



**NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK &  
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

Brad Wagenknecht  
*Director, Ward One*

Tony Norris  
*Director, Ward Two*

Patricia Clarey  
*Director, Ward Three*

Nancy Lewis-Heliotes  
*Director, Ward Four*

Barry Christian  
*Director, Ward Five*

## AGENDA

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday, July 8, 2024 at 2:00 P.M.

Napa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, 3rd floor, Napa, Calif.

This is an in-person meeting.

You may also attend and provide comments via Zoom Conference Call.

**Please Note:** Remote participation for members of the public, whether by telephone, Zoom, or any other technology, is provided for convenience only. In the event that the Zoom or other connection is disconnected or malfunctions for any reason, the Board of Directors reserves the right to conduct or to continue a meeting without remote access.

### Instructions for Joining Zoom Meeting

#### Join Zoom Meeting

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**Meeting ID: 820 5394 7365**

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## General Information

Agenda items will generally be considered in the order indicated below, except for Set Matters, which will be considered at the time indicated. Agenda items may from time to time be taken out of order at the discretion of the President.

Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations, aids, or services may be made to the Secretary's office no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting date by contacting [info@ncrposd.org](mailto:info@ncrposd.org).

Prior to action on any item, the Board President will ask for comments from any member of the audience. After receiving recognition from the President, give your name, address, and your comments or questions. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the specific subject under discussion. Time limitations shall be at the discretion of the President.

State law requires agency officers (Directors and Officers) to disclose, and then be disqualified from participation in, any proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use, if the officer has received from any participant in the proceeding an amount exceeding \$250 within the prior 12 month period. State law also requires any participant in a proceeding to disclose on the record any such contributions to an agency officer.

All materials relating to an agenda item for an open session of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors which are provided to a majority or all of the members of the Board by Board members, staff or the public within 72 hours of but prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection, on and after at the time of such distribution, in the NCRPOSD Office at 1195 Third Street, Second Floor, Napa, California 94559, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., except for County holidays. Materials distributed to a majority or all of the members of the Board at the meeting will be available for public inspection at the public meeting if prepared by the members of the Board or County staff and after the public meeting if prepared by some other person. Availability of materials related to agenda items for public inspection does not include materials which are exempt from public disclosure under Government Code §§6253.5, 6254, 6254.3, 6254.7, 6254.15, 6254.16, or 6254.22.

*The Board of Directors of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District encourages a respectful dialogue that supports freedom of speech and values diversity of opinion. The Board, staff, and members of the public are expected to be civil and courteous, and to refrain from questioning the character or motives of others participating in the meeting. The District requests that speakers not use threatening, profane, or abusive language which disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of a Board meeting. Members of the public may comment on any item on the agenda during Board consideration of the item. The Board President will invite public comment following the staff presentation and prior to final Board deliberations. Each speaker will be allotted time for comment as set by the Board President (generally 3 minutes).*

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

### 2. Public Comment

*In this time period, anyone may address the Board of Directors regarding any subject over which the Board has jurisdiction but which is not on today's posted agenda. In order to provide all interested parties an opportunity to speak, time limitations shall be at the discretion of the President. As required by Government Code, no action or discussion will be undertaken on any item raised during this Public Comment period.*

### 3. Set Matters

None.

### 4. Administrative Items

- a. Consideration and potential approval of minutes for Board of Directors regular meeting of June 10, 2024.
- b. Consideration and potential approval of revisions to the District's Local Procedures for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act to revise the Initial Study Checklist consistent with State guidance.
- c. Consideration and potential approval of Resolution 24-02 calling an election for four Directors of the governing board of the District (Wards 1, 2, 3, and 4), and consolidating the election with the November 5, 2024 General Election.
- d. Consideration and potential approval of an amendment to the District Personnel Manual to recognize the second Monday in October (Indigenous Peoples' Day) as a District holiday and to grant each full-time regular District employee 40 hours of Personal Leave per annum.
- e. Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for June 2024.
- f. Review of the District Projects Status Report.
- g. Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.

#### 5. Announcements by Board and Staff

*In this time period, members of the Board of Directors and staff will announce meetings, events, and other matters of interest. No action will be taken by the Board on any announcements.*

#### 6. Agenda Planning

*In this time period, members of the Board of Directors and staff will discuss matters for possible consideration at future meetings. Other than to determine whether and when such matters should be agendized, no action will be taken by the Board on these items unless specifically noted otherwise.*

#### 7. Adjournment



**NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK &  
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

Brad Wagenknecht  
*Director, Ward One*

Tony Norris  
*Director, Ward Two*

Patricia Clarey  
*Director, Ward Three*

Nancy Lewis-Heliotas  
*Director, Ward Four*

Barry Christian  
*Director, Ward Five*

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday, June 10, 2024 at 2:00 P.M.

Bothe-Napa Valley State Park Visitor Center, 3801 St Helena Highway, Calistoga, Calif.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

**Directors Present: Brad Wagenknecht (arrived during Item 3), Tony Norris, Patricia Clarey, Nancy Heliotas, Barry Christian**

**Staff Present: Chris Cahill, Andrew Brooks, Ryan Ayers, Jessica Ardizzone**

2. Public Comment

**None.**

3. Set Matters

2:00 pm **Public Hearing.** Consideration and potential approval of budget, position allocation table, and salary table for FY 2024-2025.

**Public hearing opened; no public comments. Chris Cahill updated Directors about minor revisions to the draft budget presented on May 13, 2024. Public hearing closed.**

**Directors approved the budget, one-time payment for regular District employees of \$3,000 payable in December 2024 for those then-employed, position allocation table, and salary table for FY2024-2025 as presented.**

**TN - PC - BW - NH - BC**

4. Administrative Items

a. Consideration and potential approval of minutes for Board of Directors regular meeting of May 13, 2024.

**Minutes for the May 13,2024 regular meeting were approved as presented.**

**PC - TN - BW - NH - BC**

b. Consideration and potential approval for a transfer of \$24,679 out of the Suscol Headwaters CARLF Reserve to reimburse the General Fund for work on the Suscol frog pond.

**Report presented by Chris Cahill; Directors approved transfer of \$24,679 out of the Suscol Headwaters CARLF Reserve to reimburse the General Fund for work on the Suscol frog pond.**

**TN - BC - BW - PC - NH**

- c. Consideration and potential approval of budget adjustments for FY 2023-2024.  
**Report presented by Chris Cahill; Directors approved budget adjustments for FY 2023-2024 as presented.**  
**PC - TN - BW - NH - BC**
- d. Consideration and potential approval of Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 22-01, an option agreement for purchase of an easement on Napa Sanitation District property, extending the term to January 1, 2025.  
**Report presented by Chris Cahill; Directors approved Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 22-01, an option agreement for purchase of an easement on Napa Sanitation District property, extending the term to January 1, 2025.**  
**BW - TN - PC - NH - BC**
- e. Consideration and potential authorization for the Board President to sign a letter of support for a November 2024 climate resilience bond.  
**Report presented by Chris Cahill; Directors authorized the Board President to sign a letter of support for a November 2024 climate resilience bond.**  
**BC - PC - BW - TN - NH**
- f. Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for May 2024.  
**Report presented by Chris Cahill; No action taken.**
- g. Review of the District Projects Status Report.  
**Report presented by Andrew Brooks; No action taken.**
- h. Presentation on District outdoor education activities by Jessica Ardizzone.  
**Presentation by Jessica Ardizzone detailing the District's outdoor education activities, including school field trips, summer camps, guided hikes such as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Hike program, and the Junior Ranger program. Information only; No action taken.**
- i. Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.  
**Report presented by Jessica Ardizzone; No action taken.**

#### 5. Announcements by Board and Staff

- **Director Christian announced that he met with representatives from the Bay Area Ridge Trail and discussed future connection points between Suscol Headwaters Park and Newell Preserve in American Canyon.**
- **Chris Cahill noted that we have been invited to submit a complete second-round application to the Priority Conservation Area grant program based on the strength of our initial \$1M grant request. The grant would fund land acquisition in the vicinity of Moore Creek Park.**
- **Director Heliotas announced that she is investigating programs led by UC Davis and the Bureau of Land Management dealing with megafauna grazing on public lands to explore possibilities for grazing in Napa County.**
- **Ryan Ayers announced that the summer StoryWalk event will begin at Skyline Wilderness Park on June 22, 2024 before moving to Moore Creek Park, Wetlands Edge Park, and Bothe-Napa Valley State Park throughout the summer.**

#### 6. Agenda Planning

- **Chris Cahill noted that there will be a future agenda item following the County of Napa’s memorandum of understanding with their employee union. Included in this item will be the addition of a new county-recognized holiday, Indigenous Peoples’ Day, which will affect the October 2024 regular meeting date.**

7. Adjournment

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Heliotes, Board President

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Ayers, District Secretary

Vote: BW = Brad Wagenknecht; TN = Tony Norris; PC = Patricia Clarey; NH = Nancy Heliotes; BC = Barry Christian

The maker of the motion and second are reflected respectively in the order of the recorded vote.

Notations under vote: N = No; A = Abstain; X = Excused; Ab=Absent



## STAFF REPORT

**By:** Chris Cahill  
**Date:** July 8, 2024  
**Item:** 4.b  
**Subject:** Consideration and potential approval of revisions to the District's *Local Procedures for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act* to revise the Initial Study Checklist consistent with State guidance.

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the proposed revised CEQA Initial Study Checklist.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

**General Rule.** CEQA does not apply to a project where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment, 14 California Code of Regulations 15061(b)(3) (State CEQA Guidelines). The adoption of changes to the District's Initial Study Checklist which are consistent with the State Office of Planning and Research's model Initial Study Checklist can have no significant effect on the environment.

### BACKGROUND

The Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District most recently updated its *Local Procedures for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act* (Local CEQA Guidelines) in 2022. At that time the District was subject to the Napa County Zoning Code and it was necessary for the County Planning Commission to rely on our CEQA documents when approving use permits for parks and other District facilities. As a result, we made the decision to align our CEQA Initial Study Checklist with the County's instead of with the State Office of Planning and Research's model checklist. The two documents differ substantively only in the Transportation section, where the County's checklist continues to take a Level of Service approach to intersection function in addition to the State-mandated Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) analysis.

As a result of the *Save Lafayette Trees* decision, the District no longer requires Napa County Planning Commission approval of its park and open space projects. In that brave new world, the most defensible approach to CEQA compliance is for the District to utilize the language from the Office of Planning and Research's model CEQA Initial Study Checklist. The revised District Initial Study Checklist proposed for adoption here simply enacts the Office of Planning and Research's most recent (2018) changes to the Transportation section.

# NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

1195 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 210  
Napa, Calif. 94559  
707.253.4417

## Initial Study Checklist

1. **Project Title:**
2. **Property Owner:**
3. **Contact person, phone number and email:**
4. **Project location and APN:**
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:**
6. **General Plan Description:**
7. **Current Zoning:**
8. **Project Description:**
9. **Environmental Setting and Surrounding Land Uses:**
10. **Other agencies whose approval is required:** (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement).
11. **California Native American tribal consultation:** Have tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND BASIS OF CONCLUSIONS:**

The conclusions and recommendations contained herein are professional opinions derived in accordance with current standards of professional practice. They are based on a review of the Napa County Environmental Resource Maps, other sources of information listed in the file, and the comments received, conversations with knowledgeable individuals, the preparer's personal knowledge of the area, and where necessary visits to the site and surrounding areas. For further information see the environmental background information contained in the permanent file on this project.

### **On the basis of this initial evaluation:**

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.



- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must only analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name and Title

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>I. AESTHETICS.</b> Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings (public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES.</b>				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g), timberland as defined in Public Resources Code Section 4526, or timberland zoned Timberland Production as defined in Government Code Section 51104(g)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use in a manner that will significantly affect timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, or other public benefits?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:</p>				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:</p>				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, Coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. ENERGY. Would the project:				
a) Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>VII.</b>	<b>GEOLOGY and SOILS. Would the project:</b>				
	a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
	i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:</b>				
	a) Generate a net increase in greenhouse gas emissions in excess of applicable thresholds adopted by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District or the California Air Resources Board which may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

b) Conflict with a county-adopted climate action plan or another applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Discussion:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:</b>				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonable foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wild-land fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X.	<b>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:</b>				
	a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
	i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI.	<b>LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:</b>				
	a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:</b>				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in:</b>				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XIV. POPULATION and HOUSING. Would the project:</b>				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project result in:</b>				
a) Substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XVI. RECREATION. Would the project:</b>				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Discussion:</b>				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:</b>				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines §15064.3(b)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature, (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Discussion:</b>				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:</b>				
Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or

- a) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Discussion:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:</b>				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of a new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XX. WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire severity zones, would the project:</b>				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

Summary of Mitigation Measures:



## **STAFF REPORT**

*By:* Chris Cahill  
*Date:* July 8, 2024  
*Item:* **4.c**  
*Subject:* Consideration and potential approval of Resolution 24-02 calling an election for four Directors of the governing board of the District (Wards 1, 2, 3, and 4), and consolidating the election with the November 5, 2024 General Election.

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the attached resolution.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

**Not a project.** This item does not constitute a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### BACKGROUND

Terms for three seats on the District Board of Directors are up at the end of this year (Wards 2, 3, and 4). In addition, due to the appointment of Director Wagenknecht on October 20, 2023, the Ward 1 seat is also up in this cycle. Following the November 5, 2024 election the District will return to its regular schedule with Wards 1 and 5 in the gubernatorial year and Wards 2, 3, and 4 in the presidential year. As in the past, the District needs to call an election for these four seats. For the sake of both efficiency and cost we should consolidate this election with the General Election scheduled for this November 5, 2024. The attached resolution accomplishes these two purposes.

If the resolution is adopted, candidates may pull their candidacy papers at the County Registrar of Voters office starting Monday July 15th, 2024. Papers need to be filed no later than Friday August 9th, 2024, unless the incumbent does not file, in which case the deadline is extended for others to file up through Wednesday August 14th, 2024. Candidates will need to collect 50 signatures of support from registered voters in Napa County. Candidates who file a candidate statement will need to reimburse the County of Napa Registrar's Office for the cost of those statements. Other County election costs will be reimbursed by the District. If only the incumbent Director files, that person will be appointed by the remaining Directors, and the seat will not appear on the November ballot.

All questions about the election process should be directed to the County of Napa Registrar of Voters, who will conduct the election. John Tuteur can be reached at [john.tuteur@countyofnapa.org](mailto:john.tuteur@countyofnapa.org). All candidate filing will be conducted strictly by appointment. Candidates can schedule appointments by sending an email to [candidatefiling@countyofnapa.org](mailto:candidatefiling@countyofnapa.org).

RESOLUTION N<sup>o</sup>. 24-02

NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CALLING A GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER ELECTION AND CONSOLIDATING IT WITH THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING FOUR MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD.

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2006 the voters of Napa County established the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District pursuant to the provisions of Article 3, Chapter 3 of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code (commencing with Sec. 5500) with responsibility for protecting and stewarding public open space resources and providing outdoor recreational and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Public Resources Code Sec. 5528 sets forth the manner of nomination and election of District Directors; and

WHEREAS, Public Resources Code Sec. 5530 sets forth the manner of requesting consolidation of the governing board election with the November 5, 2024 General Election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing board of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District pursuant to Elections Code Sec. 12001 herewith calls a governing board election for November 5, 2024. The manner of holding the election shall, unless Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code provides otherwise, be in accordance with the general election laws of the State for a local election which is consolidated with a statewide election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing board of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District herewith requests the Napa County Board of Supervisors to consolidate the governing board election with the statewide election to be held on said day, and all precincts established and all election officers appointed for said statewide election shall be the precincts and election officers for said governing board election, and said election officers shall conduct said election and make return thereof according to law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing board of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District herewith requests the Napa County Registrar of Voters to conduct the governing board election on behalf of the District with the understanding that the District will reimburse the County of Napa for costs associated with conducting the election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Public Resources Code 5532(e) if, by 5 p.m. on the 83rd day prior to the day fixed for the ensuing general election, only one person has been nominated for any elective office to be filled at that election, or no one has been nominated for the office, the Board of Directors shall make the appointments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any person may be nominated for the office of Director of the District upon written petition of 50 or more qualified electors of the ward in which the nominee resides.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a person is not entitled to serve as a Director unless they are a resident and elector of the ward and district as provided in Public Resources Code section 5522.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Directors shall be nominated and elected by ward, as provided in Public Resources Code section 5527. Those ward boundaries having been adjusted in 2022 pursuant to Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District **Resolution No. 22-03** to match those of the Napa County Board of Supervisors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Registrar of Voters is hereby authorized and ordered to set and collect fees for the filing of candidate statements, which fees shall be the responsibility of the candidate, as authorized by Elections Code Sec. 13307.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the election, including the nomination and election of Directors of the District shall be held and conducted and the result ascertained, determined, and declared as provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors hereby delegates to the Registrar of Voters the task of canvassing the votes cast and canvassing the returns of the election with respect to the persons voted for as directors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Public Resources Code Sec. 5532 and relevant sections of the Elections Code shall apply to the election of Directors, nomination papers, certification of candidates, and oaths of office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for election of Directors, the persons receiving the highest number of votes for each ward, respectively, shall be elected Directors of the District to hold office until their successors are elected and qualified, or as otherwise provided by law. In the case of a tie vote, the provisions of Elections Code 15651(a) shall apply and the winner will be determined by lot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the election, including the nomination and election of Directors and all matters not otherwise provided for by Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code beginning with Sec. 5500 et seq., shall be held and conducted and the result ascertained, determined, and declared in accordance with the general election laws of the State, as nearly as may be.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the list of current officeholders whose offices are subject to election in this cycle are as follows:

- Ward 1 – Brad Wagenknecht (2 Year Term)
- Ward 2 – Tony Norris (4 Year Term)
- Ward 3 – Patricia Clarey (4 Year Term)
- Ward 4 – Nancy Lewis-Heliotes (4 Year Term)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Public Resources Code Sec. 5529 the Registrar of Voters shall give notice of the election stating the governing board wards that shall be filled at the election.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District at a regular meeting of said Board on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024 by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_ DIRECTORS \_\_\_\_\_

NOES: \_\_ DIRECTORS \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN: \_\_ DIRECTORS \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_ DIRECTORS \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Nancy Lewis-Heliotes, President

APPROVED BY THE NAPA COUNTY  
REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE  
DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Date:  
Processed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Secretary





## **STAFF REPORT**

*By:* Chris Cahill  
*Date:* July 8, 2024  
*Item:* **4.d**  
*Subject:* Consideration and potential approval of an amendment to the District Personnel Manual to recognize the second Monday in October (Indigenous Peoples’ Day) as a District holiday and to grant each full-time regular District employee 40 hours of Personal Leave per annum.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. Amend the District Personnel Manual as proposed.
2. Direct payroll to credit each full-time regular District employee with a full 40 Personal Leave hours for the 2024 calendar year, effective in July, or as early thereafter as reasonably possible.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

**Not a project.** This item does not constitute a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

### BACKGROUND

The memorandum of understanding recently adopted between the County of Napa and its largest employee union, SEIU Local 1021, included two significant changes related to holidays.

First, the County added the second Monday in October (Indigenous Peoples’ Day) to its holiday calendar. Since the District generally syncs its holiday schedule up with the County’s due to our split County/District workforce, we are recommending that the same change be made to the District Personnel Manual. This will create an issue for our October Board meetings going forward, but given that the County Administration Building and the Board of Supervisors Chambers will be closed on that day anyway, it’s an issue we’d have to sort out regardless. District staff will work with the County Clerk of the Board to secure an alternate standing October District meeting date and time.

Second, the County enacted a “Winter Holiday Closure” which would have most County facilities closed between Christmas and New Year’s Day. This is a harder change for the District to parallel, because more than half of our staff work at the State Park and the State Park can’t shutter every

year for the week between Christmas and New Years. Our recommendation in this case is that the District adopt a Personal Leave policy which would give each regular District employee 40 hours of additional leave to use each year. Where possible, we would close District offices over the winter holiday period and District employees could use their Personal Leave bank. If not, employees could use the additional leave for personal reasons. Personal Leave would not accrue from year to year, so any unused leave at the end of the calendar year would zero out and a new 40 hours of leave would be credited.

For the 2024 calendar year we would ask the Board to direct staff to credit employees with the full 40 hours of Personal Leave effective in July, or as soon thereafter as County Payroll can implement the change.

Proposed Personal Leave policy language is as follows:

**Section 7.16 Personal Leave**

Regular full-time employees in a paid status the first pay period of the calendar year shall receive 40 hours of personal leave which may be used when/if District offices are closed between December 25 and New Years or for personal reasons. Personal leave has no cash value and must be used during the calendar year in which it is received or it is deemed forfeited. Regular part-time employees shall receive personal leave on a pro-rata basis, proportional to full-time employment. Those hired after the calendar year begins will receive a pro-rata share of personal leave time based on the number of pay periods remaining in the calendar year.



## **STAFF REPORT**

By: Chris Cahill and Barb Ruffino  
Date: July 8, 2024  
Item: **4.e**  
Subject: Receipt of report on expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for May 2024.

### RECOMMENDATION

Receive the report, no action required.

### BACKGROUND

Section III.A.(7) of the District By-laws authorizes the General Manager to bind the district for supplies, materials, labor, and other valuable consideration, in accordance with board policy and the adopted District budget, up to \$53,060.40, provided that all such expenditures are subsequently reported to the Board of Directors. Section III.A.(8) of the By-laws authorizes the General Manager to apply for grants and receive donations, subject to reporting such actions to the Board of Directors.

Attached is a report showing all District expenditures for **June 2024**. All Cal-Card purchases are itemized in the financial report.

**Agreement 24-07** With Nimbus Arts for a summer camp at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park (No cost to District, camp expenses and revenues to Nimbus Arts).

### Grants and donations for **June**:

#### **Online Donations**

ReLeaf	\$780
Moore Creek Shirts	\$0

#### **Iron Ranger Donations**

Moore Creek Park	\$262
Oat Hill Mine Trail	\$Not available at time of publication

**PARKS & OPEN SPACE DISTRICT -JUNE 2024 EXPENSE REPORT**

**Gen Admin Dept - 85000-00**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
6/6/2024	Capital Asset-Equipment	Canycum SC45 carrier, bucket style	Track Equipment Llc	\$ 8,646.94

**Moore Creek Dept - 85010-00**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
6/5/2024	Maintenance Supplies	3lb 155 Line, 50to1 Premix	Napa Power Equipment	\$ 220.87
6/5/2024	Other Professional Services	6/24 Monthly Sampling	Heritage Systems, Inc	\$ 128.33
6/6/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Chlorine, test reagents, leaf gobbler	Dons Swimming Pool Center	\$ 94.82
6/6/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Shockwave	Dons Swimming Pool Center	\$ 60.34
6/6/2024	Maintenance Supplies	50to1 Premix	Napa Power Equipment	\$ 150.84
6/6/2024	Minor Equipment/Small Tools	Stihl Trimmer	Napa Power Equipment	\$ 629.26
6/6/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Oil, Bungee cord, shop towels	Central Valley Builders	\$ 134.16
6/12/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Batteries, poster strips	Zeller's & Clarks Ace Hardware	\$ 24.92
6/24/2024	Rents/Leases-Equipment	PARK 20-03 6/24 Portable Toilet	Johnny On The Spot	\$ 213.57
6/24/2024	Maintenance Supplies	3lb Line, Bar Oil, Fuel Filler Cap	Napa Power Equipment	\$ 129.88

**Camp Berryessa 85010-03**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
6/5/2024	Waste Disposal Services	Garbage service 5/24	Berryessa Garbage Service	\$ 228.70
6/12/2024	Other Professional Services	Fire extinguisher-annual maintenance	Carneros Fire Equipment	\$ 242.00
6/24/2024	Sewer Disposal Services	Septic Tank pumping 6/10 & 6/20/24	Napa Septic Tank Service	\$ 1,390.00
6/26/2024	Other Professional Services	Lab Order #Z060623	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 58.00

**NRER - 85010-05**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
6/5/2024	Other Professional Services	PARK 23-10 5/24 Litter Abatement	Napa Valley Support	\$ 500.00

**NRER - 85010-05**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
6/6/2024	Minor Equipment/Small Tools	Stihl Powerhead, hedge trimmer, pruner attachment	Central Valley Builders	\$ 1,153.95

**State Park - 85010-08**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
6/5/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Skimmer lid, leak detector	Leslie's Swimming Pool	\$ 285.24
6/5/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Pool vinyl repair kit, ph balancer	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 29.93
6/5/2024	Vehicle Repair Supplies	Spindle, chute	Brown's Auto Parts	\$ 335.36
6/5/2024	Vehicle Repair Supplies	Bothe Mower tires	O.K. Tire Store	\$ 152.60
6/5/2024	Minor Equipment/Small Tools	Shipping Container-Vine Trail	Skymax Containers	\$ 2,698.00
6/5/2024	Goods for Resale	Firewood bundles	All Seasons Firewood	\$ 1,300.00
6/6/2024	Communications/Telephone	4/28/24-5/27/24 Phone	At&T	\$ 29.15
6/6/2024	Waste Disposal Services	5/24 Garbage Service Bothe	Upper Valley Disposal	\$ 2,406.01
6/6/2024	Maintenance Supplies	PVC pipe, grate, staples, chainsaw file	Central Valley Builders	\$ 100.51
6/6/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Trimmer head attachment, chainsaw file	Central Valley Builders	\$ 70.02
6/12/2024	Other Professional Services	Fire extinguisher-annual maintenance	Carneros Fire Equipment	\$ 678.00
6/24/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Hillman Fasteners	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 2.59
6/24/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Liquid Chlorinator, Therm Line	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 81.84
6/24/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Chlorine, Trimmerhead	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 143.21
6/24/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Keys	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 43.01
6/24/2024	Communications/Telephone	5/13-6/12/24 Alarm	At&T	\$ 139.42
6/24/2024	Utilities-Electric	5/14-6/11/24 #4831406953-4	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 426.69
6/24/2024	Utilities-Electric	5/14-6/12/24 #9051730227-0	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 86.31
6/24/2024	Utilities-Electric	5/14-6/11/24 #6781840750-3	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 219.67
6/24/2024	Utilities-Electric	5/14-6/11/24 #2172831822-7	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 84.59
6/24/2024	Utilities-Electric	5/14-6/11/24 #1869012498-9	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 1,377.06
6/24/2024	Utilities-Electric	5/14-6/11/24 #6765403114-4	Pacific Gas & Electric	\$ 36.58

**Suscol Headwaters- 85010-09**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
6/6/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Hexa Chain	Napa Power Equipment	\$ 72.18

6/24/2024	Construction Services	Amphitheater Trail Construction	Johnson Trails	\$ 14,800.00
6/24/2024	Other Professional Services	Suscol Headwaters Trail design	Smallman, Kevin	\$ 6,840.00
6/24/2024	Construction Services	Suscol South Trail Construction	Johnson Trails	\$ 14,225.00

**Other Projects - 85010-90**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Vendor Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
6/12/2024	Maintenance Supplies	Brake part cleaner, wasp foam, etc	Zeller's & Clarks Ace Hardware	\$ 75.36
6/12/2024	Printing and Binding	Coroplast Panels-StoryWalk	Napa Printing & Graphics	\$ 157.58
6/12/2024	Printing and Binding	Full Color flyers & postcards-Storywalk	Napa Printing & Graphics	\$ 106.16



## Projects Status Report

July 8, 2024

### **Bay/River Trail - American Canyon to Napa**

*An 8+ mile recreational trail. Phase 2-B--Pond 10 to Napa Pipe.*

The design for the public crossing of the SMART tracks has been completed, and SMART, NRCA and the PUC have verbally agreed to allow the railroad crossing. A biological survey for the Fagan Marsh area has been completed; based on the results, CDFW has indicated they do not want the trail alignment to follow the levee on the north side of Fagan Marsh; District staff is reviewing the feasibility of an alternative alignment. The Board President and General Manager met with CADFW staff on June 12, 2018 to discuss CDFW concerns. Senator Dodd organized a meeting in October with the City of American Canyon, County of Napa and the District in an attempt to move the project forward, and another meeting with District staff and CADFW staff on November 28, 2018. Staff has been working with BCDC to determine whether CDFW plans to impose user fees for people walking on the trail along the edge of the wetlands would be allowed under DFW's permit from BCDC. CDFW in April approved policy changes for the Napa-Sonoma marshes, including use of bicycles on designated trails. The District and the City of American Canyon have been developing new and improved signage for the Wetlands Edge trailhead. The commemorative plaque for former Director Myrna Abramowicz was vandalized in June or July of 2020; Director Christian has taken the lead in getting a replacement plaque and the finished product is now installed and turned out excellent. Rick and Chris inspected the segment north of Soscol Ferry Road in mid-June and noticed some damage to the stabilized quarry fines tread due to work by Napa San in their easement. Because the construction project requires excavation in and around a manhole in the middle of the trail, the Butler Bridge segment is currently closed to protect public safety. Post-construction work on rehabilitating the tread of the trail was completed shortly after Thanksgiving and it is once again open and useable. On July 29<sup>th</sup> the Napa StoryWalk had its grand opening in American Canyon, turnout was light, probably due to the 4:00PM on Friday afternoon timing, but those who attended had a wonderful time. In early February 2023 the County of Napa began the extended process of updating its Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (or ALUCP), a document that is relevant to the District because adopted policies could impact our ability to someday complete the Napa River Trail, which would run through the Airport Land Use Compatibility planning area. District staff inspected the entire trail from American Canyon to Fagan Marsh in late January and has had initial conversations with the County planners running the project. We will be keeping an eye on the interests of future trail

development in the area. Chris, Ryan, and Jessica toured the Am Can Parks Foundation's Napa River Eco Center project in late April and had fruitful conversations with ACCPF and Napa RCD staff about the facility and outdoor education generally. The possibility of housing a new NCRPOSD South County ranger at the Eco Center was broached. Staff has been working on weed abatement along the Butler Bridge segment of the trail. The Napa StoryWalk will be in residence in American Canyon at Wetlands Edge Park for the month of August. A kickoff event was held August 5<sup>th</sup> in partnership with the City of American Canyon Parks and Recreation Department, American Canyon Community and Parks Foundation, and First 5 Napa County.

### **Berryessa Vista**

*Planning, stewardship and expansion of this 304 acre wilderness park.*

Volunteers working with the District have completed detailed GIS mapping showing all existing roads, creek crossings, vista points and potential campsites. The District sent a letter to all property owners in that area introducing the District, explaining the deed restriction prohibiting off road vehicles, and asking for their cooperation. Since then there has been less observed damage, although the problem is not resolved. Staff was planning on installing a gate to restrict OHV access, but this has proven infeasible. In 2014 the Land Trust acquired an 80 acre inholding between District and BLM land, based on a District Board action in November 2014 agreeing to acquire the property from the Land Trust at a later date when funding is available. District and Land Trust staff in April 2016 placed a camera on the property in an attempt to identify the off-road vehicle and motorcycle users who have been causing some damage to the property. Staff has been monitoring the cameras since spring 2016 and has noted a small decrease in illegal off road vehicle use; staff will continue to monitor the cameras. Staff is working on plans to create a formal boat-in backcountry camp at Berryessa Vista accessed from the BOR Capell Cove boat launch. Staff has been reviewing PG&E plans to grade and widen an access road to their high power lines that cross the property, to ensure the work does not cause future erosion nor increase vehicular trespass. The Bureau of Reclamation has completed environmental review and authorized the District to improve the trail leading from water's edge up into the District property and install directional signage. We had tremendous success at the volunteer trail building event in early February, building +/- 900 feet of new trail. Berryessa Vista burned in the August 2020 fires; once the ashes settle staff will need to assess damage and come up with a repair and restoration plan. Land Trust conservation easement monitoring which occurred in early 2023 indicated the property is in good shape. Staff has lifted the closure on the property we put in place after the LNU Fire. With lake levels being what they now are the property is only accessible by boat.

### **The Cove at Mt. Veeder**

*Conversion of a former Girl Scout camp into a park and trails.*

The Cove was severely burned in the October 2017 fires; since then staff has been working on cleanup. Staff hiked most of the property in early January and confirmed that fire damage is severe and extensive. Staff worked with a forester to develop a plan for salvage logging to (a) remove hazardous dead trees in the campground area and (b) repair/improve the access road into the site. Doug

McConnell (NBC's Open Road) segment on The Cove (and Suscol Headwaters), comparing the effects of the fires in each location and lessons learned, was aired on Sunday June 24, 2018. Salvage logging commenced in late May, 2018 and was completed during the week of July 23<sup>rd</sup> followed by the logger completing his clean-up and erosion control operations. Road rebuilding is complete. A State Employment Development Department funded crew of 4 (using fire emergency job training funds) started work on April 2, 2019 and continued through the end of 2019 chipping of much of the remaining woody debris and cutting larger logs into rounds for eventual splitting for firewood. In July 2019 we worked with our salvage logging contractor on improvements to the gravel driveway to make it more useable to visitors in 2WD vehicles. Staff hiked the property extensively in February of 2019, trying among other things to relocate the old trails, but most have been destroyed by the 2017 fires and resulting erosion. The Mt Veeder Fire Safe Council secured a grant to fund fuel reduction work along the Mayacamas ridge on and near the Cove, and cleared downed and standing-dead trees along our ridgetop fire road. We have paused work on developing a new potable water system and septic system on the site while we reconsider our priorities in light of District finances, and the timeframe in which we think regular ongoing (as opposed to occasional special event-style) public camping will actually be desirable on the property once again. The Americorps team in January and February of 2021 constructed just under a half mile of new trail running up the ridge and towards Mount Veeder from the Cove bowl; it is much more gradual than the old trails (the old trail was 25-30%, new trail is about 9%). We have been in contact with mountain lion researchers from Audubon Canyon Ranch and given them permission to access sites through the Cove. Rick met with neighboring property owners to discuss fixes from the winter rains on our shared gravel road. Initial plans are for the District to provide drain rock and road base and for the neighbors to do the actual tractor work. The Turkovich acquisition (Hirth/Turkovich to Land Trust) closed in August and the Purchase and Sale Agreement between the Land Trust and the District was executed on August 30, 2023. We have three years to complete the purchase. Staff filed a General Plan Consistency Determination request with the Napa County Planning Director on November 29 regarding the Turkovich acquisition. While the District no longer needs to secure County land use approvals for our parks, we are still obligated to check in with the County on General Plan consistency. The County formally determined that the Turkovich acquisition was consistent with the General Plan on December 12, 2023. Staff executed a license agreement with the Land Trust allowing us to do initial surveying work, etc on the former Turkovich property. Kevin Smallman made a preliminary trail planning visit to The Cove and Turkovich in May and found the ground travel difficult due to downed trees and post-fire growth. We have partnered with the California Climate Action Corps to do vegetation management and clear old jeep roads across the Cove and Turkovich properties. An operator will be provided by the Climate Action Corps and the District will rent equipment for their use.

### **EcoCamp Berryessa**

*Redevelopment and operation of former Boy Scout Camp with a 64 bed group/environmental education camp with 8 tent cabins, 2 covered group activity centers, a canoe/kayak dock, a central amphitheater and campfire ring, and a shower and composting toilet restroom facility.*

A grant for \$50,000 to help with construction was provided by the Mead Foundation, together with a \$1.7 million grant from the State Coastal Conservancy. Construction of Phase I, which includes beds for up to 64 campers was completed in June 2016. Tuleyome. The BOR, and Forest Trails Alliance have



completed the adjacent North End Trail, running from +/- Camp Berryessa to the north end of the Lake, approximately 7 miles each way. In early October, 2017 Caltrans delivered (at no cost to the District) the disassembled and individually numbered pieces of a former Monticello Road stone arch bridge to EcoCamp Berryessa; some have been placed around the property to restrict vehicle access and add character. The EcoCamp has been closed to the public since mid-March 2020 due to the pandemic. We have been taking the opportunity of this downtime to get on top of spring mowing and other projects and Sarah Clark has been inspecting the property at least once a week. Camp Berryessa suffered some damage in the August 2020 fires; the camp itself mostly escaped damage, but the power line to the camp was destroyed as was our camp host's mobile home and belongings. We have had the water tested for VOCs (which can be created when plastic pipes melt) and the tests came back negative. We have three bids for cleaning up the burned caretaker site, ranging from \$17,500 to \$33,750. Reclamation has begun work on the camp host site electrical rehabilitation and Sarah has been working to repair tent cabins, which are starting to show some signs of age in what is a tough environment. We are now in contract with Pridmores to, finally, execute the cleanup of the burned camp host site. Unfortunately we weren't able to secure federal funding for it in the end, so the costs will come out of the NCRPOSD budget. Post-fire clean up of the camp-host site is now, finally, complete and the County has finalised our Debris and Ash Removal permit. Napa County 4H successfully hosted their summer camp July 9 – 14, 2023 and campers reportedly thoroughly enjoyed the new location. This was one of the largest groups to utilize the facility for this duration and staff is evaluating infrastructure needs for groups this size at the camp. 4H summer camp will be relocating to Enchanted Hills for the 2024 season, keeping the Bay Area 4H camp tradition alive and located in Napa County. This is a great outcome and staff is very thankful to Lighthouse for the Blind for their help and support in making the move work. Staff responded quickly to a positive coliform result and rushed resamples in time to confirm safe drinking water for weekend guests. Approximately 100 guests at Camp Berryessa in January. Storm damage to tent cabins at the camp was generally minor but there may be some storm-related repairs needed in the coming months. A second required special coliform test on our well water camp back negative, indicating that last month's test was a false positive. The panel that controls our septic disposal field has failed and will need to be partially replaced on an emergency basis, estimated cost for that repair is +/- \$5,000. Additional failure on the septic system controls resulted in a service call of approximately \$600. June 2024 EcoCamp Report: Projected Income: \$3500, Number of Users: 90 adults, 75 children. Other Info: There will be a scouting troop at the camp on the days leading up to the 4th of July. There will be two scouting troops using the camp this month, as well as a LARPing group and a religious group. An electrician came up to the camp to look at the panel. We are still waiting on a quote. One of the electricians contacted has not responded, so we will be looking at other electricians to get a third bid.

### **Mayacamas Preserve and Amy's Grove**

*Planning and permits for public use of the Mayacamas Preserve, of which Amy's Grove is part.*

The archaeological survey has been completed and did not find evidence of Native American activity. The botanical survey has been completed and submitted for review. Much of Amy's Grove burned in the October 2017 fires, but the damage appears to be limited. In Sept 2018 the Board approved placing a restrictive covenant over a portion of Amy's Grove, accepting the donation of an adjacent 7 acres of land, approving an option to acquire 164 acres north of Amy's Grove, and applying for a grant to help

fund the purchase. Grant awards are expected to be announced in mid-2019. In late July 2019 we learned that we did not receive the Habitat Conservation Fund grant we had applied for to assist with the purchase of the 164 acres to the north. The purchase has been completed using District reserve funds. An application for \$400,000 from the Prop 68 per capita grant program has been submitted, the grant agreement has been signed by the District, and a \$400,000 check from the State finally arrived in mid-February. Several volunteer work parties have since made even further progress on tearing down old buildings and salvaging the materials that can be reused. To clarify project boundaries, sometime in the new fiscal year we will be renaming the Chamberlain and Kateley acquisitions the Mayacamas Preserve; Amy's Grove will be a named part of the park. Rick reports that the water in Dry Creek has been running very high, which is a good reminder that without some sort of bridge Mayacamas and Amy's Grove will be seasonally inaccessible. We are scouting for bridge locations and beginning to think about permitting and costs if we went that route. Staff met with Ryan Gregory on-site in early April to get his experienced civil engineer's advice on parking lot logistics and the possibility of building a pedestrian bridge over Dry Creek. Neighboring property owners have been mowing the meadow portion of the Amy's Grove property with District permission to mitigate fire risks this summer and fall. The heavy rains of the winter of 2022/2023 evidenced significant drainage issues in the Kateley Finger staging area; it now appears that drainage improvements, potentially even engineered drainage improvements, will be necessary if we are ever to allow regular wintertime vehicular traffic in and out of that area. The local Napa Firewise council is conducting fuel reduction along Dry Creek Road abutting the Mayacamas and Amy's Grove properties and requested authorization from the District to do significant clearing 110 feet from the center line of the road. The District was not comfortable with the level of planned tree removal, so has agreed to a reduced project, which includes removing brush, trees that pose a hazard to the road, and trees <math>\leq 6''</math> dbh, and limbing up of trees >math>6''</math> dbh to reduce ladder fuels. Staff hosted the first public opening of the Mayacamas Preserve/Amy's Grove on September 16, and the event was a success. Chris met with a curator from the California African American Museum in late November to discuss opportunities for interpreting, and potentially seeking grants to fund interpretation of, the Hatton family, who owned land in the area and are emblematic of African American life and struggles in post-Civil War rural California.

### **Moore Creek Park**

*Improvements and operations at our 1,500 acre regional park in the Lake Hennessey watershed. Includes the Moore Creek unit on land owned by the District and the Lake Hennessey Unit on land owned by the City of Napa.*

The District's Moore Creek property (Moore Creek Unit) was expanded in 2012 through a lease agreement and operations plan with the City of Napa (Lake Hennessey Unit). The combined park opened on June 30, 2013. Many miles of trails have been constructed, fencing installed, emergency communications capacity set up, repairs made to the two houses on the property, and invasive French broom removal has been ongoing. Work was completed on the Conn Creek connector trail between the Moore Creek and Lake Hennessey units in June 2013. Lake Hennessey North Shore Trails formally opened with a ribbon cutting in October 2014. The Sam the Eagle Trail was completed in April 2015. The Gate House was re-roofed in November 2018 using the Moore Creek maintenance/repair reserve fund. Staff coordinated a meeting with CalFire and a neighbor to determine what level of tree trimming is

needed on the neighbor's property next to the ranch house to comply with Firewise regulations and the trimming work is now underway. Napa Marble and Granite installed (well, carved) new trail signage for the Shoreline and Sam the Eagle trails in early September 2017. Old Man's Beard Trail was completed in February 2018. The Whiskey Ridge and Conn Peak Trails (along with the Conn Peak Spur), nearly three miles of new singletrack all-in, was completed in 2019. To help ensure public safety in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, staff and volunteers monitored both entrances to Moore Creek Park for most Fridays and weekends in March through July of 2020. The two tenants at Moore Creek Park had to evacuate for about two weeks as a result of the August 2020 fires, but were able to return just before Labor Day. They then had to evacuate again on September 28 due to the Glass Fire. Despite a number of additional autumn red flag days and closures, and a rare December red flag event, Moore Creek Park is unburned and in good shape. In March 2021 volunteers installed striping for the main parking lot (marked with pinned used fire hose segments) to make parking more efficient. Fuel management activities, focused on removing invasive broom and funded by a grant by the County Ag Commissioner are ongoing in the upper reaches of the park. We have closed the Conn Peak Spur Trail until at least mid-June, due to its proximity to an active Bald eagle nest. The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution establishing new no-parking zones at the end of Conn Valley Road in late July, 2022. The Dan's Wild Ride use permit modification was approved on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, against the objections of two neighbors (one of whom was a representative of CalFire's Las Posadas forest) who were concerned about the adequacy of our parking lots on busy weekend days. We have launched a social media campaign to alert visitors about the full parking lots and busy trails they can expect to experience at Moore Creek in a superbloom spring. The Napa StoryWalk was in residence on the Moore Creek Unit of the park for the month of July, with a kickoff event held on July 8<sup>th</sup> to officially open the activity. Staff met with the Napa County DPW and their landscape architect to discuss tree planting in the area of the main parking lot to mitigate off-site tree removal resulting from a County bridge replacement project on Chiles Creek. The County would be responsible for watering the trees and would cover all costs. A native plant garden is being developed adjacent to the main parking lot in partnership with Napa County First 5 and with funding from First 5's climate initiative. Construction of the Washing Machine Trail by Redwood Trails Alliance, a project entirely funded by private donors, is close to done with only 1,000 feet of trail left to built. The trail will need to remain closed to the public through the rest of the wet season so that it can absorb the rains and weather-harden. Rain continues to delay final completion of Washing Machine trail. A private contractor, working for the RCD and fully funded by the Coastal Conservancy vegetation management grant is completing the work proposed in the grant scope. The early February 2024 wind storm resulted in a great many downed oaks and a lot of required clean-up by staff. The water pressure pump at the Ranch House failed in mid-February and was replaced by Oakville Pump on an emergency basis. The General Manager is crediting back rent to our tenants for the days (less than a week) they were without water. Volunteers built a split-rail fence around the native plant garden at the March workday and it really adds a sense of place to the entrance. Spring wildflowers are starting to bloom and parking is tight as usual. Redwood Trails Alliance completed work on Washing Machine Trail with the help of some District volunteers and it's now open for use. Ranch house electrical panel is slated for replacement. Contract for electrical panel replacement at the Ranch house is executed. Hardworking staff and volunteers have nearly completed weedwhacking the entire MC trail network; many thanks to them for their efforts. We had our first-of-the-year red flag warning, PSPS, and park closure at Moore Creek over the Fourth of July week.

## **Napa River Ecological Reserve**

*Manage public access and improve habitat for this State-owned property*

The District has been maintaining the parking lot and front meadow since 2008, after assuming a responsibility that had previously been handled by the County. Staff recently discovered that the agreement between the District and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, authorizing this partnership, expired at the end of 2017. Staff has approached CDFW about renewing the agreement, and continues to wait patiently for a decision from CDFW. In a telling sign of what can happen in unmanaged public open spaces, someone attempted to fell a young oak tree with a shotgun and perhaps a dozen rifled slugs in late December 2021. We have retained a number of casings as evidence. We have removed the porta-potty from the parking lot, both to reduce management costs (on a property that we no longer have an agreement to manage) and to mitigate some of the ongoing trash issues that have been associated with it. In early August we hosted an in-service day for the Justin Siena High School teaching staff in partnership with Chip Bouril focusing on removing invasive oblong leaf spurge. Volunteers collected and properly disposed of fully nine 50-gallon contractor garbage bags of spurge. Mowing season has arrived, Rick reports needing to mow/weed whip the property every few weeks due to the heavy grass growth this winter. The recent wind event resulted in some oak damage that we have been working to buck and clear. Rick has been working with Chip Bouril on rehabbing the nature trail and plant signage at the reserve, as well as dealing with a fresh crop of graffiti. We have requested CaDFW permission to either update/renew or remove the native plant tags on the property, all of which are getting rangy and some of which are no longer located near the plants the purport to interpret. Staff has heard whisperings about the possibility of CalFire taking over the Yountville CA Fish and Wildlife property, which may explain CADFW's long term non-responsiveness about management of the EcoReserve site. Staff has purchased and installed new metal native plant signs. We cleared out an uninhabited illegal campsite that appeared at the Eco Reserve in early February. Weed whipping season has begun in earnest at the EcoReserve and will roll out to other parks as the grass reaches its peak for the year. Thanks to Rick for all the hard work this spring and every spring. Graffiti and vandalism on signage at EcoReserve are on the rise again.

## **Oat Hill Mine Trail**

*Various improvements to the historic Oat Hill Mine Road.*

The District opened 8 miles of the historic Oat Hill Mine Road as a non-motorized trail in 2007 with the assistance of 130+ volunteers from Volunteers for Outdoor California. Cleanup of mercury contamination north of the opened section of trail, led by Tuleyome, was partly but not fully successful, delaying when the northern section of the road leading to Lake County can be completed. A 40 acre Randy Lee Johnson property along the route of the trail was donated in December 2014. Volunteers have over the years done extensive erosion control and vegetation clearing projects. The first 1.3 miles of the trail was bulldozed as a result of CalFire efforts to suppress the October 2017 wildfires, and this was extended further while fighting the 2020 Glass fire. Nearly all of the forest along the first 4 miles of the trail out of Calistoga burned in the Glass fire. Visitation at OHMT has been very high since mid-March of 2020. We staffed the trailhead on weekends in late March and early April, but have determined that the dispersed nature of the parking in Calistoga means that it handles the higher level

of traffic well and we have since reduced monitoring to occasional check-ins. Staff has cleared the trail of downed trees and the trail is open between Calistoga and Holm's place. Repairs to the Aetna Springs trailhead kiosk as well as replacement of wayfinding signs that burned in the 2020 fires are now underway. John Woodbury (as a volunteer) and Rick have repaired the Aetna side kiosk and replaced the trail map, all of which were damaged in the 2020 fires. Field staff has been focusing on removing dead standing trees that could fall and potentially impact the trail. Tree mortality seems to be increasing as we near a year from last year's fire. The County and the District have been receiving calls from an adjacent property owner who would like to "improve" the trail to make it easier to drive to his property by Jeep. Rick is beginning work on the wintertime replacement of the burned trail signage on the Aetna side of the OHMT. We are aware that there are a number of trees down blocking the upper section of the OHMT. District State Parks staff are working diligently through the backlog of tree work they've been confronting and hope to get the trail cleared in the near future. Staff has not had a chance to make it to the top of OHMT for a post-snow inspection, but based on what we've seen elsewhere on the eastern ridgetops (for instance in Angwin and the PUC Forest) we expect a mess. The Aetna segment of the trail has reopened with the end of the gun deer hunting season. Replacement trail signs for the Holms-to-Aetna segment of the trail have been ordered to replace the ones lost to fire in 2020. Installation should happen this winter and is the last impediment to a full re-opening of the trail. Staff cleared a number of downed trees (several each on both the Aetna and Holms side) in November. In December, 2023 Jason and the State Parks crew made improvements to drainage on the trail, near the gate and parking area, to address winter erosion and wear and tear. State Parks staff tackled brushing and other trail repairs on Palisades Trail in an effort to keep it in usable condition. Directional signage was installed on the Aetna side of OHMT at the regular April volunteer project. Eagle Scouts installed new (and more accurately measured!) trail markers between Calistoga and Holm's Place. Staff brushed/scouted Palisades trail and inventoried projects for fall trailwork on Palisades. Oat Hill Mine Trail was closed by the District due to red flag conditions on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, State Parks rangers closed it (well, the Palisades Trail actually) again for good measure on the 2<sup>nd</sup> due to the adjacent Toll Fire.

## **Skyline Park**

*Permanent protection of Skyline Park and support for Skyline operations.*

Three past legislative efforts to authorize sale to the County failed due to unrelated disagreements between the state legislature and administration. Separately, the County in September 2009 approved a new park overlay zone and an updated Master Plan for Skyline Park. A fourth legislative effort by Assembly member Evans in 2010, sponsored by Napa County and supported by the District, was approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor, but the County and State General Services were unable to agree on the fair market value of the property, negotiations stalled, and the legislative authorization expired. SB 20 by Senator Dodd was approved in 2019, which again authorizes the State to sell Skyline Park to the District and/or county for the sole purpose of it continuing to be a public park. The Governor in late 2019 issued an Executive Order directing the State use surplus State Lands to develop affordable housing, and included 20 acres of Skyline Park as surplus land that could be used for this purpose, which complicates our efforts to purchase the park. In January 2019 the District sponsored the filming of a short feature for Doug McConnell's Open Road TV series to help build support for the purchase of Skyline. DGS in February 2021 assigned state staff to work on the appraisal of the property

in anticipation of selling it; District staff is now in receipt of proposed appraisal instructions and has asked that they be revised to include a whole-park option. The District in 2019 obtained a TBID grant of \$20,000 to assist Skyline Park upgrade their web site including an on-line reservation system, improve their park map and brochure, and install an automatic pay machine on the River to Ridge Trail; the work was completed in the fall of 2019. The bicycle skills course was approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 11 and was fully executed in late February. The Redwood Trails Alliance has begun fundraising for the project and the plan is for them to construct the skills course as a voluntary cooperator at no cost to the District. The County of Napa Assistant CEO has taken lead on negotiating the Skyline purchase appraisal with the Department of General Services. Chris participated in an extensive site tour (interestingly including Camp Coombs and the Coombs Ranch Dam canyon) in late March with the appraiser and representatives from the Department of General Services, the State Hospital, and Skyline. The final appraisal is slated to be completed in June. In early May, +/-5 acres of the flat lower portion of Skyline Park was included in a list of potential affordable housing sites presented to the Board of Supervisors by the County's Planning Director. On July 11 the Planning Commission hosted a hearing on the Housing Element that featured much discussion of the Skyline (County staff prefers the term "Imola") public housing site. Ryan has been collaborating with a number of individuals and community organizations to develop a StoryWalk that will be hosted by Skyline Park and Wetlands Edge Park over the next several months. Opening day was at Skyline on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and was attended by many well wishers and dignitaries. Surveyors have been on the property since the week before Thanksgiving and the County has contracted with a geologist to complete a mineral resources report in support of a potential State Lands Commission action to surplus the mineral rights to the County along with fee title. The State Phase 1 environmental analysis is complete and did not identify any serious issues. The pump track is complete and, while not yet formally open to the public, it is getting occasional "soft opening" type use and has proven extremely popular with children and adults alike. We are looking to a potential October grand opening. Redwood Trails Alliance and the Skyline Park Citizens Association are collaborating on hardening the pump track with crushed rock and trail plasticizer, largely using private funds donated by the Clif Family Foundation. This work will greatly decrease both water use and the maintenance work that goes into keeping it in good shape going forward. The District is purchasing fencing and signage materials and the installation work will be completed by District staff. The pump track grand opening was held on December 16, with a great turn out of adult cyclists, kids, and dignitaries. The State has informed Napa County that it is willing to consider selling Camp Coombs, an outcome that District staff has been advocating for several years; the County is pursuing legislation through Senator Dodd's office that would make the sale of Camp Coombs possible. The County hopes that the sale of the remainder of the Park, minus 5 acres the State wishes to retain for low income public housing, may be completed as early as the first half of 2024. Senator Dodd introduced SB 958 which deletes the specific exemption of Camp Coombs from the Skyline Park purchase authorization, which would make Camp Coombs eligible for purchase as part of Skyline Park. District Staff has been very busy working with County staff on the Camp Coombs purchase. We have been meeting with surveyors at least weekly and will be attending a State Senate Governmental Organization Committee hearing in support of SB 958 in early March. SB958 passed out of committee on March 12<sup>th</sup> and was re-referred to appropriations with a recommendation to consent calendar. Staff visited Camp Coombs with additional County Supervisors and answered questions about the property and the District's role at Skyline and Camp Coombs post-purchase. SB958 passed Senate unanimously and has made it through the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee as of 7/2/24. The State has provided the County with a draft sale agreement for Skyline Park

proper and final checks on legal descriptions and deeds are underway as a final step to hopefully completing the sale this summer.

## **Smittle Creek**

*Planning and permits to open this 411 acre holding for public use.*

The District completed purchase of this property in December 2015. A botanist was retained in early 2016 to do a reconnaissance level survey of plant resources as the first step in planning for the property; his report was received in January 2017; the report describes the property as one of the best locations in the County for native grasses. A group of 20+ people from Tuleyome were given a hiking tour of the property in December 2016, as a way to build interest in the property and build a pool of volunteers to help with restoration and improvement of the property. On March 4 2017, Tuleyome volunteers brushed the Iron Mountain trail (in the Cedar Roughs Wilderness, but accessed via Smittle Creek.) US Geological Survey in 2017 placed a seismic monitoring station on the property. The State Fish and Wildlife Game Warden for this area has been most helpful in patrolling the property looking for illegal poaching. A well-attended volunteer cleanup project was held in October of 2018, more than filling a 30 yard dumpster with debris. Our volunteer caretaker for this property has made repairs to the dirt roads and the perimeter fencing. Staff in January 2020 flagged a route for the proposed new trail access into the property from Reclamation's Smittle Creek Day Use Area parking lot, and a botanist has been retained to conduct a floristic survey this winter and spring. All of Smittle Creek burned in the August 2020 fires. The entry gate and fence the District shares with Reclamation was burned; a temporary fix has been made, but further work will be needed. Staff has had initial discussion with County Public Works about including access improvements at Smittle in a larger grant application aimed at funding work on Knoxville-Berryessa Road. It would apparently make the County's road grant application more attractive to funders and would of course mean new District money for opening the park (if the grants come through). If award of the grant seems likely we would potentially have most of our development costs funded, but would unfortunately need to slow progress on the property to mesh up with the more measured pace of Federal funded transportation projects. Federal DOT funding officials completed a site visit of the Smittle Creek parking area and potential trail improvements in late April, preliminary reports from County DPW indicate it went well and we may be on a path to funding. It appears that there has been some trespassing and poaching on the property during the 2022 deer season, we are in communication with CaDFW wardens about the situation. Rick has posted a new closed to the public sign on the front gate, replacing the one that was stolen during deer season. Rick and the Napa County Sheriff ran an armed trespasser (who purported to be hunting quail) off the property in early November. Great heads-up work by Rick in what was otherwise a fairly iffy situation. The Federal Highway Administration has approved Napa County Public Works' application for the California Federal Lands Access Program to fund work on Knoxville-Berryessa Road near Smittle Creek. Public Works' project includes funding for the Smittle Creek trail, the crossing of Knoxville-Berryessa Road from the existing BOR parking lot, and parking lot rehabilitation. We continue to see some trespassing and illegal camping on this property.

## **Suscol Headwaters Park**

*Improvements to Suscol Headwaters Preserve and opening the property as a public park.*

The purchase of the Preserve was completed in November, 2017. The one remaining improvement to satisfy funding requirements is the construction of a California red legged frog (CRLF) breeding pond and various habitat improvements focused on, but not exclusively in, the pond area. A reserve fund has been set aside to do the work, but the actual work has been delayed while design and construction details are worked out. Most of the property burned in the October 2017 firestorm; some trees were killed, and a perimeter grazing fence was destroyed, but otherwise damage was not catastrophic. We have installed No Trespassing signs adjacent to ranch roads descending off of Suscol Knob to further limit access to the lower portions of the preserve, where property lines are not necessarily well marked or fenced. The District hired local trail builder Kevin Smallman to help with trail corridor planning and spent May 10 and 11 of 2019 hiking and flagging the property. A Use Permit for Suscol Headwaters Park was approved by the County Planning Commission in February 2020 and the northern portion of the property is now officially open to the public via Skyline Park. John Woodbury was out in the field in early February, and again in March and April, working on the design and (hopefully) future construction of the red legged frog pond. Jeff Alvarez, a renowned Red-legged frog specialist has been working with John on the plans. We have been awarded the \$1.17M Prop 68 grant to fund the development and opening of Phase 2 of Suscol Headwaters! Now the real work begins. We have signed a contract with Applied Civil Engineering for design and engineering services for the new Suscol Headwaters parking lot. We met onsite with Applied Civil Engineering to review parking lot design and subsequently received preliminary designs from them. We have signed contracts with Redwood Trails Alliance for construction of the Perdida Trail and with Kevin Smallman for equipment rental for construction of the Zane Trail, as well as the grant agreement with the State. Colliers is proceeding with the appraisal of the trail and parking lot easement on Napa San land. Jake Rugyt has completed his botanical report for the Phase II portion of the property. Napa Sanitation District has indicated they are comfortable with the appraisal. The Perdida (RTA) and Zane (NCRPOSD/Smallman) trails are under construction and we hosted the Napa Register in late May as they put together an article, due in July, on the Suscol project. RTA and District staff have determined that the western end of the Perdida Trail would be better resolved if it crossed over the existing ranch road and made a number of descending switchbacks on District property to the west. That work is well outside the scope of the Perdida contract, so we will be issuing a separate contract for it and awarding it to RTA on a sole-source basis due to the presence of their equipment right there and the ease with which they could pivot to that build from Perdida upon completion. Construction of the Perdida Trail is complete and the RTA trail crew have begun work on the Perdida+ extension and the Chance the Cowboy Trail. Final Napa San approval of the easement purchase has been delayed, as Napa San is asking for a surveyed legal description of the parking lot area, requiring an RFP and securing a (generally busy) surveyor. RTA has pulled their equipment out of Suscol until the rains return as the soils and fuels have gotten too dry. Staff approved a change order to clarify the scope of the Chance the Cowboy build in late September. We continue to tussle with State Parks about the first (May, 2023), still unpaid, grant reimbursement, but have a glimmer of hope that that may be resolved in the next month and we may see our first payment. State Parks now reports that they won't have an answer on our first grant reimbursement until December 8 at the earliest. We have entered into a surveying contract to develop a legal description of the lower parking lot area, which Napa San is requiring before we can complete acquisition of that easement. Twenty volunteers worked the Zane Trail on December 9 in a project led



by Ryan Ayers and Kevin Smallman from our staff. We awarded yet another trail building contract, for the Perdida Trail Ridge Connector in early December. Redwood Trails Alliance was the only bidder. Ryan met with Napa County Fire in early December to orient them to the vineyard road access to Suscol. There were several volunteer trail building events on the Zane Trail, led by Kevin Smallman of our staff, in early January. We have a draft of the construction site plan from the engineer for the parking lot. We are hoping to have initial parking lot plans and a legal description of the parking lot and trail easement done in draft and ready for Napa San approval in April. We would then proceed to drafting a Park Plan for Suscol Phase 2 and bringing that, along with a CEQA action, to the Board by late Spring or early Summer. Parking lot plan and easement are still on-track for late-spring/early summer board approval. RTA returned to Suscol Headwaters to finish work on Chance the Cowboy and to complete Perdida Connector. Staff submitted requests for bids for three additional trail segments, Chance West, Suscol Ridge South, and Amphitheater. RTA is building in Suscol and was awarded an additional bid for Chance West Trail. Two additional bids were awarded to Johnson Trails. Additional construction is complete on Amphitheater and Suscol Ridge South trails and RTA is wrapping up Chance West. On June 24<sup>th</sup> NapaSan's board voted to extend our option to purchase the North Kelly Rd trailhead until January 1, 2025. Trail construction at Suscol is mostly on pause at the moment due to dry soils and fire weather conditions.

## **Vine Trail**

*A Class I bicycle/pedestrian path extending from Calistoga to the Vallejo Ferry Terminal sponsored by the Vine Trail Coalition, of which the District is a participating member.*

The District has an MOU with the Vine Trail Coalition to provide assistance as requested by the Coalition in receiving funds, preparing plans and environmental documents, and constructing and operating the trail. The District, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Vine Trail Coalition prepared a joint Case Statement for the combined trail network for fundraising purposes. Over the years the District has submitted numerous letters of support for Vine Trail grant applications. The District continues to coordinate with the Vine Trail on plans to route the Vine Trail through Bothe-Napa Valley State Park. A joint Vine Trail/Ridge Trail dedication event was held at Bothe in 2014. In March 2015 the Vine Trail initiated discussions with district staff about the possibility of the District providing maintenance for the entire Vine Trail, but in the end the cities and the county decided that each entity will maintain the section within their jurisdiction, rather than paying into a common fund for common maintenance. Caltrans is proposing to replace the aging bridge over Mill Creek; since the construction as proposed could have significant adverse effects for both the Vine Trail and the Bale Mill, District and Vine Trail staff meet with Caltrans and NVTa to discuss ways to mitigate the impacts. In Sept 2018 the Vine Trail Coalition requested the District accept an easement to facilitate the trail connection between Kennedy Park and Napa Pipe. Staff met with the Vine Trail and Syar in March 2019 to work out details related to the easement. A revised version of the easement, and an associated agreement allocating responsibilities is still being negotiated. At the request of the Vine Trail Coalition, staff is exploring with the County whether to take on the eventual maintenance of the section between Calistoga and St. Helena, with the costs to be paid 50/50 by the County and the Coalition. A similar agreement between the County, the City of Napa and the Vine Trail was approved by the County Board of Supervisors in January 2021. Staff met with Philip Sales in early July to inspect the St Helena – Calistoga segment and

recommence discussions about the District potentially taking over maintenance responsibility for that section. After much thought and research staff has reached a point where we believe we may be able to take over maintenance of the St Helena to Calistoga section without committing to potentially subsidizing the work out of District funds. Groundbreaking for the St Helena to Calistoga Vine Trail segment took place on May 24<sup>th</sup> at the State Park. Tony Norris and Jason Jordan represented the District. The NCRPOSD/Vine Trail/County of Napa Up Valley Vine Trail maintenance agreement was approved by the Board of Supervisors in June and is now (finally) fully executed. Paving of the Vine Trail through the State Park is now complete, but associated work needed to actually open the Trail to the public is now slated to be finished in Spring 2024. State Parks staff, who will be managing maintenance on the Vine Trail are doing market research on the equipment needed to actually do the work, with an eye to purchasing in early 2024. Signs have been installed on-trail identifying that the Vine Trail is not yet open to the public but use continues to be very enticing due to the fresh pavement. Maintenance contract is in its final stages as the segment readies for opening later in June 2024; construction is back on inside Bothe as of 6/33/24, preparing to install Park Tread.

### **Woodbury Properties**

*Acquire 480 acres next to Berryessa Estates from BLM at no fee through their Recreation and Public Purpose Act procedure. Manage Spanish Valley, Crystal Flats and Stone Corral (2,500 acres) open space preserves.*

The District in 2009 applied to BLM for a no-fee transfer of this property to the District; while this transfer was supported by BLM staff, the formal approval was delayed because of property title issues between BLM and BOR. By the time these issues were resolved personnel and priorities had changed at BLM, and the transfer application is stalled. The District completed the donation to the District of a small, 0.2 acre property that provides critical access to the northeast corner of the property. Prescribed burns were attempted for Spanish Valley in 2019 and 2020, but both had to be cancelled due to a combination of permit delays and uncooperative weather. Shortly after the 2020 prescribed burn was cancelled, the LNU Fire burned the entire valley. The district in the spring of 2020 completed the donation of a conservation easement over Spanish Valley to the Land Trust. The current President for the Association reached out to District staff just before the LNU fire, indicating a willingness to restart discussions about an agreement between the two. However, the LNU fire put those discussions on hold, and staff efforts in February and March of 2021 to reach out to the Association have not been responded to. Field inspection completed on August 30<sup>th</sup>; Spanish Valley looks surprisingly good given burn intensity. Less tree mortality than would be expected thus far. We have discovered what looks to be an illegal small scale mining operation on one corner of the Crystal Flats property. Staff removed all of the mining material in early December. Inexplicably, it had already been smashed by some unknown party, perhaps a claim jumper? District staff has been contacted by LBRID staff, who are concerned that a lack of rainfall this spring could leave Berryessa Estates without a source of drinking water. The General Manager has preliminarily ok'd the use District-owned properties to do hydrogeological assessments in hopes of finding alternate emergency water sources. Proposed exploratory work is focused on the Marina and adjacent to the Crystal Flats access drive. The GM has given Napa County permission to do additional exploratory drilling in hopes of finding reliable emergency water for the community of Berryessa Estates. Senator Dodd-funded veg management on our property, planned and

undertaken by the local Berryessa Estates Fire Safe Council, is complete for the season. We were contacted by a neighboring property owner who had concerns about a large Gray pine on our property in mid-May. Staff is getting bids to have it removed. In the last months we've additionally been contacted about two large oaks located on our property that neighbors have concerns about, we'll be up to inspect those as well. Staff is securing quotes for the removal of the trees, the large Gray pine will likely be expensive. We received a weed abatement notice from Napa County Fire for a small undeveloped residential property in Berryessa Estates, which served as a useful reminder to current staff that we owned such a property. The Fire Marshal retracted the abatement notice, which was issued pursuant to Napa County Code Sec 8.36.060, following a conversation about the District's *Save Lafayette Trees* exemption. District staff weed whipped the abated parcel in mid-November. Two large hazard trees adjacent neighboring properties were removed in May 2024.

## Completed Projects

### **Amy's Grove**

*Donation of 50 acres along Dry Creek and Wing Creek.*

The donation of approximately 50 acres of open space from the Chamberlain family to the District closed in December 2015.

### **Bay Area Ridge Trail Realignment**

In December of 2012 the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council approved the proposed realignment of the Ridge Trail through Napa County as requested by the District.

### **Bay Area Ridge Trail Napa-Solano Ridge Trail Loop**

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council obtained a donated easement from the Tuteur family and constructed a section of Bay Area Ridge Trail adjacent to Skyline Park. In March 2018 the Ridge Trail Council transferred the easement to the District, and with the support of the Tuteur family revised the easement to facilitate an extension of the trail south onto the District's Suscol Headwaters Preserve.

### **Bay/River Trail - American Canyon to Napa Phase I**

*Phase One - Eucalyptus Drive to Green Island Road.*

Constructed approximately 5 miles of Class I bicycle and pedestrian path in the vicinity of American Canyon along the Napa River was completed in April 2012, in partnership with the City of American Canyon, Department of Fish and Game and Napa Vallejo Waste Management Authority. A formal opening ceremony was held June 2, 2012.

*Phase Two - Pond 10.*

DFW surfaced the existing levee with gravel and opened the gate to the public in spring 2015.

*Phase Three - Soscol Ferry Road to Napa Pipe*

Completed construction in spring of 2015 of 0.7 miles between Soscol Ferry Road and the Napa Pipe property in the Napa Valley Corporate Park.

### **Berryessa Peak Trail**

*Obtain right of way and construct trail to provide public access to extensive federal lands on Blue Ridge and to Berryessa Peak.*

Obtained donated trail easement from the Ahmann family to close gaps between existing public lands on Blue Ridge. A Negative Declaration and Use Permit hearing was approved December 16, 2009 by the County Planning Commission. An Operations and Management Plan was approved by the property owner and the District. BLM's biologist inspected the alignment on September 17, 2011. The trail was constructed over the course of two years using volunteer crews, and continues to be maintained by volunteers (mostly provided by Tuleyome and Yolo Hiker)

### **Berryessa Vista Acquisition**

Purchase of 224 acres from the Land Trust of Napa County for use as a public park completed in early 2008 using State Prop 12 funds.

#### **Cedar Roughs/Smittle Creek**

Purchase of 443 acres of land that will provide public access to Cedar Roughs from the Smittle Creek Day Use Area closed in December 2015.

#### **Connolly Ranch**

Construction of patio, restrooms and cooking facilities completed in 2008 using State Prop 12 funds.

#### **The Cove at Mt Veeder**

The acquisition of 164 acres from the Girl Scouts was completed in December 2017.

#### **Historic ROW Analysis**

Staff has completed a comprehensive review of historic rights-of-way, and is now focusing attention on those that have greatest potential.

#### **Linda Falls Conservation Easement**

Conservation easement accepted in spring 2008 from Land Trust of Napa County to provide additional protection for this 39 acre property, which is owned by the land trust. The easement was revised and expanded in 2016 to cover the entire Linda Falls property owned by the Land Trust. This is a continuation of a long-term project for the district and land trust to hold easements over each other's properties to protect against unforeseen circumstances that could threaten the conservation values of the properties.

#### **Master Plan Development and Updates**

The Master Plan for 2008-2013 was approved in January 2009. It was updated in 2011 and again in 2019.

#### **Moore Creek Open Space Park**

Acquisition of 673 acres in the Moore Creek Watershed completed in December 2008. The City of Napa subsequently approved an agreement with the District to incorporate approximately 900 acres of City of Napa Lake Hennessey watershed lands into Moore Creek Park.

#### **Napa River Ecological Reserve Improvements & Restoration**

Parking area paved, and rock barrier installed to control vehicular access in 2007. Trash enclosure constructed and entry signs restored by volunteers in 2008. Deteriorated kiosk and interpretive panels removed in 2008. The District in July 2008 assumed the County's role in managing the preserve under the joint management agreement with DFG. A new maintenance contract with the non-profit organization Options 3 was started in January 2009. A multi-year project resulted in the removal of the bulk of the invasive teasel that had taken over the 5 acre meadow at the entrance to the Reserve, and the construction of a short native plant interpretive trail. In doing this work, several thousand students received a day of environmental education about native and invasive plants and riparian ecology.

#### **Napa River Flood Control Easement**

Conservation easement accepted by District in 2007 to facilitate Flood District project and grant funding.

### **Newell Preserve Improvements**

As part of the arrangement with the land trust on the District's purchase of Berryessa Vista, the land trust was willing to use some of the proceeds from the transaction to fund a well pump and distribution system at the Preserve, which is owned by the City of American Canyon. However, the first well drilled by the City of American Canyon came up dry. The City has dropped plans for digging any more test wells.

### **Oat Hill Mine Trail**

The Oat Hill Mine Trail was formally opened in May Of 2008, after a major volunteer work party doing signage installation, brush removal and erosion control. The District in 2008 applied to BLM for a non-fee transfer to the District of a 40 acre parcel at Maple Springs on the Oat Hill Mine Trail; BLM in April 2016 indicated they did not want to transfer this parcel, so the District's application has been dropped.

### **River to Ridge Trail**

Lot line adjustment to legalize River to Ridge Trail as constructed (it had encroached on private property in two locations). Animal silhouettes along the entryway fence illustrating the types of birds and mammals that can be found in the area were installed by an Eagle Scout candidate in 2008. A new information kiosk was installed at the entrance in December 2008 as part of a Boy Scout project. In 2011 volunteers made some drainage improvements.

### **Skyline Park Road and Trail Improvements**

Erosion control work on Lake Marie Road, and paving of campground loop road, completed in 2007 using State Prop 12 funds. The District and the Skyline Park Citizens Association have continued to cooperate on various trail maintenance projects.

### **Skyline Park Concessionaire Agreement Renewal**

District staff negotiated renewal of concessionaire agreement on behalf of the County in 2010, 2015 and 2020. The renewal involved changes to the fee schedule and amendments to and approval of sub agreements with three non-profit partner organizations.

### **Skyline Park Facility Improvements**

The proposals for a second greenhouse (from CNPS) and a covered equestrian arena (from Skyline Riders) were approved by the Department of General Services and by the County Board of Supervisors. The sponsors of these projects however ended up not pursuing either project.

### **State Parks**

#### **Operate Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and RLS State Park.**

The District, with assistance from the Napa Valley State Parks Association, took over management of the parks on April 1, 2012. Since then the District has obtained permits and done improvements to the pool, installed 7 yurts, instituted recycling in the campground and day use areas, pumped all septic system tanks annually, repaired the historic Wright House for use as a rental property, restored 5 cabins, constructed a new shower/toilet facility, and made a large dent in the backlog of deferred maintenance.

In 2014 the District started the process of extending the District's 5 year Operating Agreement and including RLS in the agreement, that new 20 year agreement was signed in April 2020.

#### **Suscol Headwaters Preserve Acquisition**

Acquisition of 709 acres of the former Kirkland Ranch in two phases was completed in November 2017.

#### **Trinchero/Putah Creek Open Space Acquisition**

The donation by the Trinchero family of 2,500 acres of open space (Spanish Valley, Crystal Flats and Stone Corral) was completed on December 29, 2010. A related granting of an access easement to the Lake Berryessa Resort Improvement District was completed in mid-January 2011.

#### **Wild Lake Ranch**

The District participated in the development of a strategic plan for the property, together with other public lands in the area, that was led by the Land Trust of Napa County. The land trust has decided, at least for the near term, to manage the Wildlake-Duff property itself.

### **Deferred/Cancelled Projects**

#### **Milliken Reservoir Trails and Picnic Area Feasibility Study**

The feasibility study to *construct approximately 3 miles of Bay Area Ridge Trail plus additional feeder and loop trails, along with a staging and picnic area* within the City of Napa's Milliken Watershed was completed and accepted by the Board of Directors in 2009. The Napa City Council in November, 2009 approved city staff recommendation to hold off on considering the Milliken Reservoir trails project until the Lake Hennessey Unit of Moore Creek Park is completed.

#### **Montesol West**

The District had the opportunity to purchase 1,254 acres west of Highway 29 adjacent to Robert Louis Stevenson State Park. The area's conservation values were protected through an easement negotiated by the Trust for Public Land and now held by the Land Trust of Napa County. Purchase of fee title would permit the area to be used for public recreation. The District prepared and obtained a Habitat Conservation Program grant that, together with a Moore Foundation grant obtained by the Trust for Public Land, would fully fund the purchase. Public outreach to Middletown area residents in 2017 were positively received. Unfortunately, the option expired at the end of February without TPL exercising it, because we were unable to provide the type of liability insurance the seller wanted to protect his interest in carbon credits that they had sold to the State over timber located on the property.

#### **Rector Ridge/Stags Leap Ridge Trail**

*Construction of staging area and 6+ miles of Ridge Trail climbing east from Silverado Trail near Rector Creek.*

CEQA on this project was completed several years ago, the project concept was approved by the District Board, and was positively viewed by the Veterans Home administration. However, subsequent changes and controversies within the Department of Veterans Affairs undid the progress we had made. The area

in question also involves the Department of Fish and Wildlife, since they have an easement to allow hunters to use the area; the Department was initially supportive of the District pursuing a formal trail through the property, but personnel changes within their Department means their review also needs to be restarted. Finally, with the approval of the Go North alignment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, this segment of trail is no longer part of the officially proposed alignment for the Ridge Trail. For all these reasons, this project is deferred until other District priorities are under control.

### **Vallejo Lakes**

*Possible purchase of 1100 acres of surplus Vallejo Water District lands, of which 200 acres are located in Napa County, and Lake Curry which is entirely in Napa County.*

Discussions between the District, the Land Trust of Napa County, the County of Solano and the Solano Land Trust indicate a common desire to work together to purchase this property adjacent to Skyline Park. The City Council of the City of Vallejo officially authorized staff to pursue surplussing of the property, and hired an appraiser to prepare an estimate of the property's fair market value, but this was never released. The District GM, together with the County of Solano EO, in February 2012 each sent letters to the City of Vallejo formally expressing interest in the property and requesting notification per state law of any planned surplussing of the property. Sale of the property by the City has been delayed because of complications related to questions about how best to supply water to residents in Green Valley. Staff from the District and its partners met with the Vallejo City Manager in April 2014; the surplussing process has become more complicated and the City does not anticipate any action in the near future. Staff had a very interesting meeting with City of Vallejo water division staff and a tour of Lake Curry in late May. The Lake Curry property can only be described as a jewel, and the City of Vallejo would clearly like to divest it, but doesn't know how to do this. Solano County in 2015 investigated the feasibility of acquiring the lakes and managing their water supplies; as part of this investigation they expressed interest in partnering with the District to manage public recreational access, but no decisions were made. Further progress on this project depends on the City of Vallejo and Solano County; the District cannot do more until they decide what direction to head.





## **STAFF REPORT**

By: Jason Jordan  
Date: July 8, 2024  
Item: **4.g**  
Subject: June 2024 State Park Report for Bothe- Napa Valley SP, Robert Louis Stevenson SP, and Bale Grist Mill SHP.

### PARK STATUS

**Bothe Napa Valley SP-** Camping was steady in June with picnicking groups increasing on weekends.

**Bale Grist Mill SHP-** The Mill Reopened in June with the new bridge completed. New mill-hosts are being trained as docents to take over in July.

**Robert Louis Stevenson SP-** Visitation low with the warmer temperatures.

### PARK UPDATES

- Vine Trail Update: The contractor is active along the trail including prepping for park tread application in the CalFire section. Contractor removed large tree that fell in March. A large Oak was damaged during work and contractor cut and removed debris.
- Park aid training continued for new hires in June and additional lifeguard training was completed for re-certifications.
- Crush Cancer Napa Valley held a hiking and fundraising event at the park on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Kerry Brackett held her monthly Eco fitness hike on June 13<sup>th</sup> with ten enthused participants.
- Junior Ranger programs are held every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. for campers and day users.
- Two events were scheduled for California State Parks Week. An eco fitness hike on Thursday for the health and wellness theme had no sign ups, while the Wildfire Resilience/3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday hike had 8 participants.
- State Parks Trail Crew completed construction of a new bridge on the Southfork Trail.
- Staff and volunteers completed clearing and brushing of the Upper Ritchey Creek Trail to the Traverso Homestead.
- A small fire started on June 24<sup>th</sup> on private property northwest of the park boundary. It was kept to less than an acre with aggressive air attack. Reports are that the dozer came down a section of upper Ritchey trail from the neighboring Vinyard.

- A film crew from the Travel Detective, “Hidden Gems” filmed at the Mill on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The show was sponsored by Visit Napa Valley and will include a piece on the Mill and other Napa County hidden gems when it airs next fall.
- Another new docent began training in Visitor Center in June and has interest in supporting garden maintenance. We continue building a local group of volunteers for the park, most have been interested in trail work.
- Staff was fortunately able to find replacement Camp Hosts to fill 2 different unanticipated openings.
- Vine Trail Equipment ordering continues with a storage unit delivered for equipment; a tow behind blower has also been ordered and will be delivered soon.
- The NVSPA membership pool party was moved from the 28<sup>th</sup> of June to August 16<sup>th</sup>.
- NVSPA and NOSD staff are working on park offerings for the Vine Trail opening ceremony and events on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff is continuing to explore options and get cost estimates for Wright House Roof repair.



# California Supreme Court Prevents Initiative 1935 from Reaching November Ballot – And Updates on ACA 1 & ACA 13

ERIC LAWYER

June 20, 2024

Amidst the flurry of budget negotiations and legislative deadlines, there has been a whirlwind of activity as deals are struck to determine the fate of key policies. Concurrently, the ballot initiative process is in full swing. Critical dates are approaching, with the final deadline to qualify measures for the ballot set for next Thursday, June 27. Shortly thereafter, the Secretary of State will finalize the ballot, assigning proposition numbers and drafting the voter information guide for the November 2024 ballot.

The CSAC Board of Directors has adopted formal positions on three ballot measures under the Government Finance and Administration policy area:

1. Opposition to Initiative #1935/21-0042A1, the "Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act"
2. Support of ACA 1
3. Support of ACA 13

As we enter the next phase of the ballot initiative process, we are providing an update on where these initiatives stand.

## "Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act" (Initiative 1935)

*(Note: This measure is also commonly referred to as "Initiative 21-0042A1," the "Taxpayer Deception Act;" or "Limits Ability of Voters and State and Local Governments to Raise Revenues for Government Services," the title assigned to the measure by the Attorney General.)*

Just this morning, the California Supreme Court issued its ruling on whether Initiative 1935, titled the "Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act," by its sponsors, would have been an unconstitutional revision of the California Constitution. The court determined that the measure would "...substantially alter our basic plan of government," and, therefore, "...the proposal cannot be enacted by initiative."

The court's decision prevents the measure from moving onto the ballot for the November election. CSAC CEO Graham Knaus issued a statement on the court's ruling, which took decisive action to protect Californians from unlawful changes to our state constitution.

The CSAC Board of Directors voted to oppose the measure in March 2022 because it would have restricted the ability of the state, counties, other local agencies, and the electorate to approve or collect taxes, fees, and other revenues, and endanger local initiatives that have already been approved by voters. The measure is long, complex, and would have endangered more than 130 local initiatives already approved by voters and at least fifteen state laws passed since January 1, 2022. For a more thorough analysis of the measure, please see the memorandum drafted by CSAC staff.

## ACA 1 – "The 55% Vote for Local Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure Act"

The CSAC Board of Directors voted to support ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry), the "55% Vote for Local Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure Act," at the April 19, 2024, meeting. Then, the measure would have reduced vote requirements from two-thirds to 55 percent for bonds and special taxes that support affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, and critical infrastructure.

Currently, ACA 10 (also authored by Aguiar-Curry), was "gutted and amended" to modify ACA 1 by removing special taxes from the reduced vote requirement. If ACA 10 is enacted, the 55% vote requirement in ACA 1 would apply only to bond

measures.

According to PPIC polling, only 45% of likely voters would support the version of ACA 1 endorsed by the CSAC Board of Directors, while 53% are against it and 2% unsure. The polling on the revised version of ACA 1, which applies only to bonds, is not publicly available.

At the time of writing, ACA 10 was pending a vote on the Assembly floor.

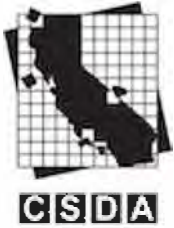
### **ACA 13 – “The 55% Vote for Local Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure Act”**

ACA 13 (Ward) would require that any ballot measure seeking to raise vote requirements receive the same portion of vote requirements to be enacted by voters. In other words, a measure seeking to raise vote requirements from a majority to two-thirds would require approval by two-thirds of voters to enact. If enacted, the measure would have required Initiative 1935 to receive approval by two thirds of voters, because that measure included a provision to raise vote requirements for special taxes proposed by voter initiative. The CSAC Board of Directors voted to support the measure on April 19, 2024.

Following the California Supreme Court’s ruling on Initiative 1935, Assemblymember Ward, the author of ACA 13, released a [statement](#) affirming that ACA 13 would remain on the ballot.

According to the recent PPIC polling referenced earlier, 58% of likely voters would support the measures, with 37% against it.

CSAC will continue to provide updates on these measures as we approach the November election. For any questions on these measures, please reach out to Eric Lawyer, GFA Legislative Advocate at [elawyer@counties.org](mailto:elawyer@counties.org).



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## ACA 13 (Ward) Likely to Come Off November 2024 Ballot



By Marcus Detwiler **June 28**

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Assembly Constitutional Amendment 13 (Ward), currently slated for consideration by California voters in November 2024, appears to be headed for a later ballot in 2026. Recall that ACA 13 would require proposed constitutional amendment initiatives that seek to increase vote thresholds on future ballot measures to pass with that same proportional higher vote threshold (e.g., a measure that would impose a two-thirds vote threshold on future measures would also need to pass with a two-thirds vote).

Assembly Bill 440 was gutted-and-amended yesterday, striking the text of the formerly housing-related legislation introduced by Assembly Member Buffy Wicks and replacing it with the text of an elections measure carried by Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas. The revised AB 440 would effectively remove ACA 13 from the November 2024 ballot and would instead place the measure on the November 2026 ballot. It achieves this by nullifying the application of California Elections Code section 9040 (allowing the measure to appear on a ballot later than the one for the November 2024 general election), calling for a special election and making that election consolidated with the November 2026 general election.

Chat-How Can We Help?



That the Speaker of the Assembly is carrying this legislation underscores the likelihood that the bill will make it through to Governor Newsom’s desk, meaning ACA 13 will likely emerge as another change to the November 2024 ballot following the changes made to ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry, 2023).

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