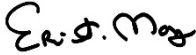


AGENDA ITEM NO. 6-H

MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT BOARD REPORT

DATE: April 1, 2026
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Eric Morgan, General Manager 
SUBJECT: Authorization for the General Manager to Submit a Letter and Proposed Amendments Regarding Assembly Bill 1548 (Pellerin) – Monterey Bay Area Stewardship Authority (MBASA)

SUMMARY

This item requests that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to submit a formal letter to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee regarding AB 1548 (Pellerin). The legislation proposes the creation of the [Monterey Bay Area Stewardship Authority \(MBASA\)](#), a new regional entity designed to secure and allocate funding for land stewardship and climate resilience across Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with receiving this informational presentation.

FUNDING SOURCE

Not Applicable.

FUNDING BALANCE

Not Applicable.

DISCUSSION

On February 4, 2026, the Board received an informational presentation from the Trust for Public Land (TPL) regarding the early development of the MBASA legislation. On March 9, 2026, the [formal bill language for AB 1548](#) was officially published, and Assemblymember Gail Pellerin publicly announced the introduction of the bill on March 10. AB 1548 has been double-referred to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee

and the Assembly Local Government Committee. The bill is scheduled to be heard in the Natural Resources Committee as early as April 6, 2026, followed by the Local Government Committee on April 22, 2026. The bill's sponsors have requested that stakeholder support letters be submitted to the legislative portal by April 1 to meet the Natural Resources Committee's strict April 3 deadline.

While the broad intent of AB 1548 strongly aligns with MPRPD's mission to preserve and steward open space, the current draft legislation lacks specific safeguards to ensure MBASA would compliment and not duplicate existing local stewardship entities. The bill's sponsors have indicated a willingness to continue working with MPRPD on these concepts as the legislation moves through the committee process.

To ensure the District remains an active and collaborative stakeholder, the General Manager has drafted the attached letter (**ATTACHMENT 1**) to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

The letter expresses overall support for the regional funding concept, while establishing the District's request that the following operational refinements be addressed:

- Robust Board Representation: Ensuring special districts, with their separately elected boards and specialized expertise in land conservation, are explicitly represented on the MBASA governing board
- Supplemental Resource Protections: Requiring mechanisms that maximize the supplemental nature of new regional resources so they do not supplant or jeopardize the primary funding sources MPRPD relies on for daily park maintenance.
- Safeguarding Local Priorities: Promoting coordinated revenue planning to protect existing voter-approved commitments and prevent an unreasonable cumulative tax burden on shared electorates.

Submitting this letter will formally place MPRPD's policy priorities on the legislative record ahead of the upcoming committee hearings, allowing the General Manager and staff to continue negotiating on the District's behalf.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize the General Manager to finalize and submit the attached letter regarding AB 1548 to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee via the Legislature's position letter portal prior to the April 3, 2026 deadline.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Draft Letter Of Support to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee RE: AB 1548](#)
2. [California Assembly Bill 1548 - Monterey Bay Area Stewardship Authority](#)