

Policy Review Initiative Final Report

Recommended by the Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission for acceptance and approval by the Marin County Open Space District Board of Directors on April 7, 2005

Accepted and approved by the Marin County Open Space District Board of Directors on May 10, 2005



Prepared by:
Marin County Open Space District
County of Marin, Department of Parks and Open Space

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	1
Preface.....	2
Background and Purpose.....	4
Process.....	5
Draft Policies.....	7
Core Land Management Policy.....	7
Fire.....	8
Trails.....	10
Non-Native Plants and Animals.....	12
Special Status Species.....	13
Parking.....	14
Access for the Disabled.....	15
Camping.....	16
Countywide Trail System.....	17
Visitor Amenities.....	18
Public Outreach.....	19
Conclusions.....	20
Appendices	22

Executive Summary

Between September 2003 and November 2004, Open Space District staff and members of the former County Open Space and Trails Committee conducted a review of Open Space District land management policies in 11 policy areas related to core land management, fire, trail use, non-native plants and animals, special status species, parking, camping, visitor amenities, disabled access, countywide and regional trail systems, and public outreach. The product of this endeavor is a set of 51 new policies to guide land management decision making in the subject policy areas.

The subject policy areas were selected by Committee members in the second of two staff-committee retreats held in January and May 2002. In February 2003, the Open Space District's Board of Directors approved the conduct of the Policy Review Initiative and hiring a consultant to assist with public outreach. The project's Public Outreach phase occurred from September 2003 through March 2004, during which the District broadly distributed information about the Policy Review Initiative and existing policies, conducted a survey of Marin County residents, and hosted a series of five community meetings. This phase was followed by a Policy Assessment and Development Phase from April to November 2004, during which the Open Space District staff and members of the Committee developed draft policies and sought public comment on each policy in a series of 13 daytime and evening meetings.

Survey respondents and public meeting attendees identified fire, special status species, and non-native plant and animal policies, besides trails, as the District's highest ranked land management issues, suggesting that these subjects could figure prominently as future land management priorities for the Open Space District.

The new policies would not change public use of District lands in any significant way. Many new policies would provide guidance for day-to-day land management practices that are not presently supported by existing policy. The policies reflect the theme of sustainability contained in the Countywide Plan Update. They also support and complement multiple goals and policies contained in the Marin Countywide Plan Update.

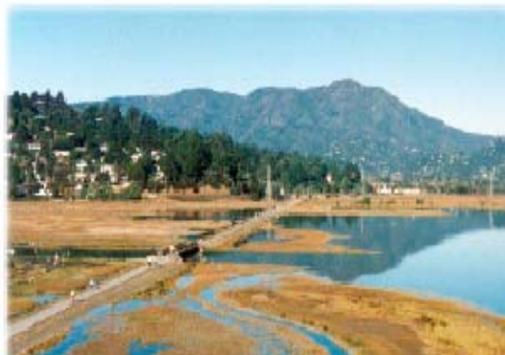
County Counsel has reviewed all policies in this document. Marin County's Environmental Coordinator has determined that the policies are categorically exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. See Appendix.

Preface

The Song Mt. Tamalpais Sings

*Centuries and hordes of us piling up
And then going back to get some more
This is the last place,
there is nowhere else to go.
For we have walked the jeweled beaches
At the final cliffs of man's wanderings.
This is the last place.
There is nowhere else to go.*

Lou Welch



Open space is a defining characteristic of Marin County's landscape mosaic. Among other public lands in Marin, those owned and managed by the Marin County Open Space District define the boundaries of many of Marin's communities and are closest to where most people live in Marin. This juxtaposition of open space and neighborhoods did not occur by chance. It was intentional and first described as a planning concept in the County's seminal land use planning document, *Can the Last Place Last?* Published in 1971, *Can the Last Place Last* set forth a vision for the creation of an open space system that was to be an integral element of Marin's communities and environment. Since then, 34 years later, the Open Space District and other local state and federal agencies have made outstanding progress toward achieving that vision.

Open Space District lands, together with Marin's other public lands, are Marin's 'last places'. They are places that must be properly cared for and protected to maintain and enhance the quality of life enjoyed in Marin. Among other quality of life attributes, District lands provide beauty and inspiration. They clean our air. They contribute to our mental, spiritual, and physical health by offering us places to hike, to ride a bicycle or horse, to admire nature, and to find peace and quiet. A common desire to protect these lands, so that they may be enjoyed generation after generation, strengthens our sense of community.



Apart from their benefits to us, the 'last places' are, literally, the last places to live for plants and animals whose habitats have been destroyed or compromised by our way of life. Land, when acquired and/or managed more or less permanently to protect habitat, is one of many definitions of open space. Rock, soil, swales, trails, canyons, ridges, hills, plants, wetlands, meadows, streams, and animals, and the myriad ecological

interactions among them all, are the constituents of habitat and through them the human benefits of open space are realized. The natural setting of open space, and the limitations placed on the use of open space for the protection of habitat and natural resources, differentiates open space from parks.

Marin voters created the Marin County Open Space District in 1972 as the local agency responsible for creating the system of protected public open space envisioned in *Can the Last Place Last* and set forth in greater detail in succeeding updates of the *Marin Countywide Plan* – the County's land use blueprint. In fact, the Marin Countywide Plan is referenced in the Open Space District's mission:



The Marin County Open Space District's mission is to enhance the quality of life in Marin through the acquisition, protection, and responsible stewardship of ridgeland, baylands, and environmentally sensitive lands targeted for preservation in the Marin Countywide Plan.

Guided by this mission, the Open Space District has acquired over 14,000 acres of natural lands throughout Marin County. The new policies contained in this document reflect the District's strong commitment to responsible land stewardship.

Background and Purpose

This and the following section of this report are focused on the Policy Assessment and Development phase of the Policy Review Initiative. Separate reports – the *Policy Review Initiative Survey Report* (January 2004) and the *Policy Review Initiative Summary Report* (March 2004) – document the Public Outreach phase.

In April 2004 the Open Space District's Policy Review Initiative entered its Policy Assessment and Development phase, having earlier completed its Public Outreach phase that began in September 2003. The purpose of the Policy Assessment and Development phase was to assess existing policies and develop draft policies in the areas of core land management, fire, trail use, non-native plants and animals, special status species, parking, camping, visitor facilities, disabled access, trail systems, and public outreach. To accomplish this, the former Marin County Open Space and Trails Committee held a series of 13 widely noticed meetings to hear public comment and discuss each policy. The Committee possessed as background resources for its discussions:

- the policy white papers released in September 2003
- the results of a public survey conducted in October and November 2003
- a summary of public comments received at five community meetings held between January and March 2004
- written public comments

Process

The committee and staff conducted their work through the following process:

Policy Assessment Workshops:

On the second Wednesday of each month from April 2004 through October 2004, with the exception of September, the former Open Space and Trails Committee held an evening workshop at which:

- Staff presented a set of draft policies for each of several policy areas.
- The Committee asked questions of staff concerning the draft policies
- The Committee heard comments from members of the public.
- The Committee discussed and gave direction to staff concerning revisions to the draft policies



The October workshop was a comprehensive review of all policies accepted by the Committee. At this workshop, staff recommended minor policy revisions limited to the following:

- Correcting grammar and punctuation
- Ensuring consistent formatting
- Ensuring consistent phrasing
- Eliminating unnecessary phrases
- Ensuring that each policy was listed under the most appropriate policy heading
- Ensuring clarity and conciseness

Regular Meetings of the Open Space and Trails Committee

On the fourth Wednesday of each month, from April through November, with the exception of the October, the former Open Space and Trails Committee conducted its regular monthly meeting at which:



- Staff presented a set of revised draft policies for each of the policy areas covered in the previous Policy Assessment Workshop.
- The Committee asked questions of staff concerning the policies
- The Committee heard comment from the public
- The Committee either voted to accept the revised draft policies or the committee asked staff to return at the next regular meeting with a second revision.

District staff provided notice of the meetings through press releases, website postings, mailings, and signs posted at main entrances to Open Space District lands.

At the conclusion of the regular meeting in November, the Committee had accepted a draft set of policies for each of the 11 policy areas under review. It is important to note that the Committee ‘accepted’ but did not formally approve any policies, pending environmental and legal review.

Policies

Note: The following policies are statements of intent rather than absolute directives. Many factors, including multiple priorities competing for limited financial and staff resources, will affect the District's ability to carry out programs and actions supported by these policies.

Core Land Management Policy

Accepted by the Open Space and Trails Committee April 28, 2004

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent

Reviewed by the Open Space and Trails Committee October 13, 2004

Survey Respondents' Ranking of Importance: no data

MCOSD holds lands in trust and in perpetuity for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Marin County. MCOSD shall steward its lands in a sustainable manner, and primarily for resource protection. MCOSD lands shall be available to the public for nature-based, trail-based, and educational uses. MCOSD shall steward its lands so they remain positive assets to the communities they serve.



Fire Policies

Accepted by the Open Space and Trails Committee April 28, 2004

Vote: All policies accepted as follows: 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent

Reviewed by the Open Space and Trails Committee November 17, 2004

Survey Respondents' Ranking of Importance: 2nd of 10

Policy F1

MCOSD shall strive to reduce fire hazard on its lands in partnership with local fire agencies and communities, in recognition of the importance of wildfire prevention to every Marin County resident.

Policy F2

MCOSD shall strive to plan and conduct fire hazard reduction activities in a manner that protects natural resources.

Policy F3

MCOSD shall participate in countywide fire hazard reduction planning.

Policy F4

MCOSD shall assess fire hazard conditions when acquiring new lands and in land management planning.

Policy F5

MCOSD shall determine annual fire hazard reduction priorities on its lands, in consultation with Marin County's fire agencies.

Policy F6

MCOSD shall consider the use of prescribed burns, grazing, and other fire hazard reduction practices to reduce fire hazard and restore or maintain native ecosystems.

Policy F7

MCOSD shall encourage owners of adjoining property to create defensible space surrounding their homes and other improvements.

Policy F8

MCOSD shall strive to resolve issues of defensible space in cooperation with fire agencies, planning authorities, and communities.

Policy F9

MCOSD shall strive to reduce the potential for visitor-caused fires on its lands.

Note: This policy supports MCOSD Code Sections 2.02.080 Games and Miscellaneous Activities, 2.06.010 Fires, 2.06.020 Fireworks, and 2.06.030 Smoking.

Policy F10

MCOSD shall close or place limits on the use of specific properties during times of high fire danger.

Note: This policy supports MCOSD Code Section 2.01.040 Closure of District Lands, and 2.02.020 Use Restrictions.

Policy F11

MCOSD shall provide staff assistance and access to its lands for firefighting and firefighting training conducted by local fire agencies.

Trail Policies

Accepted by the Open Space and Trails Committee July 28, 2004

Vote: Voting results follow each policy.

Reviewed by the Open Space and Trails Committee October 13, 2004

Survey Respondents' Ranking of Importance: 1st of 10

Trail Use Policies

Policy T1a

MCOSD shall allow trail-based uses on open space, because the ability of the public to access and enjoy open space enhances the quality of life in Marin.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent

Note: This policy supports MCOSD Code Section 2.01.030 Lands Open to the Public.



Policy T1b

MCOSD shall permit use of fire protection roads by open space visitors on foot, on a bicycle, and with a saddle animal, but may limit any or all uses when appropriate.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent

Note: This policy supports MCOSD Code Sections 2.02.020 Use Restrictions, 2.04.020 Bicycles, 2.05.020 Horses and Saddle Animals.

Policy T1c

MCOSD shall permit use of trails by visitors on foot and with a saddle animal, but may limit any or all uses when appropriate.

Vote: 10 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent

Note: This policy supports MCOSD Code Sections 2.02.020 Use Restrictions, 2.04.020 Bicycles, and 2.05.020 Horses and Saddle Animals.

Policy T1d

MCOSD shall permit bicycling on trails designated for their use, including (a) new trails that MCOSD builds and designates for shared use and (b) existing trails on new lands, when compatible with natural resource protection and the safety of trail users.

Vote: 8 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain, 2 absent

Note: This policy supports MCOSD Code Sections 2.02.020 Use Restrictions, and 2.04.020 Bicycles.

Policy T1e

MCOSD shall prohibit trail use conduct and other trail use modes that compromise the protection of natural resources or the safety of open space visitors.

Vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 2 absent

Note: This policy supports MCOSD Code Sections 2.02.020 Use Restrictions, 2.02.070 Running and Jogging, 2.02.080 Games and Miscellaneous Activities, 2.02.170 Disorderly Conduct, 2.04.020 Bicycles, 2.04.040 Speed Limits, 2.04.050 Right-of-Way, 2.05.020 Horses and Saddle Animals, and 2.05.030 Animals at Large.

Policy T1f

MCOSD shall discourage the use of trails that are not part of its system of maintained trails, when use of such trails is inconsistent with natural resource protection.

Vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 2 absent

Policy T1g

MCOSD shall prohibit the use of motorized vehicles on open space, with authorized exceptions.

Vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 2 absent

Note: This policy supports MCOSD Code Section 2.04.010 Motor Vehicles.

Trail Design, Construction, and Management Policies

Policy T2a

MCOSD shall use best management practices in the design, construction, and maintenance of trails.

Vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 2 absent

Policy T2b

MCOSD shall strive to coordinate trail design and management with the owners and managers of adjoining lands.

Vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 2 absent

Policy T2c

MCOSD shall strive to provide information, including signs, to trail users that facilitates visitor orientation, nature interpretation, code compliance, and proper trail etiquette.

Vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 2 absent



Non-Native Plant and Animal Policies

Accepted by the Open Space and Trails Committee June 23, 2004

Vote: All policies accepted as follows: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 2 absent

Reviewed by the Open Space and Trails Committee October 13, 2004

Survey Respondents' Ranking of Importance: 4th of 10

Policy NN1

MCOSD shall strive to reduce populations of non-native species, for the benefit of native habitats and species.

Policy NN2

MCOSD should partner with public agencies, non-governmental organizations, and landowners in regional and countywide planning to reduce populations of non-native species.

Policy NN3

MCOSD shall inventory populations of, establish control priorities for, and develop control strategies for non-native species.

Policy NN4

MCOSD shall prohibit the intentional introduction of non-native species.

Note: This policy supports MCOSD Code Section 2.02.180 Introduction of Organisms.

Policy NN5

MCOSD should minimize the unintentional introduction of non-native species.

Policy NN6

MCOSD should support and participate in research concerning the control of non-native species.

Policy NN7

MCOSD shall accommodate remnants of non-native species when they contribute to an understanding of historic and cultural landscapes.

Special Status Species Policies

Accepted by the Open Space and Trails Committee June 23, 2004

Vote: All policies accepted as follows: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 2 absent

Reviewed by the Open Space and Trails Committee October 13, 2004

Survey Respondents' Ranking of Importance: 3rd of 10

Policy SS1

MCOSD shall protect and enhance the habitats of indigenous plants and animals. Those whose survival is threatened, endangered, or tenuous, or whose regional presence is rare, shall be given special protection. Such plants and animals shall be referenced in the following policies as "Special Status Species".



Photo: B (Moose) Peterson

Policy SS2

MCOSD should partner with public agencies, non-governmental organizations and landowners in regional and countywide efforts to inventory Special Status Species and to develop regional habitat conservation plans that protect Special Status Species, wildlife corridors, ecosystems, and biodiversity.

Policy SS3

MCOSD shall develop strategies to protect Special Status Species and their habitats, including strategies to resolve conflicts between public use of District lands and the protection of Special Status Species and their habitats.

Policy SS4

MCOSD shall prohibit visitor conduct that harms Special Status Species or the quality of their habitats.

Note: This policy supports MCOSD Code Sections 2.02.010 Compliance with All Laws, Regulations and Signs, 2.02.090 Firearms, Traps and Other Weapons, 2.03.020 Botanical Resources, 2.03.030 Wildlife and Animal Resources, 2.05.010 Dogs and Other Animals.



Photo: Katherine Rambo

Parking Policies

Accepted by the Open Space and Trails Committee June 23, 2004

Vote: All policies accepted as follows: 9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 2 absent

Reviewed by the Open Space and Trails Committee October 13, 2004

Survey Respondents' Ranking of Importance: 5th of 10

Policy P1

MCOSD shall rely primarily on public rights-of-way to provide the parking capacity necessary to serve open space visitors arriving by motorized vehicle.

Policy P2

MCOSD shall strive to provide multiple points of entry to open space, to maximize available parking capacity and to avoid concentrating access.

Policy P3

MCOSD shall encourage open space visitors to walk, bicycle and carpool to open space.

Policy P4

MCOSD should partner with police and fire departments to enforce lawful parking at entrances to open space.

Note: This policy supports MCOSD Code Sections 2.02.010 Compliance with All Laws, Regulations and Signs, and 2.04.060 Parking and Vehicle Removal.

Policy P5

MCOSD may seek increased parking capacity on a case-by-case basis when necessary for public safety.

Access for the Disabled Policies

Accepted by the Open Space and Trails Committee August 25, 2004

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent

Reviewed by the Open Space and Trails Committee October 13, 2004

Survey Respondents' Ranking of Importance: 10th of 10

Policy D1

MCOSD shall strive to provide access and programs for people with disabilities within the context of its mission, policies, legal requirements, and lawful exemptions.

Note: This policy supports MCOSD Code Section 2.02.010 Compliance with All Laws, Regulations and Signs.

Camping Policies

Accepted by the Open Space and Trails Committee August 25, 2004

Vote: All policies accepted as follows: 7 yes, 3 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent

Reviewed by the Open Space and Trails Committee October 13, 2004

Survey Respondents' Ranking of Importance: 9th of 10

Policy C1

MCOSD may offer opportunities for primitive camping to enhance enjoyment of open space.

Policy C2

MCOSD shall manage camping and limit camping opportunities to reduce fire hazard, protect resources, promote safety, promote good relations with neighbors, and prevent the misuse of camping privileges.

Note: This policy supports MCOSD Code Section 2.02.060 Camping.

Countywide Trail System Policies

Accepted by the Open Space and Trails Committee September 22, 2004

Vote: Voting results follow each policy.

Reviewed by the Open Space and Trails Committee October 13, 2004

Survey Respondents' Ranking of Importance: 6th of 10

Policy TS1

MCOSD shall strive to implement the Trails Element of the Marin Countywide Plan, and regional trail systems through Marin County, in a manner that is considerate of landowner interests and consistent with the protection of natural, visual, and cultural resources.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent.

Policy TS2

MCOSD may acquire public trail rights through private lands to implement the Trails Element of the Marin Countywide Plan.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent.

Policy TS3

MCOSD shall strive to implement a countywide public trail system in partnership with public agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent.

Policy TS4

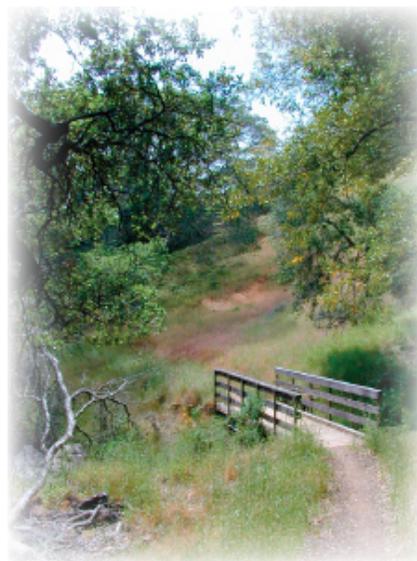
MCOSD may manage public trails owned by others when such trails connect to adjacent MCOSD lands, or when MCOSD is reimbursed for management expenses.

Vote 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent.

Policy TS5

MCOSD shall strive to apply its trail policies and ordinances to trails managed by MCOSD on private lands and other public agency lands.

Vote: 10 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain, 0 absent.



Visitor Amenities Policies

Accepted by the Open Space and Trails Committee September 22, 2004

Vote: All policies accepted as follows: 10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent.

Reviewed by the Open Space and Trails Committee October 13, 2004

Survey Respondents' Ranking of Importance: 7th of 10

Policy VA1

MCOSD may accommodate visitor amenities that maintain the natural character of open space, enhance resource protection, or contribute to the enjoyment and understanding of open space.

Policy VA2

MCOSD may provide visitor amenities such as:

- a) informational displays and signs;
- b) portable restrooms in areas where group use is seasonally frequent;
- c) facilities for watering and tying equines; and
- d) bicycle racks.

MCOSD may allow visitor amenities such as:

- a) facilities to encourage the pickup and disposal of pet waste;
- b) other equine facilities; and
- c) potable water

when neighborhoods, communities, or others partner with MCOSD and contribute funding and/or labor necessary for their purchase, installation, and maintenance.



Public Outreach Policies

Accepted by the Open Space and Trails Committee September 22, 2004

Vote: All policies accepted as follows: 10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent.

Reviewed by the Open Space and Trails Committee October 13, 2004

Survey Respondents' Ranking of Importance: 8th of 10

Policy PO1

MCOSD shall conduct public outreach to inform Marin County residents and open space visitors of its mission, lands, resources, and programs; to enhance visitor appreciation and the educational value of open space; to encourage compliance with the Open Space District Code; and to promote good relations with neighbors.



Policy PO2

MCOSD shall encourage public participation in its decision-making processes and, specifically, encourage the participation of neighborhoods and communities in discussions of issues affecting their interests.

Policy PO3

MCOSD shall direct its public outreach primarily to Marin County residents.

Policy PO4

MCOSD shall accommodate non-English speaking visitors by providing outreach in multiple languages.

Conclusions

1. Survey results and general public interest in fire hazard management, protection of special status species, and the reduction of non-native plant and animal populations suggest that these are emerging, long-term stewardship priorities for the District. The deliberations associated with policy development clearly showed that there are important land management needs competing for limited staff time and financial resources. The District's future annual budgets and performance plans should support goals, objectives, and initiatives that address these priority land management needs.

Among policies related to resource management, fire, special status species, and non-native plants and animals generated the most discussion at the public meetings. Fire policies drew considerable attention from representatives of local fire agencies attending the meetings. The staff to staff contacts made at these meetings have already led to increased collaboration between senior management of the Open Space District, the Marin County Fire Department, and representatives of other local fire departments on matters ranging from creating defensible space to the setting of fuel reduction priorities on District lands.

2. New policies do not result in any major changes with regard to the public's use of District lands. This outcome is consistent with the results of the survey conducted in November and December 2003 showing that, for all policy areas, 65 to 80 percent of respondents agreed with existing policies or practices. Although there was spirited debate associated with many draft policies, in the end nearly every policy was unanimously accepted by the 11 member Open Space and Trails Committee.

Trail policy deserves special mention because bicycle use of open space has been a contentious issue for over a decade, dividing open space visitors who would otherwise be united in their enjoyment of and support for open space. This is the subject that generated the most attendance at policy review meetings, and the most written comments. The development of trail policy dominated three of the 12 public meetings held in the project's Policy Assessment and Development phase. Eventually, despite their diverse viewpoints on the subject of trail use, Committee members accepted nearly all trail policies unanimously.

3. New policies have been developed that support land stewardship practices for which there has been no policy basis, or for which existing policies are not clear. Many new, unambiguous policies have emerged from the Policy Review Initiative to guide staff's stewardship of District lands. Before the Policy Review, the District did not possess policies related to, for example, the management of fire hazard, special status species, or non-native plants and animals. Now that these and other new policies have been developed, the public and District staff have a point of reference from which to examine existing stewardship practices, and a starting point from which to develop and implement new stewardship programs and practices.

4. New policies support and complement multiple goals, policies, and programs contained in the Marin Countywide Plan Update. This is the first time that the Marin Countywide Plan and Open Space District policies are being reviewed simultaneously. This unplanned but fortunate circumstance allowed the Policy Review Initiative to reflect the Countywide Plan’s theme of sustainability, and allowed the District to review and develop its policies in the context of the County’s Open Space and Trails policies. The success of these separate but coordinated efforts suggests that the Open Space District should conduct its next policy review when the Countywide Plan is updated again.

5. Successful implementation of land management programs and actions based on these policies requires awareness of the relationships between policies. Close relationships exist between multiple policies, particularly those related to fire, non-native plants and animals, and special status species. For example, measures to reduce fire hazard in the wildland-urban interface must be carefully implemented to protect populations of special status species, and to avoid colonization of fuel breaks by non-native plants. The core land management policy will be a useful reference when it is necessary for staff and decision makers to assess the merits of and balance competing land management priorities.

Appendix A: Contributors

The following individuals were principally involved in the conduct of the Policy Review Initiative:

Members of the County Open Space and Trails Committee*

Al Baumann
Connie Berto
John Catts
Carol Colbert
Rick Fraites**
Nancy Helmers**
Bill Long**
Linda Novy
Phil Paisley**
Jean Starkweather
Marin Unversaw
Todd Werby

*The Open Space and Trails Committee was a standing committee of the Marin County Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Commission. The committee ceased to exist when the Marin County Board of Supervisors reorganized the Commission on December 1, 2004.

** Member of the ad hoc Policy Review Subcommittee.

Staff of the Marin County Open Space District

Ronald Miska, Assistant General Manager
Chris Bramham, Open Space Superintendent
David Hansen, Planning and Acquisition Manager
Mischon Martin, Resource Ecologist
James Raives, Senior Open Space Planner

Consultant for the Public Outreach Phase

Sharon McNamee, project manager for Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc.

Appendix B: Categorical Exemption filed to fulfill requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

See following page.

249917

FILED

FILING REQUESTED BY AND
WHEN FILED RETURN TO:

Marin County Open Space District
3501 Civic Center Drive, #415
San Rafael, CA 94903

FEB 08 2005

MICHAEL J. SMITH
MARIN COUNTY CLERK

BY _____
DEPUTY

Attn: Ronald Miska, Assistant General Manager

J. WHITNEY

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Marin County
Environmental Coordination and Review

October 14, 2004

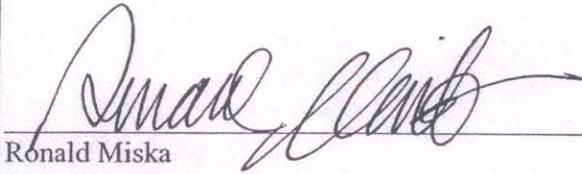
- 1. **Project Name:** Policy Review Initiative
- 2. **Project Location:** Not Applicable
- 3. **Project Description:** The Policy Review Initiative is a review of 11 land management policy areas guiding the use and management of the Marin County Open Space District's 14,000+ acres of public open space in Marin County, California. The fifty policies developed in the course of the project are related to core land management, trail use, fire, non-native plants and animals, special status species, parking, camping, disabled access, countywide trail system, visitor amenities, and public outreach.
- 4. **Public Agency Approving Project:** Marin County Open Space District Board of Directors
- 5. **Project Sponsor:** Marin County Open Space District
- 6. **CEQA Exemption Status:** Section 15308 Action by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources.
- 7. **Reasons for Exemption:** The new policies developed through the Policy Review Initiative give general, long-term guidance for the protection of natural, visual and cultural resources on District lands. The use and management of District lands will not change significantly as a result of the approval of these policies. Many policies restate existing policies in a more concise manner, and with specific reference to resource protection. Compared to existing policies, the new policies do not commit the Open Space District to or identify specific programs or activities that, if implemented, could have environmental impacts. If and when the District decides to pursue specific programs and activities related to these policies, further environmental review will be conducted at that time.

C-05-139

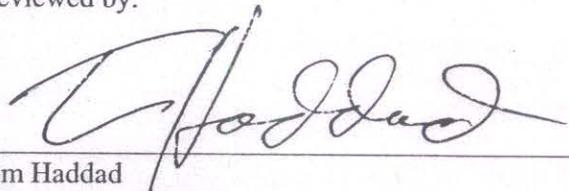
POSTED 2/8/05 TO 3/10/05

Project Coordinator:

Reviewed by:



Ronald Miska
Assistant General Manager
Marin County Open Space District



Tim Haddad
Environmental Coordinator
Marin County Community Development Agency

Telephone: (415) 499-6391