

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-24**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT  
ENDORING NOMINATIONS OF PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREAS  
IN SAN MATEO AND SANTA CLARA COUNTIES AND THE  
PROPOSED CATEGORIES TO ASSIGN TO THE PRIORITY  
CONSERVATION AREAS**

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**WHEREAS**, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) has established Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) as an integral part of the Plan Bay Area multi-agency regional planning initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, ABAG requested nominations from local governments and land conservation organizations for Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) pursuant to the "Focusing our Vision" (FOCUS) program, a multi-agency regional planning initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, in August 2007, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) nominated four PCAs as part of the FOCUS program and submitted applications for the Gateway to the San Mateo County Coast, Upper San Gregorio Creek Headwaters, Upper Stevens Creek Watershed Area, and Upper Los Gatos Creek Watershed PCAs in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, in August 2007, in addition to the District's nomination, the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and District jointly submitted a nomination for the Lobitos Ridge Corridor PCA in San Mateo County; and

**WHEREAS**, PCAs are intended to be areas which contain important agricultural, natural resource, watershed, historic, scenic, cultural, recreational, and/or ecological values and ecosystem functions deserving of conservation funding; and

**WHEREAS**, PCA designations will provide enhanced grant opportunities for long-term conservation activities and improvements to designated open space areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the five PCAs that were nominated in 2007 by the District and POST, and subsequently approved by ABAG, are mutually compatible and complementary, and represent a diverse and balanced mix of conservation priorities in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, in July 2014, ABAG adopted updates and revisions to the PCA program and a new application process for public agencies and open space districts to nominate new PCAs, and requested nominations from local governments and special districts for new PCAs; and

**WHEREAS**, in December 2014, ABAG undertook a confirmation process for the existing PCAs that ABAG approved in 2008, notified local jurisdictions of the existing PCAs that the District and POST nominated in 2007, and received no objections to the District's and POST's existing PCAs during this 90-day comment period; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 14, 2015, the District's Board of Directors received an informational presentation on the PCA program and an overview of the 15 proposed PCAs in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties prior to the District notifying the affected local jurisdictions as part of the District's PCA outreach; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 29, 2015, the District issued a notification letter to the Counties of San Mateo and Santa Clara and eight cities regarding the proposed PCA within their jurisdictions; and the District received no objections to the nominations at the conclusion of the 90-day notification period that ended on May 1, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, between February and May 2015, the District conducted extensive outreach to public agency staff, elected officials and partner organizations on the proposed PCAs, and received Resolutions of Support from the Towns of Los Gatos, Portola Valley and Woodside, and letters of support from POST, Greenbelt Alliance and the City of Saratoga for the District's nominations; and

**WHEREAS**, within San Mateo County, the District met with the San Mateo County Planning Office and Parks Department, and presented the proposed PCAs to the San Mateo County Farm Bureau, Agricultural Advisory Committee, Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council and County Parks Commission as part of the PCA outreach prior to seeking support from by the County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors; and

**WHEREAS**, within Santa Clara County, the District met with the Santa Clara County Planning Office and Parks Department, where the Planning Office informed the County Board of Supervisors of the District's and other agencies' proposed PCAs, and the District met with and received broad consensus from the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Hidden Villa and other partners on the proposed PCAs; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of this 2014-2015 PCA application process, ABAG is seeking recommendations for assigning categories to the existing PCAs that the District and POST nominated in 2007, and the District is recommending Regional Recreation, Natural Landscapes and Agricultural Lands categories for the District's existing PCAs for Gateway to the San Mateo County Coast, Upper San Gregorio Creek Headwaters, Upper Stevens Creek Watershed Area, and the District is recommending Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes categories for the District's existing PCA Upper Los Gatos Creek Watershed, and POST concurs with the District's recommendations for Regional Recreation, Natural Landscapes and Agricultural Lands categories for POST's Lobitos Ridge Corridor PCA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board finds that nominating these PCAs is not a project under CEQA.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District as follows:

1. The Board hereby endorses the District's nominations for 15 Priority Conservation Areas and their assigned categories, listed below and described in Exhibits A and B, which are attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference:
  - SM1: Miramontes: Regional Recreation, Natural Landscapes, and Agricultural Lands

- SM2: North Skyline: Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes
- SM3: Teague Hill: Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes
- SM4: Southern San Mateo Coast: Regional Recreation, Natural Landscapes, and Agricultural Lands
- SM5: Windy Hill: Regional Recreation, and Natural Landscapes.
- SM6: South Skyline: Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes
- SC1: Palo Alto Open Space: Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes
- SC2: Hidden Villa/Rancho San Antonio: Regional Recreation, Natural Landscape and Agricultural Lands
- SC3: Southeast Rancho San Antonio: Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes
- SC4: Cupertino Open Space: Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes
- SC5: Stevens Creek: Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes
- SC6: Saratoga-to-Sea: Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes
- SC7: El Sereno/Sierra Azul: Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes
- SC8: Critical Wildlife Linkage: Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes
- SC9: Eastern Sierra Azul: Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes

2. The Board hereby endorses the assigned categories for the District and POST’s five existing Priority Conservation Areas as listed below:

- Gateway to the San Mateo County Coast: Regional Recreation, Natural Landscapes and Agricultural Lands
- Upper San Gregorio Creek Headwaters: Regional Recreation, Natural Landscapes and Agricultural Lands
- Upper Stevens Creek Watershed Area: Regional Recreation, Natural Landscapes and Agricultural Lands
- Upper Los Gatos Creek Watershed: Regional Recreation and Natural Landscapes
- Lobitos Ridge Corridor: Regional Recreation, Natural Landscapes and Agricultural Lands

3. The General Manager and General Counsel are authorized to execute any and all other documents necessary or appropriate to submit an application for the nominated Priority Conservation Areas to the Association of Bay Area Governments.

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**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on the 13<sup>th</sup> 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:**

  
Secretary  
Board of Directors

**APPROVED:**

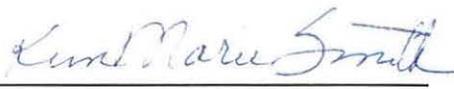
  
Pete Siemens, President  
Board of Directors

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

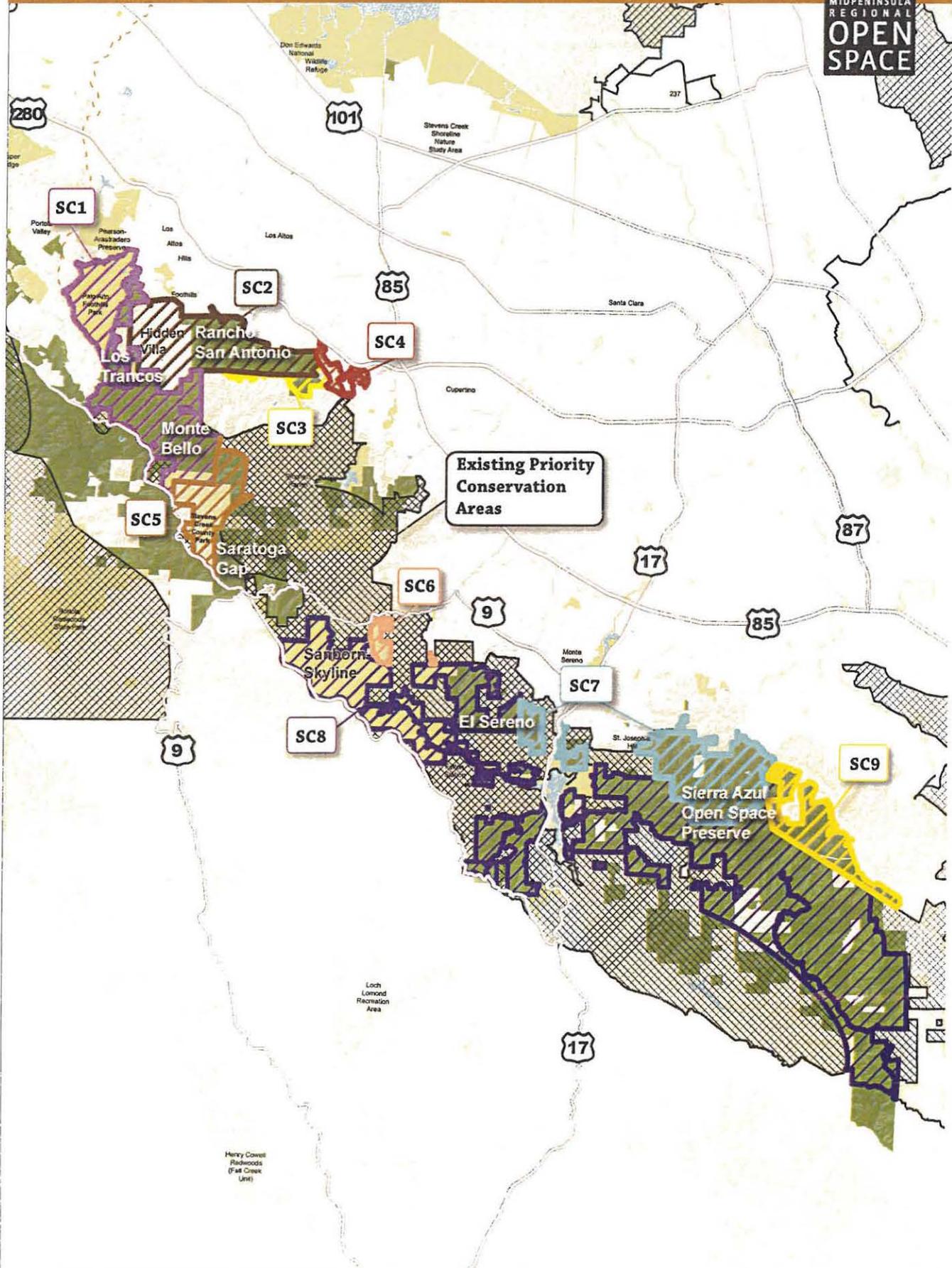
  
General Counsel

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

# Midpen Proposed Priority Conservation Areas, Santa Clara County (Exhibit B)





# Proposed Priority Conservation Areas San Mateo County Exhibit A

