

## RESOLUTION NO. 03-74

### **A RESOLUTION OF INTENTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, SUPPORTING AND ENDORSING THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT'S PROPOSED EXTENSION OF ITS BOUNDARIES TO THE SAN MATEO COUNTY COAST TO PRESERVE OPEN SPACE AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

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WHEREAS, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a special district formed in northwestern Santa Clara County in 1972 (and extended to southern San Mateo County in 1976) for the purpose of preserving and managing open space lands within its jurisdiction on the San Francisco peninsula; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Altos is within the jurisdiction of the District, and its constituents have reaped the priceless benefits provided by the District, many utilizing the lands for recreational purposes, others enjoying the unspoiled scenic backdrop provided by District lands, and all secure in the knowledge that these unspoiled open space lands are permanently preserved for their children, and the generations beyond; and

WHEREAS, public agencies, land trusts, and other non-profit entities, some of which currently own open lands west of Skyline Boulevard and on the San Mateo County coast, have indicated a great need for District services in providing for additional open space preservation and in providing experienced, long-term stewardship and management for those open space lands, especially in light of current budget constraints at the federal, state and county level which restrict other government agencies' ability to provide these services; and

WHEREAS, in response to these requests and this need, the District is considering extending its boundaries so that it may provide services to preserve and manage open space lands west of Skyline Boulevard, preserve agricultural lands on the coast, preserve the rural character of the coastal region, provide land management services for other land-owning agencies, enhance fire protection and public safety through the increased presence of its highly skilled field staff, and

WHEREAS, through this proposed annexation of the coastside, the District will greatly enhance the protection of the pristine, "world-class" natural beauty, open spaces and agriculture of the San Mateo County coast, from the southern boundary of Pacifica to the Santa Cruz/San Mateo County Line and from Skyline to the sea, one of the last remaining unspoiled coastlines so near to one of the world's major urban areas; and

WHEREAS, the District's annexation proposal envisions purchasing (from willing sellers only, and often through acquiring conservation or agricultural easements) and/or managing up to 11,800 acres of pristine public open space and continuing-use agricultural land, over the next 15 years, thereby allowing orderly development, yet preventing urban sprawl; and

WHEREAS, if successful, the District's efforts will provide the people of the City of Los Altos and for the entire region expanded opportunities for public access on the coastside, increased resources for maintaining the physical and economic integrity of Coastal agricultural lands, elected representation for the coastside area on the District's board of directors, enhanced community programs in environmental education and open space volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, such an extension would have no financial impact on the City of Los Altos, would have insignificant financial effect on other government agencies or services within the proposed annexation area, and would not change any land use designations or land use control, as the District does not have any regulatory or zoning authority, but would offer the District, on behalf of the public, the opportunity to contribute its services to open space and agricultural preservation and long-term stewardship efforts, subject to all local, state, and federal land use regulations and in compliance with all city and San Mateo County General and Coastal Plans; and will be the most efficient and effective way to provide these needed services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED for the reasons stated above that the City of Los Altos does hereby endorse and support the extension by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District of its boundaries to include lands west of Skyline Boulevard from the southerly limits of the City of Pacifica to the San Mateo/Santa Cruz County line.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Los Altos does hereby urge the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to file an application for the annexation of all of this territory with the San Mateo County Local Agency Formation Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Los Altos does hereby urge, if such an application is submitted, that the San Mateo County Local Agency Formation Commission approve the application of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District for the extension of its boundaries to include all of the territory west of Skyline Boulevard from the southerly limits of the City of Pacifica to the San Mateo/Santa Cruz County Line.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos at a meeting thereof held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2003, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Mayor Casto, Councilmembers Becker, La Poll, Lear and Moss

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

  
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KRIS CASTO, MAYOR

Attest:

  
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CAROL SCHARZ, CITY CLERK