



## Citizens' Advisory Committee

Memo-21-17

Meeting 21-05

September 27, 2021

To: Citizens' Advisory Committee  
From: Marc Landgraf, External Affairs Manager and Lena Eyen, Legislative Specialist  
Subject: Land Use and Climate Policy Partner Update

**Commented [AR1]:** I noticed the date needs to be changed. Does the Memo# and Meeting# need to be changed, too?

### REVENUE/COST

There is no cost associated with this item.

### BACKGROUND

On December 10, 2020, staff received guidance from the Board of Directors that set the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's (Authority's) 2021 legislative and policy priorities. In September 2020, and in January 2021, staff also received inputs from the Authority's Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) on legislative priorities.

These priorities are all relevant to and support the implementation of the Authority's mission and cover a spectrum of policies and policymakers from local jurisdictions, like cities and the County of Santa Clara, all the way to regional, state, and federal levels.

To provide further background on the Authority's pursuit of legislative and policy objectives, a summary of engagement levels, priorities, and collaborations the Authority participates in, is provided below.

Legislative and policy priorities are approached with an intentional "level of engagement." These levels are defined as:

- Monitor (low engagement level): to be listed on the Authority's Legislative Affairs Tracker to ensure that updates and/or changes are noted and responded to when necessary
- Engage (medium): to act as a stakeholder and share technical knowledge or expertise when relevant
- Support/oppose (high): to help educate and share information on the impact of a policy/project
  - o Express support/opposition: to submit, through official channels, a written or verbal declaration of support or opposition directly to another organization, agency, or elected official
- Sponsor/co-sponsor (highest): to be recognized and listed as an official sponsor

Legislative and policy priorities for 2021 provided via guidance from our Board of Directors:

- Conservation, Restoration, and Ecosystem Services
- Agriculture and Food Systems

- Climate-Resilient Land Use and Development
- Stewardship and Equitable Public Access

A sampling of coalitions and collaborations in which the Authority participates:

- TOGETHER Bay Area
- Statewide Wildlife Corridor Working Group (WCWG)
- Santa Cruz Mountain Stewardship Network (SCMSN)
- California Climate and Agricultural Network (CalCAN)
- California Special Districts Association (CSDA)

Examples of other partners with which the Authority engages with on legislative and policy matters include:

- City of San Jose
- County of Santa Clara
- Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency (VHA)
- Santa Clara County Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO)
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)/Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)
- Members of the California State Legislature
- California State agencies, such as the Office of Planning and Research (OPR)
- Members of Congress

As staff engage in legislative affairs, they strengthen existing relationships and build new ones with community leaders and elected officials and continue to build partnerships with both conservation and non-conservation focused agencies, organizations, and collaboratives throughout the Authority's jurisdiction. Staff also seek to integrate the values of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility as driving principles in all of the agency's policy work.

### **DISCUSSION**

Staff will present an overview of selected recent engagement on legislative, and policy matters relevant to the Authority's mission, with particular focus on topics related to land use and climate. Staff will discuss the partners we work with on these matters, including details on how we work together.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is informational only.