



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-12-117
Meeting 12-37
November 28, 2012

AGENDA ITEM 8

AGENDA ITEM

Endorse the Purpose and Formation of the Vision Plan Community Advisory Group as Presented by Staff and Refined by the Board of Directors at Tonight's Study Session

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. G. G.", written over the text of the General Manager's Recommendation.

Endorse the purpose and formation of the Vision Plan Community Advisory Group as presented by staff and refined by the Board of Directors at tonight's Study Session.

SUMMARY

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Vision Plan Project would greatly benefit from the formation of a volunteer Community Advisory Group to participate in the Vision Plan as an important component of the overall strategy to meaningfully engage the public in the planning process and build support for the District. At the Study Session held before tonight's regular Board meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) had the opportunity to discuss the purpose and key principles related to the formation of the Vision Plan Community Advisory Group (see Report R-12-119). The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain formal Board endorsement of the purpose and formation of the Community Advisory Group to allow staff to proceed with finalizing a list of participants.

DISCUSSION

The District preserves a regional greenbelt of open space land, protects the natural environment, and provides opportunities for public recreation and environmental education for the San Francisco Peninsula and South Bay, as well as the broader Bay Area region. A number of challenges are facing the District and its partners today: how to scale up efforts to provide connectivity to whole natural systems and protect agricultural landscapes; how to scale up resource stewardship capacity; and how to open more preserved land for public recreational access. To address these challenges, the District's Strategic Plan calls for enhancing regional collaboration, building public support, and enhancing financial and staffing resources.

The Vision Plan process will focus the District's efforts to accomplish these goals by identifying priorities. A critical step is to clearly understand community, partner, and stakeholder interests, values, knowledge, and perspectives related to open space. The process includes the creation of a volunteer Community Advisory Group (CAG) to participate in the Vision Plan as an important

component of the overall strategy to meaningfully engage the public in the planning process and build support for the District. In the long-term, the District may consider integrating this group of engaged citizens, partners, and stakeholders as part of ongoing District activities to help establish strong networks for ongoing community outreach, volunteerism, and community leadership to help fulfill the District's work.

At the Study Session held before tonight's regular Board meeting, the Board had the opportunity to discuss and refine the purpose and key principles related to the formation of the CAG, including providing input on the CAG participant list. Upon Board endorsement of the purpose and formation of the CAG, staff will refine the list of participants and return to the Board at its meeting on December 12, 2012 for its final review and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Planning Department budget for FY2012-13 includes a budget of \$300,000, of which approximately \$100,000 has been encumbered. Formation of the CAG would not result in a direct fiscal impact. Expenses necessary to conduct meetings and tours, such as possible venue rentals, are expected to remain within the current FY2012-13 Budget.

Staff is also currently analyzing staffing requirements needed to administer and implement the Vision Plan project given its ambitious schedule, extensive time and resource needs, taking into consideration competing project priorities. The addition of temporary staffing to address the required staffing capacity may be needed. Staff will bring temporary staffing recommendations to the Board at a later time as these are developed.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

No Board Committee review was needed for this item.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice was provided pursuant to the Brown Act. Notice was also sent to the interested parties list for this project and to the list of potential CAG members shown in Attachment 1.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

Formation of a CAG does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

NEXT STEPS

Upon Board endorsement, staff will refine the list of CAG participants and return to the Board at its meeting on December 12, 2012 for its final review and approval. Also at this meeting, staff will be presenting the Communication, Engagement, Public Participation Plan for Board review and input, as well as refined scopes of work for the Vision Plan consultant teams.

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