



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	March 18, 2025
TITLE	Approval of the Minutes for the Board Meeting January 14, 2025
DIVISION	General Manager's Office
FROM	Yolande Barial Knight, Clerk of the Board

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends the Board of Directors approve the attached minutes for the Board Meeting of January 14, 2025.

BOARD MINUTES JANUARY 14, 2025

The Closed Session Board Meeting, which was held January 14, 2025, at East Bay Regional Park District, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605 was called to order at 11:11 a.m. by Board President John Mercurio.

I. ROLL CALL

Directors Present:

John Mercurio, President

Olivia Sanwong, Vice-President (arrived after Roll Call)

Colin Coffey, Treasurer

Dennis Waespi, Secretary

Luana España

Lynda Deschambault

Directors Remote: None

Directors Absent: Elizabeth Echols, Olivia Sanwong, Vice President

Staff Present: Sabrina Landreth, General Manager; Lynne Bourgault, General Counsel

Guests: None.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

None

III. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

(Pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957.6)

Agency Designated Representatives: Allyson Cook, Sabrina Landreth

Employee Organization(s): AFSCME, Local 2428

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant Exposure to Litigation pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(2): [Thirteen Cases]

The Board Meeting, which was held January 14, 2025, at East Bay Regional Park District, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605 called the Open Session of the Board Meeting to order at 1:14 p.m. by President John Mercurio.

I. ROLL CALL

Directors Present:

John Mercurio, President

Olivia Sanwong, Vice President

Colin Coffey, Treasurer

Dennis Waespi, Secretary

Luana España

Lynda Deschambault

Directors Remote: None

Directors Absent: Elizabeth Echols

Staff Present: Sabrina Landreth, General Manager; Lynne Bourgault, General Counsel, Debra Fuller, Yolande Barial-Knight, Max Korten, Amir Azziz, Allyson Cook, Chief Filice, Erich Pfuehler, Amanda Gallo, Lisa Baldinger, José G. González

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director España led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Director Coffey read the land acknowledgment.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

A swearing-in ceremony was held for new Board Members Lynda Deschambault (Ward 2), who was sworn in by her mentee Jensie James; and Luana España (Ward 4), who was sworn in by her cross-country coach and US History teacher Phil Wyler.

President Mercurio called for a 20-minute break.

B. ANNUAL ROTATION OF OFFICERS

President Mercurio announced that he would be assuming the position of the President of the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Mercurio stated item 8.A7 was pulled from the consent calendar.

Moved by **Director Waespi** seconded by **Director Deschambault**, the Board approved the agenda by the following vote:

FOR: Olivia Sanwong, Colin Coffey, Dennis Waespi, Lynda Deschambault, Luana España, John Mercurio
AGAINST: None
ABSENT: Elizabeth Echols
ABSTAIN: None

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

Amelia Marshall, representing California State Horsemen’s Society, Region 5, advocated for the ability to track the public engagement process of the Second Century Plan on the Park District website and implementing a dual track trail wherever feasible on the Garin to Pleasonton Ridge Trail to have a designated track for bicycles and designated track shared by hikers and horses. William Daniel Hough, resident of Berkeley, Firefighter, and President of Local 2428, suggested that the Fire Department move to a 24-hour staffing model to improve services. Sam Nichols shared the story of his father’s commendable 34-year career at the Park District.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

VIII. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

President Mercurio announced item 8.A7 was removed from the consent calendar.

Moved by **Director Waespi** seconded by **Director Deschambault**, the Board approved the Consent Calendar by the following vote:

FOR: Olivia Sanwong, Colin Coffey, Dennis Waespi, Lynda Deschambault, Luana España, John Mercurio
AGAINST: None
ABSENT: Elizabeth Echols
ABSTAIN: None

1. Approval of Park District Check Listing for the Period of October 21, 2024 Through November 3, 2024

Resolution No. 2025 – 01 – 01

2. Approval to Appoint to the Park Advisory Committee: Susie Claxton, Ward 3, Dev Mahadevan, Ward 3, James Chang, Ward 1, Scott Bartlebaugh, Contra Costa Special Districts Association, Paul R. Detjens, Contra Costa County

Resolution No. 2025 – 01 – 02

3. Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District to Provide Aquatic and Educational Services
Resolution No. 2025 – 01 – 03

4. Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with the Hayward Unified School District to Provide Aquatic and Educational Services
Resolution No. 2025 – 01 – 04

5. Ratification of Contract with Vulcan Materials in the Amount of \$65,000 for Emergency Repair Material: Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach
CEQA Determination: Exempt per 14 Cal Code Regs §15269, §15301, §15304
Resolution No. 2025 – 01 – 05

6. Authorization to Award and Execute a Construction Contract in the Amount of \$274,520 with BNO Builders, Inc. for the Upgrade Pool Project: Camp Arroyo Recreation Area
CEQA Determination: Exempt per 14 Cal Code Regs §15301, §15302
Resolution No. 2025 – 01 – 06

7. Authorization to Transfer and Appropriate \$60,000 from Measure WW for Garin-Pleasanton Ridge Trail (WP31-Acquisition) for the Garin-Pleasanton Ridge Public Access Planning Project: Garin and Pleasanton Ridge Regional Parks
Resolution No. 2025 – 01 – 08

8. Authorization for the Air Support Unit to Spend Budgeted Funds to Pay Outstanding Bill of \$60,012 to Advanced Helicopter Services
Resolution No. 2025 – 01 – 09

ITEM PULLED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Authorization to Execute Contract in the Amount of \$400,000 with Civicorps to Perform Trail Work CEQA Determination: Exempt per 14 Cal Code Regs §15301, §15302, §15304, §15307, §15308, §15061(b)(3)

This item was removed from the agenda and will be moved to a future meeting.

B. GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE

I. Revised Land Acknowledgement Statement and Guidelines

José G. González, Equity Officer presented the informational staff report.

Director Sanwong suggested visiting Mission San Jose and seeing the recent changes made to their museum exhibits. Director Deschambault expressed caution based on her experience working at a federal agency and asked if there was a reason the line “to live in reciprocity, in relationship with nature,” was removed from the acknowledgement. González and Annamarie Guerrero, Principal Planner of Cultural Resources, provided clarification to address these comments.

Moved by Director España seconded by Director Mercurio, this motion did not pass by the following vote:

FOR: Luana España, John Mercurio, Olivia Sanwong
AGAINST: Colin Coffey, Dennis Waespi
ABSTAIN: Lynda Deschambault
ABSENT: Elizabeth Echols

The vote was 3 Ayes, 2 Nays and 1 Abstention. This motion did not pass per Board Operating Guidelines “No Ordinance, resolution, or motion shall have any validity or effect unless passed by the affirmative votes of at least four Directors.” 4.2.3

2. Authorization to Enter into a Contract for Services with Kountoupes Denham Carr & Reid in the Amount of \$156,000 for General Federal Advocacy Consulting Services

Erich Pfuehler, Division Lead for Government and Legislative Affairs presented the staff report.

Director Sanwong commented on leveraging bipartisanship in the East Bay. Director Coffey stated he will vote “no” as he would have preferred that Peter Umhoefer remain Chief Federal Advocate. Director Waespi asked for the dollar amount of the previous contract with E2 Strategies in 2024 and for clarification of KDCR’s participation with the 2025 advocacy conference in Washington, D.C. Pfuehler confirmed the 2024 contract was comparable to the contract proposed for 2025 and that KDCR will help with scheduling and logistics as well as developing messaging, strategy, and talking points. Director Waespi stated that he will vote “no” based on Peter Umhoefer’s great record and performance. Director Deschambault asked if there was a proposal submitted from the previous consultant. Max Korten, Deputy General Manager confirmed that three proposals were submitted, and the previous consultant did not put forward a proposal. Director España commented that if the Board does not move forward with one of the proposals as presented, a new Request for Proposals will be required.

Public Comment: Amelia Marshall, California State Horsemen’s Society, Region 5, offered support to support the Park District in its bipartisan efforts.

3. Informational Update on the 2025 Sacramento Advocacy Conference

Erich Pfuehler, Division Lead for Government and Legislative Affairs and Lisa Baldinger, Legislative and Policy Management Analyst presented the staff report.

General Manager Sabrina Landreth commented that packet was printed before the Governor’s budget was released and it will be revised before the advocacy conference.

Director Sanwong commented on wildfire mitigation in eastern Alameda and Contra Costa counties and water conveyance and requested data for San Joaquin Valley. Director Coffey noted that the Board Legislative Committee approved the Hills Conservation Program Plan and chose not to approve the PRC Modernization proposal.

Public Comment: William Hough, President of AFSCME 2428, expressed general support and a concern with increasing the purchasing threshold, as it could result in contracting out work.

Moved by **Director Coffey** seconded by **Director España** and adopted January 14, 2025 by the following vote:

FOR: Luana España, John Mercurio, Colin Coffey, Dennis Waespi, Lynda Deschambault
AGAINST: Olivia Sanwong
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Elizabeth Echols

4. Approval of Proposed Revisions to the Board Operating Guidelines

Amanda Gallo, Assistant to the General Manager, presented the staff report. Gallo highlighted revisions to Section 6.3 and Appendix E.

Director España asked that the review of diversity, equity, and inclusion monitoring does not get removed from the guidelines and inquired about Section E on page 111 regarding community outreach. Gallo replied that the strikethrough of the review of diversity, equity, and inclusion was a mistake and that the Park District is developing a higher-level community engagement strategy that will lie throughout the Park District. General Manager Sabrina Landreth noted that many of the items removed from the guidelines are still being performed by staff but are being removed to make the document more generic and less prescriptive. Director Deschambault suggested to add the General Manager to Sections 3.1.7.B and 3.1.8 on page 111-112. Landreth confirmed that change will be made to make it consistent with the rest of the document.

Director Coffey thanked Amanda Gallo for her work on the document, discussed the role of the Board regarding hiring, dismissal, and oversight of the CFO and General Manager, and provided feedback on the consent calendar. Director Sanwong provided feedback on the Board Operating Guidelines and suggested setting up an ad hoc committee made up of current Board members to review the document before bringing it back to the full Board.

General Manager Landreth suggested moving forward with two sections in the Board Operating Guidelines: removal of Appendix E, and the changes to 6.3.2 regarding travel on page 139. President Mercurio asked staff to provide a clean, updated copy before it comes back to the Board.

Public Comments: William Hough, President of AFSCME 2428, commented on Section 3.1.5 regarding monitoring DEI, and Section 3.1.7 regarding the community outreach programs and the consent calendar on page 122, Board oversight of large budget transfers on page 132, Board minutes on page 125, Appendix D regarding the contracting labor, and the definition of an emergency on page 171. Norm LaForce commented on why the Board Operating Guidelines need to be updated, echoed Directors España and Deschambault's concerns about removing DEI, and advocated against deleting Liaison Committees, specifically with the Livermore Area Recreation.

VIII. GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

General Manager Sabrina Landreth announced that the Park District has 4 Fire personnel working on the Southern California fires.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CLOSED SESSION

No announcements.

X. PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Coffey proposed resurrecting a portion of the annual traditionally closed session that the Board has maintained in connection with the Land Acquisition Study Session, coming up on February 7. General Manager Sabrina Landreth announced a forthcoming proposal to hold two standing closed sessions on land every year.

XI. BOARD COMMENTS

Director Coffey reported on meetings attended. Director Coffey:

- Attended the Operations Committee in December;
- Attended the Legislative Committees in December and January;
- Attended the Contra Costa Mayor's Conference on Jan. 9;
- Attended the Annual Contra Costa County Industrial Association Meeting

Director España reported on meetings attended. Director España:

- Met with Bike East Bay;
- Met with Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay including Scott Bartlebaugh and their Board of Directors;
- Met with PAC Member Irene Dieter and discussed Alameda Point;
- Met with Director Waespi about the Park District and becoming a new Board Member

Director Waespi reported on meetings attended. Director Waespi:

- Met with Pamela Miller to discuss the Board Retreat on Jan. 8;
- Attended the Alameda County Special District Association Meeting on Jan. 8;
- Attended the Finance Committee Meeting on Jan. 8;
- Met with Alisa Marquez, District Supervisor for District 2 in Alameda County and her staff on Jan. 9;
- Attended the Legislative Committee on Jan. 13

Director Deschambault reported on meetings attended. Director Deschambault:

- Attended the Legislative Committee on Jan. 13

President Mercurio reported on meetings attended. Director Mercurio:

- Attended the Board Meeting on Dec. 17;
- Met to discuss Board Committee assignments on Dec. 27;
- Met with Bob Simmons from the Park Advisory Committee on Dec. 30;
- Met with Director Sanwong on Jan. 5;
- Met with Pamela Miller to discuss the Board Retreat on Jan. 7 and Jan. 8;

XII. ADJOURNMENT

President Mercurio adjourned the meeting at 5:52 pm in honor of former Board of Director Doug Siden and his years of service to the Park District and to the community.