



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District



Public Comment
Statewide Dredged or Fill Procedures
Deadline: 9/18/17 by 12 noon

GENERAL MANAGER
Stephen E. Abbors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Pete Siemens
Yoriko Kishimoto
Jed Cyr
Curt Riffle
Nonette Hanko
Larry Hassett
Cecily Harris

September 11, 2017

Felicia Marcus Chair and Board Members
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SUPPORT - Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Materials to Waters of the State

Dear Chair Marcus and Board members:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen)**, I am writing to express our support for the proposed statewide wetlands policy regulation (“Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Materials to Waters of the State”), and ask you and the other Board Members to do the same. Comprised of over 63,000 acres of acquired open space, Midpen is one of the largest regional open space districts in California. Our mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

California has lost over 90% of its historic wetlands, and we must do all we can to stop further harm, protect what remains, and rebuild some of what we’ve lost. Wetlands provide important habitat for many native species in this state, such as birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Wetlands improve water quality by filtering water. They also provide key protections from the rising ocean levels, which climate change will bring, and have been shown to be excellent carbon sinks. As part of its plan to resist the effects of sea level rise, San Mateo and Santa Clara County, where Midpen resides, are depending on robust bayside wetlands to help protect adjacent residents and businesses.

Despite all of this, the President has recently acted to roll back federal protections for wetlands. This is wholly unacceptable, and the state must do all it can to protect our resources from federal inaction. The State Water Resources Control Board stands in a unique position to lead in the face of federal retreat. We urge you to use your authority to adopt the statewide wetlands policy.

For these reasons, the **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District** respectfully urge you to use your authority to adopt the statewide wetlands policy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen E. Abbors". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Stephen E. Abbors
General Manager

cc:

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors