



## SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE FISCAL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

### COMMISSIONERS

Mike Sangiacomo (First District)  
Todd Mendoza (Second District)  
Gary Wysocky (Third District)

Ariel Kelley (Fourth District)  
Jorge Inocencio (Fifth District)  
Jeff Owen (Alternate)

### APPROVED MINUTES

Virtual Meeting Due to Sonoma County's Shelter in Place Order

January 5, 2023 | 5:00 pm

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**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Ariel Kelley, Mike Sangiacomo, Gary Wysocky, Jeff Owen, Jorge Inocencio, Todd Mendoza

**STAFF PRESENT:** Misti Arias, General Manager; Lisa Pheatt, County Counsel; Luke Bowman, County Counsel; Julie Mefferd, Administrative & Fiscal Services Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Manager; Catherine Iantosca, Senior Stewardship Specialist; Kelsey Setliff, Stewardship Specialist; Mariah Robson, Executive Secretary

**1. Call to Order**

Commissioner Kelley called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**2. Agenda Items to be Held or Taken Out of Order; Off- Agenda Items**

Commissioner Kelley asked for the Election of Offices item to be moved to between items #13 and #14. All were in favor.

**3. General Announcements Not Requiring Deliberation or Decision**

No general announcements.

**4. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**5. Correspondence/Communications**

No correspondence or communications.

**6. General Manager's Report**

- The Vegetation Management Program Update and Proposed Recommendations for Future PG&E Settlement Expenditures for 2023/24 will go to the Board on January 10, 2023.
- The Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Vital Streams and Forests grant will go to the Board on January 24, 2023.
- The Vegetation Management Healthy Forests Ad Hoc Committee is proposing a request to the Board for \$4,506,500 to support the following areas related to vegetation management efforts:
  - \$3 Million for 2023 vegetation management grants.
  - 600,000 for capacity building through workshops, webinars, field events for community organizations and landowners, and resource managers.
  - \$400,000 to provide technical assistance to regional collaborations such as Sonoma Coast Collaborative, Upper Mark West, Mayacamas, and Bohemian corridor.
  - \$150,000 to update the Sonoma County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) project tracker and the Wildfire Resilience Planner and Wildfire Fuel Mapper software.

- \$356,500 to provide programmatic and administrative support to the Vegetation Management Grant program and the Resilience Coordination Team.

Ag + Open Space has executed 46 vegetation management grant agreements providing \$8.3 million to projects throughout the county.

- On Dec 13, our Board approved the Matching Grant Program funding recommendations for the Lower Colgan Creek and Helen Putnam Regional Park Extension projects. They also approved opening a second application period for the 2022 funding cycle, which is open now through March 10, 2023. You should have received an email from Amy Ricard, Community Resources Manager, with details on this second application period, so feel free to forward that information to entities that may be interested in applying. Our new Grants Coordinator, Pamela Swan, has already been in contact with potential applicants and it looks like we will likely receive several applications with at least one application from each supervisorial district.
- There was an article in yesterday's Press Democrat about the two projects approved during the first round of funding with a mention of this second round of funding. Further, our communications team worked with a reporter at Sonoma Magazine to secure a profile of me and the organization in the January issue. You should have received an email with a link to both articles.
- Lauren Alpert, our former Community Relations Assistant, was recently promoted to Community Relations Specialist. We will be recruiting two Community Relations Assistants in the coming months.

## **7. Approval of Commission Minutes**

On a motion by Commissioner Sangiacomo and a second by Commissioner Wysocky, the December 15, 2022 minutes were approved.

## **8. Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

Ag + Open Space staff would like to create an Appraisal Ad Hoc Committee and to not renew the Acquisition Ad Hoc Committee. They would also like to create a Matching Grant Program Evaluation of Guidelines as well as a Matching Grant Program Application Review Ad Hoc Committee and to continue with the Annual Report/Audit Report Review Ad Hoc Committee.

## **9. Creation of Ad Hoc Committees for 2023 and Assignment of Commissioners**

Annual Report/Audit Report Review (Owen, Sangiacomo)

Appraisal (Owen, Mendoza)

Matching Grant Program Evaluation of Guidelines (Inocencio, Kelley)

Matching Grant Program Applications Review (Sangiacomo, Wysocky)

## **10. Review of Rules of Governance**

Commissioners reviewed the Rules of Governance and agreed on changes to Rule 6 from a 5-minute limit for public comments to a 3-minute limit. The Commission gave direction to staff to bring back the Rules of Governance with changes redlined for approval at the next meeting.

## **11. Forever Forestville Second Amendment**

District staff presented the proposed amendment, fair market value findings, and staff recommendations for Forever Forestville. The Commission was unable to make the fair market value determination without additional information about the impact of the exchange on the West County Trail. Staff offered to come back to the Commission to provide important facts and background information related to the legal instruments that protect the West County Trail extension across the Forever Forestville property.

## **12. Transition Back to In-Person Meetings**

Due to the expiration of statewide COVID-related health orders, Fiscal Oversight Commission meetings will be held in person starting March 1, 2023.

### 13. Election of Officers

On a motion by Commissioner Mendoza and a second by Commissioner Owen, Commissioner Inocencio was elected Chair.

Commissioner Sangiacomo was elected Vice Chair.

Commissioner Mendoza was elected Chair Pro Tempore.

Following the election, Commissioner Inocencio chaired the meeting.

### 14. Projects in Negotiations

Misti Arias, General Manager, gave some highlights of the projects in negotiations:

- The Board approved Vernal Sonoma Pools.
- Chanslor Ranch is moving forward.
- The appraisal is being revised for Denner Ranch.
- McCormick Ranch is on hold for now due to an access issue but hopefully will close by July 2023.

### 15. Suggested Next Meeting

February 2, 2023

### 16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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**AGENDAS AND MATERIALS:** Agendas and most supporting materials are available on the District's website at [sonomaopenspace.org](http://sonomaopenspace.org). Due to legal, copyright, privacy or policy considerations, not all materials are posted online. Materials that are not posted are available for public inspection between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA.

**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:** Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Commission/Committee after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the District office at 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA during normal business hours.

**DISABLED ACCOMMODATION:** If you have a disability which requires an accommodation, an alternative format, or requires another person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact Julie Mefferd at 707-565-7368, as soon as possible to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

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