



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Midpen Open Space Board will appoint a new director to fill vacancy

LOS ALTOS, Calif. — The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Board of Directors voted at a public meeting Wednesday to fill the remainder of Director Cecily Harris's term by appointment rather than by calling a special election in San Mateo County, which would have cost taxpayers approximately \$414,000. Harris recently announced she was stepping down from the board, effective October 11, to begin the next chapter of her life in Minnesota.

Members of the public interested in applying for Harris's open board seat must be registered voters residing in Ward 7 which includes El Granada, Half Moon Bay, Montara, Moss Beach, San Carlos and parts of Redwood City and Woodside. Applications are available at the Midpen Administrative Office at 330 Distel Circle in Los Altos, or online at openspace.org/ward7. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on November 9, 2018. Public interviews will take place in November and the person appointed will hold office until January 4, 2021.

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a public agency spanning parts of San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties with the mission of preserving, restoring and providing access to a regional greenbelt of open space. It is governed by seven publicly elected directors serving four-year terms. Harris was elected to the board in 2008 representing residents in Ward 7.

Two other Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District board seats are appearing on the upcoming November 6 general election ballot. Local voters are deciding who will replace retiring Ward 5 Director Nonette Hanko representing the Palo Alto area and who will represent Ward 1 in the South Bay area, a seat currently held by incumbent Pete Siemens.

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The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a public agency created by voters in 1972. Its mission is 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.

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