the formation of regional park districts and prescribes the powers, functions, and duties of those districts. This bill would authorize the East Bay Regional Park District to establish and administer the East Bay Hills Conservation Program to address resource and recreational goals of the East Bay Hills, as defined.</p> <p>The bill would authorize the Park District to collaborate with state, regional, and local partners to help achieve specified goals of the program.</p> <p>The bill would require a proponent or party to a certain proposed development project to convert natural lands within the East Bay Hills to provide notice to the district of the proposed project, and would authorize the district to provide analysis of the environmental values and potential impacts of the proposed project.</p> <p>The bill would require the East Bay Hills to be acknowledged as an area of statewide significance in local planning documents developed or updated on or after January 1, 2026, affecting land use within the East Bay Hills. To the extent that this bill would impose new duties on local entities, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.</p>	Recommend Support	2



Measure	Issue Area	Author	Topic	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
<a href="#">SB 462</a>	Stewardship	<a href="#">Cortese D</a>	California Farmland Conservancy Program: conservation easements: funding.	<p>Current law establishes the California Farmland Conservancy Program in the Department of Conservation and authorizes the program to offer financial assistance, including grants or contracts, for projects and activities on agricultural lands that support agricultural conservation and sustainable land management. Current law creates the California Farmland Conservancy Program Fund and requires moneys in the fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act, to be used for purposes of the program. Notwithstanding that provision, current law continuously appropriates moneys in the fund from federal grants and gifts and donations to the department for purposes of the program.</p> <p>This bill would require the Controller to transfer \$20,000,000 on July 1 of each fiscal year, commencing with the 2025–26 fiscal year, from the General Fund to the California Farmland Conservancy Program Funding Account, which the bill would create within the California Farmland Conservancy Program Fund. Priorities for allocation of funds includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serve large populations (cities, counties).</li> <li>- Have established agricultural land planning.</li> <li>- Are in high agricultural production areas.</li> <li>- Focus on easements that protect vital wildlife corridors.</li> <li>- Pursue easements with co-benefits like wildlife crossings, carbon sequestration, and water conservation.</li> </ul>	Recommend Support	2
<a href="#">SB 795</a>	Stewardship	<a href="#">Richardson D</a>	30x30 goal: state agencies: plans, policies, or regulations.	<p>Current law requires the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to prepare and submit, on or before March 31, 2024, and annually thereafter, a report to the Legislature on the progress made in the prior calendar year toward achieving the goal to conserve 30% of California’s lands and coastal waters by 2030. Current law provides that it is the goal of the state to conserve at least 30% of California’s lands and coastal waters by 2030, known as the 30x30 goal.</p> <p>This bill would require all state agencies, including their departments, boards, offices, commissions, and conservancies, to consider the 30x30 goal when adopting, revising, or establishing plans, policies, or regulations, and shall ensure, to the extent feasible, that the plan, policy, or regulation is not inconsistent with the 30x30 goal.</p>	Recommend Support	2

Measure	Issue Area	Author	Topic	Brief Summary	Position	Priority
<a href="#">SB 256</a>	Wildfire	<a href="#">Pérez D</a>	Electricity: electrical infrastructure.	<p>This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to enhance the resiliency and reliability of California’s electrical infrastructure in areas prone to wildfires, earthquakes, and other natural disasters by requiring electrical utilities to prioritize the undergrounding of power lines, the implementation of microgrid technologies, and the strengthening of public safety power shutoff standards and accountability, while ensuring the utilization of labor standards that promote a skilled workforce, and providing the commission with the ability to immediately access all relevant electrical fault data related to natural disasters.</p>	Recommend Support	2

# Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

## Board Policy Manual

<p><b>Positions on Ballot Measures and Legislative Advocacy</b></p>	<p><b>Policy 1.11</b> <b>Chapter 1 – Administration and Government</b></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 Program  
2025

DRAFT

Adopted: December 11, 2024



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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.*

As part of the Coastside Protection Area Service Plan, a Coastside mission was adopted in 2004:

*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 these missions, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) annually reviews opportunities and challenges and establishes legislative priorities and policy statements to guide its advocacy activities at the regional, state and federal levels.

### 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 act on various proposed policies and state or federal budget items. In instances where time is so short that neither the full Board, nor LFPAC, can be convened to consider a particular legislative position, the General Manager will take action and report back to the Board through Board Policy 1.11 utilizing appropriate due diligence and consideration of public sensitivity, which may include consultation with the Board President.

Per Section 2.0 of Board Policy 1.11, legislative advocacy is 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 may direct the General Manager to take action to support or oppose the legislation without full Board approval when there is not adequate time to convene the full Board. 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 the District's annual Strategic Plan  
[https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/Attachment\\_2\\_FY24\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_Goals\\_and\\_Objectives.pdf](https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/Attachment_2_FY24_Strategic_Plan_Goals_and_Objectives.pdf); 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. Public Affairs staff will be responsible for reporting similar information to key departments. Contracted state and federal legislative consultants will represent District interests based upon the policies contained in this Legislative Program. In addition to District position letters, Board members and District staff may be asked to testify before or meet with relevant legislators or members of the executive branch to discuss issues requiring heightened advocacy. If this is the case, District staff must first notify and/or confirm approval from the GMO to ensure that positions taken are consistent with the Board-approved Legislative Program.

## State Legislative Priorities

The following are the legislative priorities for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District during the 2025 State Legislative Session. Annual priority-setting considers a combination of issues that relate directly to important District-led projects or initiatives, opportunities to support or oppose state legislative initiatives sponsored by others that affect the District's mission, and any issues that are identified by the Board as particularly significant. Funding measures are the most common of these priorities and are generally tied to the creation of new funding sources or the processes that prescribe the allocation of existing funding sources. The 2025 legislative priorities are listed and grouped below consistent with the Board's annual Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives (See Appendix A) to provide a clear connection to agency priorities:

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

- **Climate Adaptation Strategy:** Support and influence the development and implementation of the state's various climate adaptation, resiliency, and biodiversity initiatives to incorporate District priorities, including the California Climate Adaptation Strategy, Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, California Air Resources Board (CARB) Scoping Plan, and Pathways to 30x30 Strategy.

### Goal 2: Protect the positive environmental values of open space and agricultural lands

- **Ecologically Sensitive Vegetation Management:** Promote effective guidelines, streamlining, and funding for wildland fire fuel reduction efforts that minimize potential impacts to rare and endangered species and the spread of invasive species.
- **Permit Streamlining and Cutting the Green Tape:** Support efforts by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to streamline permitting processes for environmental restoration and stewardship projects. This includes the extension of California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) program to include ongoing site maintenance work of existing facilities that serves to protect natural resource values.

- **Sustainable Patterns of Development:** Encourage state agencies that regulate community growth plans to focus new development in ways that prevent an increase in wildland fire hazards and protect landscape-scale ecosystems and their ability to adapt to climate change. Promote policies that encourage patterns of growth that do not further encroach into wildland and wildfire hazard areas.

### Goal 3: Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision

- **Equitable Public Access:** Enhance funding resources that support expanding access to greenspace opportunities and a sense of belonging and inclusion for under-resourced communities and individuals with disabilities.
- **Multimodal and Public Access Infrastructure:** Prioritize multi-benefit active transportation modes that safely connect people with parks, open space and trails. Expand funding and resources for the District to pursue strategies to address parking and traffic congestion issues, manage visitation, increase greener modes of transportation, improve accessibility for users with limited mobility and provide new transit connections to communities, including expanding transit-to-trails programs, shuttle and ride hail programs.

### Goal 4: Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission

- **General Manager Purchasing Authority:** Partner with East Bay Regional Park District to increase the general manager's purchasing authority in light of increased inflation to maintain effective and timely project implementation and operations.
- **State Funding:** Pursue ongoing funding that benefits a wide range of open space priorities and promotes landscape-level climate resilience, staffing capacity, conservation workforce development and equitable access to nature, particularly in the Bay Area. This includes the expected [reauthorization](#) of the state's [cap and trade program](#).
- **Workforce Development:** Support the strengthening and proliferation of land stewardship workforce development programs that would expand employment opportunities and increase the diversity of applicants. This also supports the state's [Outdoors for All Strategy](#) (#1.5.2: Explore bolstering California's capacity to meet deferred maintenance needs through technical skill-building programs that ultimately lead to state employment opportunities)

## Legislative Policy Positions

The ability of the District 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 policy positions taken by the District on a variety of relevant issue areas help to ensure consistency in advocacy. District policy positions are grouped by Board-approved strategic plan goals. The District supports policy that:

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

1. Promotes and enhances the ability to acquire open space and agricultural lands consistent with District policies and goals, as well as supports land protection and biodiversity goals set forth by Executive Order N-82-20, 2020. This order elevates the role of natural and working lands and the advancement of biodiversity conservation in the fight against climate change as an administration priority. It also commits California to the goal of conserving 30 percent of statewide lands and coastal waters by 2030.
2. Protects public open space and associated property rights, interests and easements.
3. Enhances or funds regional collaboration and coordination of conservation efforts.
4. Promotes urban infill and urban growth boundaries to prevent sprawl and increased pressures to develop open spaces and further encroach upon the wildland-urban interface, riparian areas, working lands and open space buffer areas.
5. Ensures that the zoning of permanently protected lands supports activities that further the District's mission (preservation, natural resource protection, public access and education, agriculture).
6. Expands and restores protected open space lands to enhance biodiversity, climate change resilience, and scenic, rural character.
7. Promotes the use of green infrastructure and natural solutions in promoting climate resiliency and combating the effects of climate change.

### Goal 2: Protect the positive environmental values of open space and agricultural lands:

1. Ensures reasonable setback requirements that allow minimum defensible space clearances to be met by private property owners to prevent catastrophic fires that damage habitats and pose a high public safety hazard.
2. Furthers implementation of state greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, such as Senate Bill 32 (Pavley, 2016), the Global Warming Solutions Act, that establishes a GHG emissions target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, and Assembly Bill 1279 (2022),

that establishes a target to reach statewide net carbon neutrality no later than 2045. Maintains an emphasis on reduction of emissions and nature-based sequestration over capture and storage technologies.

3. Furthers the implementation of Assembly Bill 1757 (Garcia, 2022), which recognizes the importance of natural and working lands for the purpose of carbon sequestration and storage and requires the California Natural Resources Agency to establish a range of targets for natural carbon sequestration for 2030, 2038, and 2045.
4. Supports effective and comprehensive Districtwide, regional and statewide measures that respond to sea level rise and other effects of climate change and enhance ecological and community-wide climate resilience.
5. Enhances or streamlines the integration of wildlife corridors into transportation infrastructure planning and construction projects; promotes the protection, installation, and maintenance of wildlife corridors and related infrastructure.
6. Promotes advance mitigation programs to enhance wildlife corridor networks.
7. Connects habitats that support a diverse array of native plants and animals.
8. Encourages public road management agencies to control invasive plant populations and incorporate safe pedestrian and wildlife crossings across transportation networks.
9. Eliminates the use of first- and second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides.
10. Supports increased knowledge, management and ultimately the eradication of Sudden Oak Death disease.
11. Provides permit exemptions and streamlining for natural resources protection and restoration projects and minor trail reroutes and small trail improvements that avoid sensitive resource areas, resolve erosion and sedimentation issues and improve the health of the watershed.
12. Supports maintaining state and federal lists of endangered species justified through conclusive biological evidence.
13. Helps efforts to protect, conserve, restore and enhance the natural resources of the District, its coast, and connecting waters for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations.
14. Engages Native American communities in cultural and land management practices to restore and protect natural and cultural resources and enhance landscape resilience; supports existing and future Native American-led conservation and climate resilience initiatives.
15. Protects and restores watersheds, water quality, natural water courses, wetlands and hydrologic processes consistent with the District's Resource Management Policies.

16. Promotes expedited removal of select trees and brush by public agencies for fire protection, public safety and enhanced climate resilience, while protecting rare and endangered species and avoiding the spread of invasive species.
17. Removes barriers to carrying out prescribed fires and cultural burns as a natural component of a healthy ecosystem, such as prohibitive liability standards.
18. Supports working farms and ranches on public open space land that further conservation and climate resilience goals.
19. Supports the creation of and repairs to farm labor housing to foster farm operation sustainability that ultimately furthers conservation and climate resilience goals.
20. Incentivizes agricultural operations to invest in energy-efficient and water-efficient irrigation technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and water use.
21. Provides economic support for agricultural infrastructure maintenance and improvements.
22. Protects natural lands from the destruction caused by illegal marijuana grows, prohibits marijuana grows on public lands, and restores damaged habitats.
23. Supports efforts to create and make available more complete sets of data for managing natural and working lands.
24. Promotes access to peer-reviewed data and modeling of climate change impacts to California's natural and working landscapes and use of these resources to plan and prioritize work to enhance landscape resilience.

### Goal 3: Connect people to open space and a regional environmental protection vision

1. Helps expand educational opportunities for under-resourced and non-English speaking communities about the natural resources and benefits of open space and increases public appreciation for the environment.
2. Promotes volunteer involvement and engagement of diverse communities in ongoing conservation, restoration, enhancement and interpretation of the District's natural and cultural resources.
3. Engages children and parents in the enjoyment and appreciation of outdoor open spaces to inspire the next generation of conservation champions.
4. Funds and enables programs that hire youth to work in parks and open space and encourages them to consider careers in conservation.

5. Keeps preserves safe, clean, accessible and inviting for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.
6. Promotes awareness and equitable access to open space programs and activities that include tools and measures for addressing language, physical and transportation barriers.
7. Protects cultural resources located on natural open space and working lands.
8. Helps fund and streamline emergency repairs to District infrastructure, including trails and public access amenities.
9. Supports federal, state and regional programs that provide local mobility/multi-modal transportation alternatives for all residents.
10. Facilitates linkages between preserve trails and regional trails and ultimately to the places where people live and work.
11. Improves local transportation and promotes cleaner transportation options to enable better connectivity between communities and open space preserves.
12. Limits public use of drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) consistent with Board policies, ordinances or District permitting to preserve the tranquility of outdoor experiences, prevent disruptions and impacts to the natural resources and minimize wildfire risk.
13. Supports advances in broadband and telecommunications technology that provide cell phone reception and internet access in open space.
14. Supports electric vehicle charging infrastructure that facilitates the Governor's Executive Order N-79-20, which directs agencies to require that, by 2035, all new cars and passenger trucks sold in California be zero-emission vehicles. In addition, support the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) effort to convert all government fleets to 100% zero-emission by 2035.
15. Supports policies that facilitate meaningful engagement of tribal communities in stewardship actions and opportunities for incorporating cultural land practices.
16. Supports policies that facilitates improved access to parks and open spaces for people with disabilities

#### Goal 4: Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission

1. Preserves existing tax revenues and tax authority.
2. Lowers the voter threshold for locally imposed special taxes from two-thirds to 55%.
3. Preserves tax-exempt status for municipal bonds on a state and federal level.



4. Expands state and federal incentives that promote the issuance of green bonds.
5. Preserves and promotes managerial discretion in effective and productive recruiting, hiring, onboarding, professional development, firing and day-to-day oversight of staff at all levels.
6. Preserves and promotes open, transparent, accountable government administrative practices that enable efficient and timely delivery of public services, facilitate public involvement, and support effective and timely decision-making.
7. Maintains prevailing wage and workers compensation exemptions for volunteers.
8. Preserves and promotes streamlined, cost-effective, fair, and efficient contracting practices that give taxpayers the best value for their dollar and attracts greater contractor and vendor competition, particularly among local providers.
9. Enables contracting methods that aid greenhouse gas emission reductions and support the implementation of the Board-adopted Climate Action Plan.
10. Provides funding and funding flexibility, like block grants, to achieve mission-related goals, including, but not limited to:
  - a. District operations and infrastructure.
  - b. Integrated Pest Management and ecologically sensitive vegetation management, including approaches like conservation grazing.
  - c. Wildfire prevention and fuel reduction and prescribed fire implementation.
  - d. Research and action on climate change impacts, carbon sequestration and carbon storage on natural and working lands.
  - e. Programs that hire youth to work in parks and open space and encourages them to consider careers in conservation.
  - f. Environmental education partnerships and public outreach efforts at local, regional and state levels.
  - g. Complete improvements that meet the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and other accessibility standards in District preserves.
  - h. Protect prime and sustainable agricultural lands, including investments in agricultural-support infrastructure.
  - i. Funding for local partners to receive technical support for agriculture and natural resources enhancements.
  - j. Wildlife corridors and crossing infrastructure.
  - k. Provide low-intensity, ecologically sensitive public access opportunities.
  - l. Public interpretation of natural, cultural and historic resources.

- m. Public outreach and engagement planning of equitable public access opportunities for diverse communities.
11. Promotes closer collaboration and coordination between regulatory agencies to enhance permit processing efficiencies and reduce overall project costs.
  12. Improves and streamlines permitting, CEQA and NEPA review and compliance processes for emergency repairs, routine maintenance, habitat restoration, and public access projects.
  13. Builds organizational capacities of regulatory/resource agencies from whom the District needs permitting approvals for our projects
  14. Provides open space districts the authority to utilize a variety of contracting methods to construct projects, including design-build methodologies.
  15. Promotes implementation of and education about sustainable design and construction, including, but not limited to LEED buildings, stormwater treatment and runoff reduction, local (within 50-mile radius of a project) contractor/consultant hiring, construction material reuse/recycling, and use of green/energy efficient materials and equipment.
  16. Supports the District's diversity, equity and inclusion goals.

## 2025 Regional Priorities

Though there is a growing recognition of the importance of regional planning and coordination, local land use authority dominates California planning processes in both the built and natural environments.

In 2025, the District will focus on the following regional topics:

### Self-Permitting for Local Permits

Support efforts by the District and its partners enabled under PRC 5500 to streamline and/or establish exemptions for local permitting processes.

### Plan Bay Area 2050

Monitor to ensure that the implementation of Plan Bay Area 2050's environmental strategy, Expand Access to Parks and Open Space, continues to pursue urban growth boundaries, protect and manage high-value conservation and agricultural lands, and expand parks, trails and recreation facilities. In addition, monitor developments regarding subsequent revisions of Plan Bay Area ([Plan Bay Area 2050+](#)) to ensure the District's interests are maintained.

### Regional Funding

Monitor and engage with regional bodies pursuing funding sources that benefit the District's mission.

### Regional Collaboration

Participate in regional collaboration and coordination efforts that focus on land conservation, resource protection, and ecologically sensitive public access.

### Active Transportation Programs

Promote funding for the construction of bicycle/pedestrian paths, installation of bike racks, pedestrian safety improvements (e.g., signalized street intersections, roadway crossings, etc.) and other projects and programs (e.g., Vision Zero, Complete Streets, Safe Routes to Schools, etc.) that make multi-modal access to parks and open spaces, including walking and biking easier, safer and more convenient.

Promote funding and support for natural surface recreational trails as a means for the public to access and enjoy natural landscapes, as well as the expansion of funding for transit options to access public open space, parks and trailheads.

## 2025 Federal Policy and Funding Priorities

Great uncertainty persists regarding the political composition of the federal legislature and presidency. Depending on the outcome, the ability to pursue certain federal priorities may be either enhanced or diminished. However, earlier funding legislation like the 2022 [Inflation Reduction Act](#) and the 2021 [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) should still provide funding opportunities. In general, federal priorities will complement the state priorities identified above. Participation in federal focus areas are considered on a case-by-case basis and subject to staff capacity.

DRAFT

## Appendix A: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Strategic Plan for FY2024-25

Online at:

[https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/Attachment 2 FY24 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives.pdf](https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/Attachment%20FY24%20Strategic%20Plan%20Goals%20and%20Objectives.pdf)

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 regional environmental protection

**Objective 3** – Build and strengthen relationships with legislators and other elected officials to advocate environmental protection goals

**Objective 4** – Preserve and connect open space and agricultural lands of local and regional significance

Goal 2 – Protect the positive environmental and biodiversity values of open space and agricultural lands

**Objective 1** – Take a regional leadership role in promoting the benefits of open space

**Objective 2** – Protect and restore the natural environment to preserve healthy natural systems and biodiversity

**Objective 3** – Implement the Climate Action Plan, expand regional resiliency, and implement climate change adaptation strategies

**Objective 4** – Work with fire agencies and surrounding communities to strengthen the prevention of, preparation for and response to wildland fires for enhanced ecosystem resiliency and public safety

**Objective 5** – Support the viability of sustainable agriculture and protect the character of rural communities

Goal 3 – Connect people to open space and agricultural lands, a regional environmental protection vision

**Objective 1** – Engage the public in realizing the benefits and responsibilities of a regional environmental protection vision to further the District’s achievements in protecting open space and agricultural lands

**Objective 2** – Implement and sustain diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) strategies to build and strengthen partnerships, increase broad and inclusive public outreach and engagement, and instill DEI values across all levels of the organization

**Objective 3** –Expand opportunities, including multimodal options, to equitably connect people to their public open space preserves in balance with the protection of natural resources

**Objective 4** – Reflect the diverse communities we serve in the District’s visitors, staff, volunteers, and partners

Goal 4 – Strengthen organizational capacity and long-term financial sustainability to fulfill the mission

**Objective 1** – Provide the necessary resources, tools, training, and infrastructure, including technology upgrades and capacity building

**Objective 2** – Update the financial and operational sustainability model to guide strategic growth and areas of focus to effectively and efficiently deliver Vision Plan projects and priority initiatives

**Objective 3** – Maintain a state of readiness for potential disruptions and leverage new resiliency practices and procedures to improve business operations, public participation, and communications

**Objective 4** – Remain financially sustainable by preparing for, pursuing, and cultivating discretionary funding opportunities and partnerships

**Objective 5** – Ensure large operational and capital expenses, including land acquisitions, associated public access and land management costs, are evaluated within the long-term financial model and remain financially sustainable

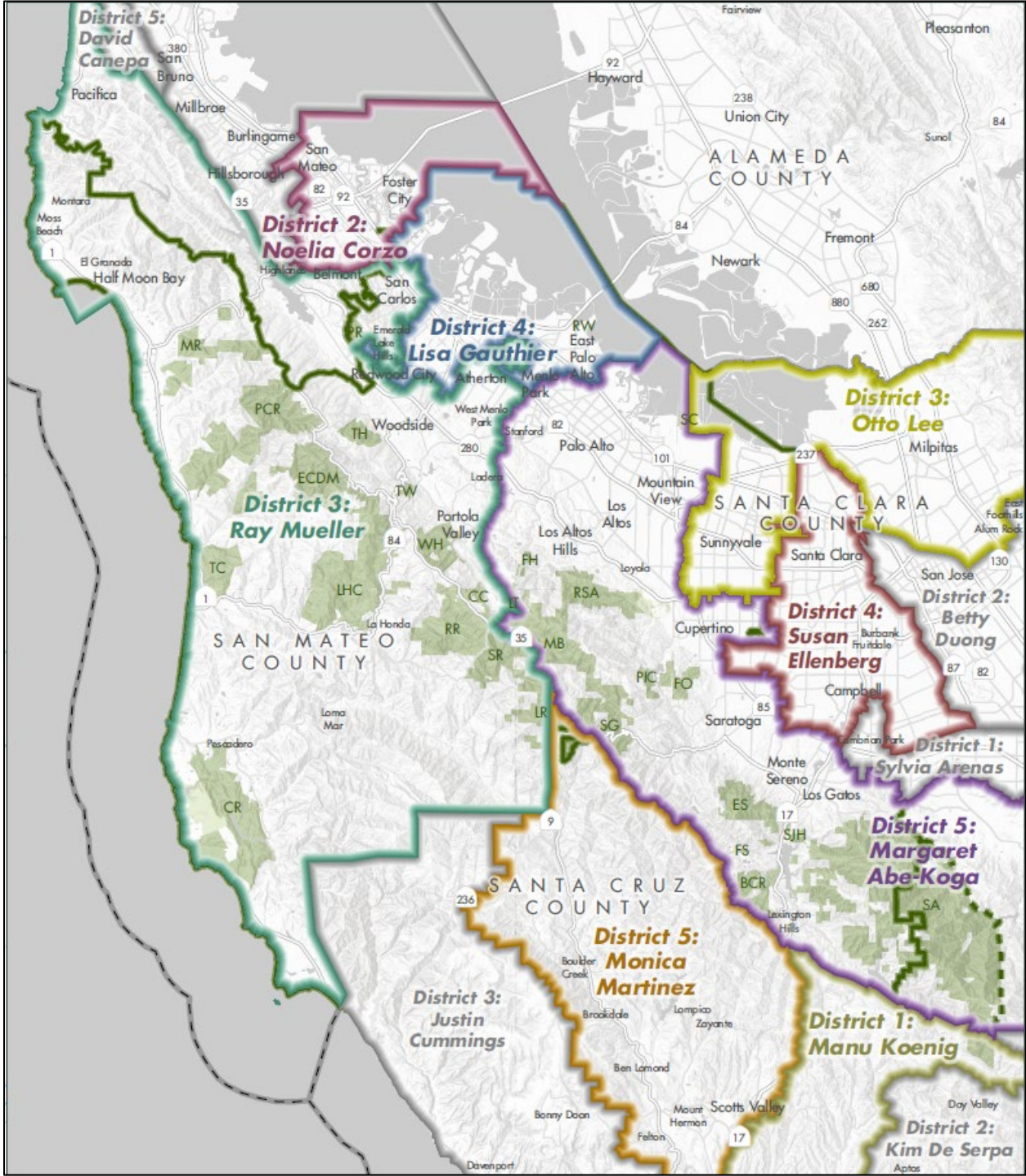
**Objective 6** – Continue to recruit, develop and retain talented staff to implement the District's mission and strengthen our organizational capacity

## Appendix B: District County, State and Federal Delegation Maps

Within the 550-square mile boundary of the District, it overlaps with a variety of jurisdictions that comprise its legislative delegation. Seventeen cities reside within the District – eight in San Mateo County and nine in Santa Clara County. At the county level, the District intersects three counties, each with five board supervisors. The County of San Mateo also has three appointed “community councils” for their North Fair Oaks, Midcoast and Pescadero unincorporated areas. At the state level, the District intersects with four Senate and four Assembly districts. And then at the federal level, the District has four members of the House of Representatives and two United State Senators as part of its delegation. Maps for these legislative districts can be found below.

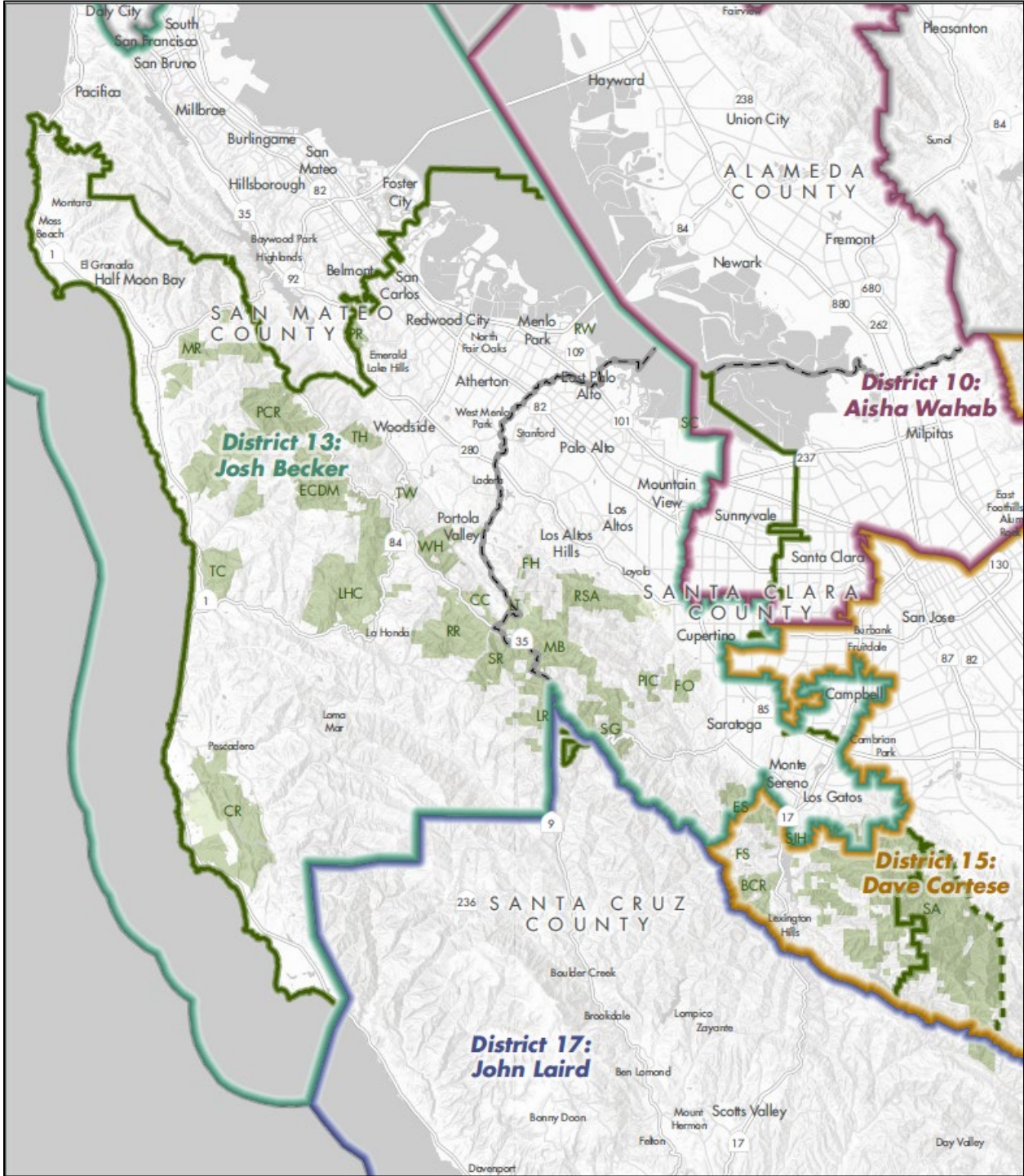
*Based on the results of the November 5, 2024, general election, the maps below will be updated to reflect the latest delegation composition.*

County Delegation – San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties

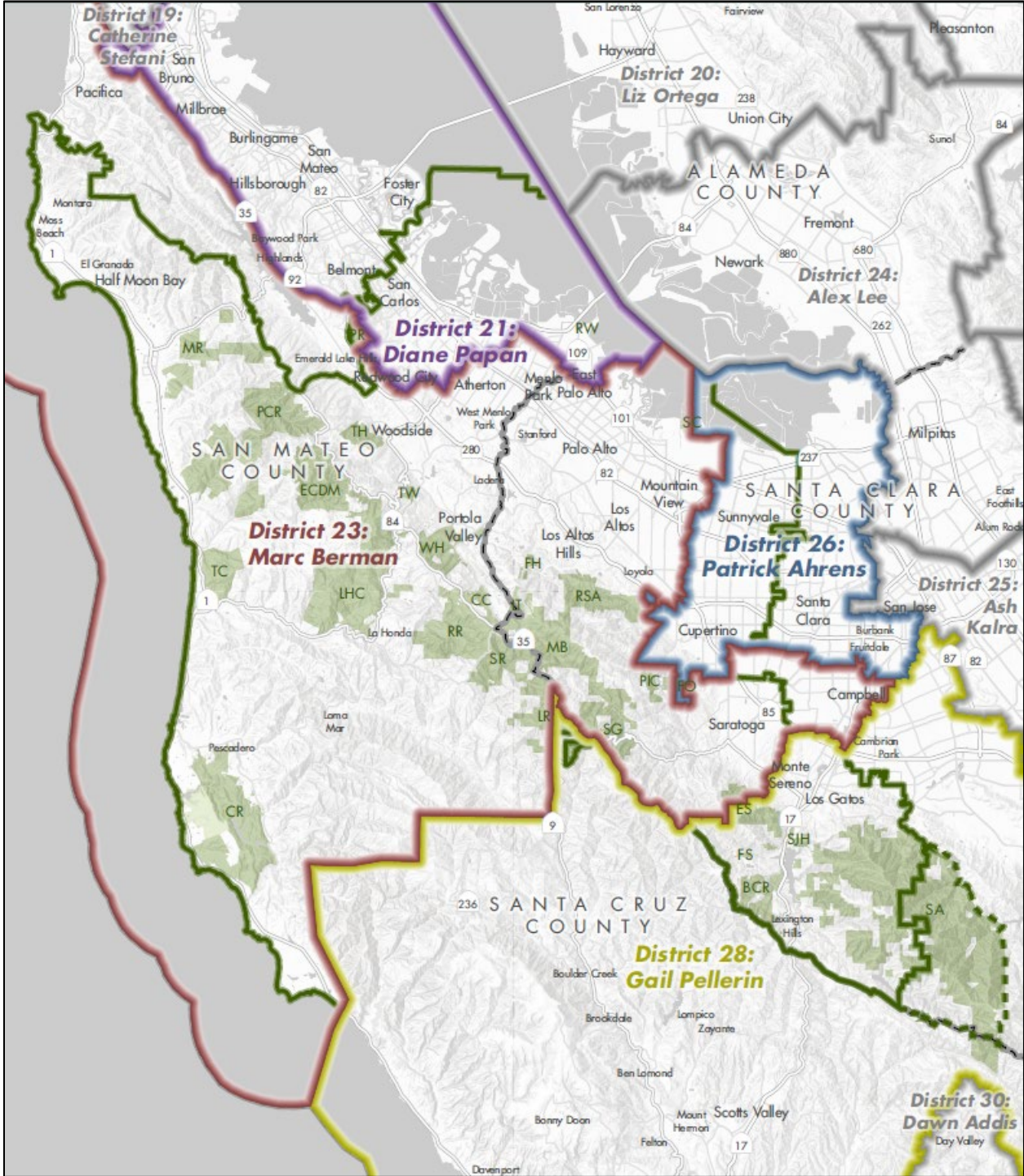




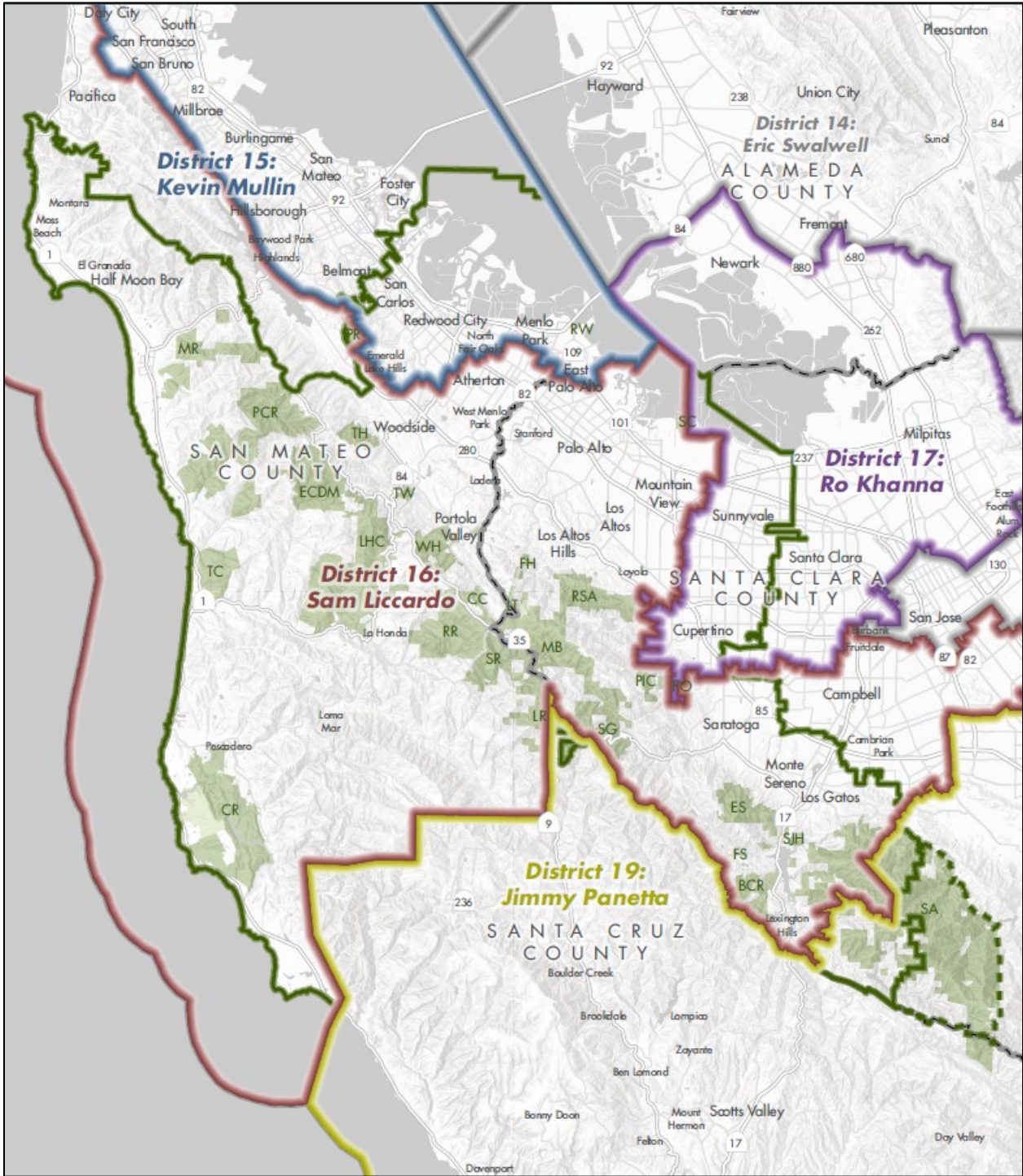
State Delegation - Senate



State Delegation - Assembly



Federal Delegation – House of Representatives



# Appendix C: 2025 State Legislative Calendar

**2025 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**  
 COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE  
 Revised 10-16-24

**DEADLINES**

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

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

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

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

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

- Jan. 1** Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 6** Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(1)).
- Jan. 10** Budget bill must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- Jan. 20** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed.
- Jan. 24** Last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel.

- Feb. 17** Presidents' Day observed.
- Feb. 21** Last day for bills to be introduced (J.R. 61(a)(1), J.R. 54(a)).

- Mar. 31** Cesar Chavez Day observed.

- Apr. 10** Spring Recess begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(a)(2)).
- Apr. 21** Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess (J.R. 51(a)(2)).

- May 2** Last day for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal committees fiscal bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(2)).
- May 9** Last day for policy committees to hear and report to the Floor nonfiscal bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(3)).
- May 16** Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 9 (J.R. 61(a)(4)).
- May 23** 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 9 (J.R. 61(a)(6)).
- May 26** Memorial Day observed.

\*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.

**2025 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**  
 COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE  
 Revised 10-16-24

JUNE							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
No Hrgs.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wk 1	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Wk 2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Wk 3	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Wk 4	29	30					

**June 2-6 Floor Session only.** No committee may meet for any purpose except Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to A.R. 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(a)(7)).

**June 6** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(a)(8)).

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

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

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

**July 4** Independence Day observed.

**July 18** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report bills (J.R. 61(a)(10)).

**Summer Recess** begins upon adjournment, provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(a)(3)).

AUGUST							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Summer Recess						1	2
Summer Recess	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Summer Recess	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Wk 3	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Wk 4	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
No Hrgs.	31						

**Aug. 18** Legislature reconvenes from **Summer Recess** (J.R. 51(a)(3)).

**Aug. 29** Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report bills to the Floor (J.R. 61(a)(11)).

SEPTEMBER							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
No Hrgs.		1	2	3	4	5	6
No Hrgs.	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Interim Recess	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Interim Recess	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Interim Recess	28	29	30				

**Sept. 1** Labor Day observed.

**Sept. 2-12** Floor session only. No committees may meet for any purpose, except Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(a)(12)).

**Sept. 5** Last day to **amend** on the Floor (J.R. 61(a)(13)).

**Sept. 12** Last day for each house to pass bills. (J.R. 61(a)(14)).

**Interim Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(a)(4)).

**IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING FINAL RECESS**

- 2025**  
 Oct 12 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 12 and in the Governor's possession on or after Sept. 12 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(1)).
- 2026**  
 Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).  
 Jan. 5 Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).

\*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.

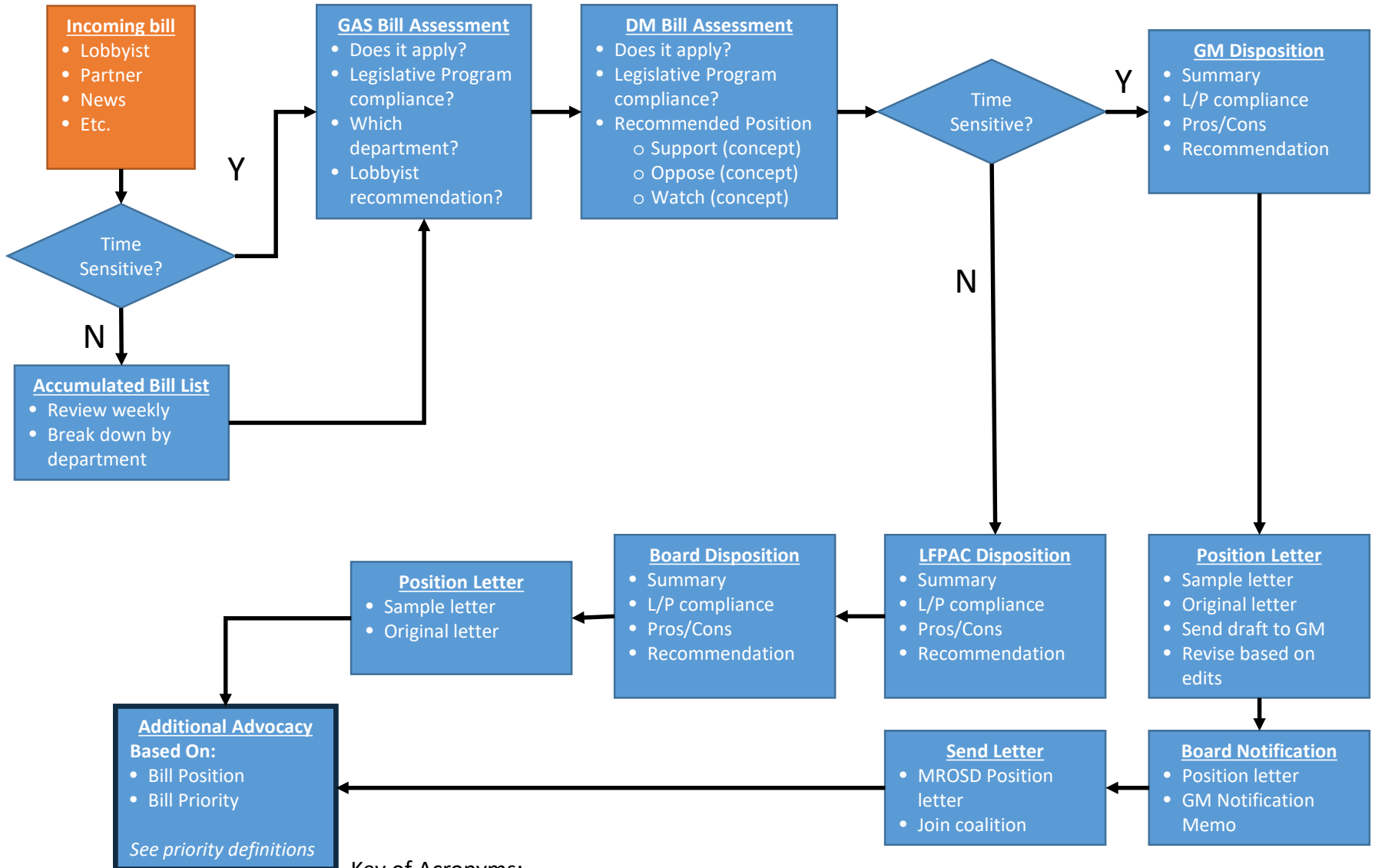
Appendix D: 2025 Federal Legislative Calendar

*To be added when available*

DRAFT

# 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

# 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.

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

Example

2024 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE  
Revised 11-1-22

DEADLINES

- Jan. 1** Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 3** Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
- Jan. 10** Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- Jan. 12** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to **fiscal committees** fiscal bills introduced in their house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(1)).
- Jan. 15** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Jan. 19** Last day for any committee to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year. (J.R. 61(b)(2)).  
Last day to submit **bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Jan. 31** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(3)) (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c)).
  
- Feb. 16** Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(b)(4), J.R. 54(a)).
- Feb. 19** Presidents' Day.
  
- Mar. 21** **Spring Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Mar. 29** Cesar Chavez Day observed.
  
- Apr. 1** Legislature reconvenes from **Spring Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Apr. 26** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(5)).
  
- May 3** Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the Floor **nonfiscal** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(6)).
- May 10** Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to May 28 (J.R. 61(b)(7)).
- May 17** Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61 (b)(8)).  
Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to May 28 (J.R. 61 (b)(9)).
- May 20-24** **Floor session only.** No committee may meet for any purpose except for Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(b)(10)).
- May 24** Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(b)(11)).
- May 27** Memorial Day.
- May 28** Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(b)(12)).

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

FEBRUARY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1					1	2	3
Wk. 2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wk. 3	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Wk. 4	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Wk. 1	25	26	27	28	29		

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

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

MAY							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Wk. 1				1	2	3	4
Wk. 2	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Wk. 3	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
No Hrgs.	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Wk. 4	26	27	28	29	30	31	

\*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.

2024 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK AND THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE  
Revised 11-1-22

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

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

**June 27** Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 5 General Election ballot (Elections Code Sec. 9040).

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

**July 3** Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(13)).

**Summer Recess** begins upon adjournment, provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(b)(2)).

**July 4** Independence Day.

AUGUST							
	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Summer Recess					1	2	3
Wk. 2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Wk. 3	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
No Hrgs.	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
No Hrgs.	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Aug. 5** Legislature reconvenes from **Summer Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(2)).

**Aug. 16** Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(14)).

**Aug. 19 – 31 Floor session only.** No committee may meet for any purpose except Rules Committee, bills referred pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.2, and Conference Committees (J.R. 61(b)(15)).

**Aug. 23** Last day to **amend** bills on the Floor (J.R. 61(b)(16)).

**Aug. 31** Last day for each house to pass bills (Art. IV, Sec 10(c), J.R. 61(b)(17)).

**Final Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(3)).

IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING FINAL RECESS

**2024**

- Sept. 30 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1 and in the Governor's possession on or after Sept. 1 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(2)).
- Oct. 2 Bills enacted on or before this date take effect January 1, 2025. (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Nov. 5 General Election.
- Nov. 30 Adjournment *sine die* at midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- Dec. 2 2025-26 Regular Session convenes for Organizational Session at 12 noon. (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).

**2025**

- Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).

\*Holiday schedule subject to final approval by Rules Committee.



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

**MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT  
LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Administrative Office  
5050 El Camino Real  
Los Altos, CA 94022

**Tuesday, November 5, 2024**

*The Board of Directors conducted this meeting in accordance with  
California Government Code section 54953.*

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Gleason called the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee to order at 3:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Jed Cyr, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, and Craig Gleason

Members absent: None

Staff present: General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Acting General Manager Brian Malone, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria, Executive Assistant/Deputy District Clerk Stephanie Gross, Governmental Affairs Program Manager Joshua Hugg

Chair Gleason announced that the public has the opportunity to comment on the agenda, and the opportunity to listen to this meeting through the internet or via telephone. This information can be found on the meeting agenda, which was physically posted at the District's Administrative Office, and on the District website.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Director Cyr moved, and Director Kersteen-Tucker seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0**

### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Public comment opened at 3:07 p.m.

Deputy District Clerk Stephanie Gross reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 3:07 p.m.

### **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

#### **1. Approve the May 16, 2024 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes**

Public comment opened at 3:07 p.m.

Ms. Gross reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 3:07 p.m.

**Motion:** Director Cyr moved, and Director Kersteen-Tucker seconded the motion to approve the May 16, 2024 Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs committee meeting minutes.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0**

#### **2. Draft 2025 Legislative Program (R-24-132)**

Governmental Affairs Program Manager Joshua Hugg presented on the 2025 Draft Legislative Program (Program). He reviewed the Program's purpose and stated that the District reviews numerous pieces of proposed legislation each year, and most bills are considered on a case-by-case basis, and that the Program provides a publicly accessible, transparent and proactive summary of selected issues and the District's stance on them, as well as prompts staff and the Board of Directors to think about their work in policy terms, rather than just project execution, as well as promoting a higher degree of interdepartmental coordination and culture of continuous improvement. The Program is broken into several sections such as the legislative priorities, legislative policy positions, and regional and federal legislative priorities. Mr. Hugg then reviewed in detail the state level priorities grouped under the four goals according to the Board's Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives. The priorities are Climate Adaptation Strategy, Ecologically Sensitive Vegetation Management, Permit Streamlining and Cutting the Green Tape, Sustainable Patterns of Development, Equitable Public Access, Multimodal and Public Access Infrastructure, General Manager Purchasing Authority, State Funding, and Workforce Development. He then continued to review in detail the regional level priorities that include Self-Permitting for Local Permits, Plan Bay Area 2050, Regional Funding, Regional Collaboration, and Active Transportation Programs. Lastly, he noted that federal priorities are pursued in alignment with state priorities. If a federal connection exists, those issues will be addressed as well.

Director Kersteen-Tucker asked what progress has been made with San Mateo County regarding the Self-Permitting for Local Permits.

**Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee  
November 5, 2024**

Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan explained that last year, the District received a master general permit from San Mateo County that allows the District to pursue projects on an annual basis without having to apply for individual permits and covers grading permits, coastal development permits, routine maintenance, small restoration projects, and some facility improvements.

Director Kersteen-Tucker asked about the next steps in the process for permitting with San Mateo County.

Ms. Chan stated that the Real Property and Planning departments are working together to pursue a similar permit for land acquisitions in terms of how they recognize the general plan conformance for land purchase projects as it currently requires individual projects to go to the Planning Commission. Staff is looking to streamline this process so it can be done at the staff level.

Chair Gleason asked if this was related to self-permitting from the Financial and Operational Sustainability Model (FOSM) and if there are additional items in progress now.

Ms. Chan explained that the master permit in San Mateo County is very specific and covers small scale routine maintenance projects. Staff worked with San Mateo County to expand the definition, and they now allow the District to cover some larger projects. However, it has limits.

Chair Gleason asked why wildlife corridors did not appear in the top-level priorities.

Mr. Hugg stated that it continues to be a priority for the District and there has been great progress, so rather than introduce additional legislation focused on wildlife crossings, the focus is to see how current programs unfold. There is a collaborative relationship between Caltrans and CDFW, both of which have recently created whole departments to evaluate wildlife corridors and barriers.

Public comment opened at 3:53 p.m.

Ms. Gross reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 3:53 p.m.

**Motion:** Director Kersteen-Tucker moved, and Director Cyr seconded the motion to forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors for approval of the 2025 Legislative Program, with any changes as requested by the committee.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 3-0-0**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Gleason adjourned the meeting of the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee at 3:53 p.m.

Stephanie Gross  
Deputy District Clerk