

# **SCC Parks and SCV Water District – Master Partnership Agreement DRAFT Statement of Shared Principles (May 18, 2017)**

## **Core Principles:**

1. The District and the County share common goals and service populations. Our land holdings are inextricably linked and the public does not recognize any demarcation in ownership, but rather values the seamless access and recreational experience our joint system provides. Our agencies have worked together for the common good of the Santa Clara County community for over 60 years.
  - a. SCVWD Act and Ends Policies describe the following purposes and goals for the District:
    - i. Enhance, protect, and restore streams, riparian corridors, and natural resources... (District Purpose 7)
    - ii. Preserve open space in Santa Clara County and support the county park system... (District Purpose 8)
    - iii. To acquire, construct, maintain, and install landscaping or recreational facilities in connection with any dam, reservoir, or other works owned or controlled by the district. (District Purpose 16)
    - iv. Improve quality of life and support healthy communities by providing public access to District facilities and additional trails, parks, and open space along creeks and in the watersheds. (District Ends Policy 4.2.1&2 combined)
  - b. The County General Plan identifies numerous strategies, policies, and goals to support a regional system of parks, trails; and protect natural resources, including water quality, and biotic habitats. The general plan further identifies inter-jurisdictional coordination as a key strategy to achieving these goals.
  - c. SCC Parks Mission and Vision describe the following purposes and goals for the Parks and Recreation Department:
    - i. Provide, protect, and preserve regional park lands for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.
    - ii. Provide a diverse regional parks, trails, and natural areas that connects people with nature, supports healthy lifestyles, offers outstanding visitor experiences... while balancing recreational opportunities with the preservation of natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources.
2. Providing safe, reliable drinking water, and providing for a safe community and healthy environment through managing natural resources, including watersheds and riparian areas and mitigating flood risk is generally compatible with providing for public access and recreational use of the shared system of land and facilities managed by the District and the County.
3. Stewarding these resources and providing public access to these lands and facilities is a shared responsibility. Our agreements and policies should recognize the unique relationship of County Parks and District.

**Board of Supervisors:** Mike Wasserman, Dave Cortese, Ken Yeager, S. Joseph Simitian, Cindy Chavez

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4. Collaboration, leveraging our individual strengths, and sharing resources can maximize the public good and generate efficiencies to each agency.
5. Our agreements and working relationship should seek to maximize collaboration, respect the priorities and requirements of each agency, and minimize conflict. This collaborative approach should be consistently defined as a line staff responsibility and the leadership of each agency should seek to empower its staff to make decisions that promote our mutual goals. A periodic review of the working relationship between the agencies to ensure implementation of this collaborative culture would be beneficial.
6. By allowing for public access and recreational use of District property, the District supports Park purposes and supports its own goals of promoting public access and use.
7. The County's operation of District property enables Parks to enhance its public mission and service delivery to the public; Park's management of District property also supports the District's other purposes and relieves the District of substantial costs associated with the management of those lands and facilities.
8. Mutual systematic and early engagement and coordination in policy development, system planning, land acquisition, and capital improvement projects will enable both agencies to better fulfill our joint and complementary public roles.

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