

RESOLUTION NO. 15-25

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT SUPPORTING THE CITY OF MENLO PARK'S NOMINATION OF MENLO PARK AND EAST PALO ALTO BAYLANDS AS A PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREA

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Association of Bay Area Governments requested nominations from local governments and special districts for Priority Conservation Areas pursuant to the Plan Bay Area multi-agency regional planning initiative; and

WHEREAS, Priority Conservation Areas are areas of regional significance which contain important agricultural, natural resource, watershed, historic, scenic, cultural, recreational, and/or ecological values and ecosystem functions deserving of conservation funding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park is the nominating agency for the Menlo Park and East Palo Alto Baylands (Baylands) Priority Conservation Area, which includes Ravenswood Open Space Preserve (Preserve), owned by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District); and

WHEREAS, the categories for this nominated Priority Conservation Area include Regional Recreation, Natural Landscapes, and Urban Greening; and

WHEREAS, the District supports the designation of the regionally-significant Baylands as a Priority Conservation Area, which would make it eligible for crucial funding; and

WHEREAS, the District's support of the City of Menlo Park's Priority Conservation Area nomination does not commit the District to long-term management and maintenance of areas outside District lands; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the District hereby supports the designation of the Menlo Park and East Palo Alto Baylands as a Priority Conservation Area.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on the 13th of May 2015, at a Regular Meeting thereof, by the following vote:

AYES: HANKO, HARRIS, HASSETT, KISHIMOTO, RIFFLE, SIEMENS
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: CYR

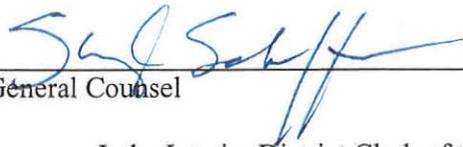
ATTEST:

APPROVED:


Secretary
Board of Directors


Pete Siemens, President
Board of Directors

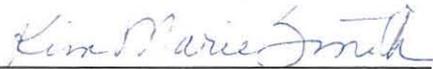
APPROVED AS TO FORM:



General Counsel

I, the Interim District Clerk of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District by the above vote at a meeting thereof duly held and called on the above day.





Interim District Clerk



City of East Palo Alto

Office of the City Manager

April 17, 2015

Justin Murphy
Asst. Community Development Director
City of Menlo Park
701 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. Murphy,

The City of East Palo Alto is pleased to support the application for the Menlo Park and East Palo Alto Priority Conservation Area, with the City of Menlo Park as the lead proponent. The City of East Palo Alto recognizes that a PCA designation status would make the areas within this boundary eligible for future Priority Conservation Area grants, including funding for planning or construction projects related to site enhancements.

Many East Palo Alto residents enjoy accessing the bay lands identified in this area, as well as Cooley Landing, located in East Palo Alto. The areas poised for conservation provide recreational opportunities, scenic enjoyment, as well as cultural enrichment for this community and the region. Furthermore, Cooley Landing and the surrounding bay land areas provide for habitat for the endangered Ridgeway Rail and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse, among other native species of plants and animals. These features provide further natural enjoyment to local residents as well as the region. The proposed PCA further provides local accessible open space to residents in the City of East Palo Alto, which lacks adequate open space; conservation of these assets is vital to the health of this community.

Thank you for allowing local communities the opportunity to consider the option of supporting or objecting to the establishment of this PCA. We are hopeful of the success of this area becoming a confirmed PCA.

Sincerely,

Carlos Martinez
City Manager
City of East Palo Alto



United States Department of the Interior
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
1 Marshlands Road
Fremont, California 94555



May 15, 2015

Alex D. McIntyre
City Manager,
City of Menlo Park
701 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025

SUBJECT: Letter of Support to Designate the Baylands of Menlo Park and East Palo Alto and Ravenswood Open Space Preserve a Priority Conservation Area

Dear Mr. McIntyre:

The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge supports the City of Menlo Park's effort to designate the Baylands of Menlo Park and East Palo Alto and the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve as a Priority Conservation Area. Because the proposed area contains a mix of both natural resources and human infrastructure (e.g., transportation lines, utilities), we believe the proposed area is a good candidate for the following categories under the Priority Conservation Area (PCA) designation: Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes.

Further, we believe the proposed PCA contains significant conservation value. These lands were previously identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion within the Approved Acquisition Boundary for the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge because they offer important benefits to fish and wildlife resources. The approved acquisition boundary encompasses both public and private land, but does not imply that all private parcels within the boundary are targeted for our acquisition; however, the Service may seek opportunities to acquire interest in certain lands within this boundary through fee title acquisition, donation, or conservation easements. Designation of the area as a PCA would facilitate support for the conservation and restoration of these lands, whether by the Service or other stakeholder groups, especially as the Bay Area becomes increasingly urbanized. The proposed area can also serve as an important local interface for urban dwellers to experience the outdoors.

We urge you to approve the PCA nomination of the Baylands of Menlo Park and East Palo Alto and the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve. Thank you for considering our letter of support. Please keep us informed of the PCA process, especially any other assistance we can provide. If you have questions regarding our comments, please contact Winnie Chan, Refuge Planner, at 510-792-0222.

Sincerely,

Acting for
Anne Morkill
Refuge Complex Manager

Cc: Carin High, Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge