

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT APPROVING SHARED  
PRINCIPLES AS A FRAMEWORK FOR THE LAND USE RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN THE PARTIES**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors (“County”) and the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (“District”) held a joint meeting on May 18, 2017 related to public recreation at District property, including reservoirs and other joint engagements between the parties; options to develop a master partnership agreement between the parties that would both replace the Master Reservoir Lease and expand the scope of cooperation to other areas of mutual interest, including trails development, natural resource management, and public recreation at District facilities to obtain direction regarding mutual commitments and processes to coordinate efforts directly for, or associated with, recreation, including planned land acquisition, construction of recreational improvements, pond/lake and stream reconfiguration, and trail development; and,

**WHEREAS**, based on direction from both Boards at the May 18, 2017 meeting, County and District staff have collaborated to develop certain shared principles (the “Shared Principles”) as stated herein below:

1. **Common Goals and Service Populations.** The District and the County share common goals and service populations. A portion of our land holdings are inextricably linked, and the public does not recognize any demarcation in ownership, but rather values flood protection, safe clean water, environmental stewardship and 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. The Santa Clara Valley Water District Act (“District Act”), along with the District’s Board-approved Ends Policies, sets out District powers and goals which, in some instances, are aligned with the County’s park purposes and goals, including the following:
    - i. Enhance, protect, and restore streams, riparian corridors, and natural resources in connection with carrying out purposes as defined in the District Act (Section 4c (7) of the District Act).
    - ii. Preserve open space and support the County park system in a manner consistent with carrying out purposes as defined the District Act (Section 4c (8) of the District Act).
    - iii. The District has the power to acquire, construct, maintain, operate and install landscaping or recreational facilities in connection with any

dam, reservoir, or other works owned or controlled by the District (Section 5 (16) of the District Act).

- b. The County's Charter provides powers to operate and fund Parks and Recreation functions. The County General Plan identifies numerous strategies, policies, and goals to support a regional system of parks and trails and to 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.

In support of County's General Plan, the Board-approved Strategic Plan establishes the Parks mission and vision:

- i. Provide, protect, and preserve regional parks lands for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.
  - ii. Create and manage a sustainable, vibrant system of regional parks and trails where exceptional visitor services enrich the human spirit and offer all people the opportunity to connect with the County's protected natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources, consistent with responsible resource stewardship.
  - iii. The County General Plan also includes a policy and implementation goals supporting flood protection measures, including resource conservation, preservation of riparian vegetation and habitat, recreation, and scenic preservation of county streams and creeks.
- 2. **Public Access/Recreation Compatible with Watershed Protection.** Providing safe, reliable drinking water, providing for a safe and healthy community and environment through managing natural resources, and mitigating flood risk may be compatible with providing public access and recreational use of the shared system of land and facilities managed by the District and the County, subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and approval from the various permitting agencies.
- 3. **Shared Natural Resources Stewardship Goals.** Both the County and the District have a shared responsibility for watershed stewardship relative to each agency's powers and purpose.
- 4. **Collaboration Leverages Our Strengths and Avoids Waste.** Collaboration on jointly funded District and County projects or endeavors, leveraging our individual strengths, and optimizing each agencies' resources, as appropriate, can maximize the public good and generate efficiencies to each agency. 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;

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of these Shared Principles is to frame the District-County land use relationship for existing and future agreements and interactions relating to County parkland and District properties. These Shared Principles shall be re-evaluated every five years so that the District and County may determine whether to update or revise the Shared Principles which shall only be done by approval of both the County's Board of Supervisors and the District's Board of Directors; and

**WHEREAS**, County's Board of Supervisors and District's Board of Directors individually retain their full legislative discretion to take other actions with respect to this Resolution as each may deem appropriate.

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, and the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, that the Shared Principles are hereby adopted and approved.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, on \_\_\_\_\_, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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S. JOSEPH SIMITIAN, President  
Board of Supervisors

Signed and certified that a copy of this document has been delivered by electronic or other means to the President, Board of Supervisors.  
ATTEST:

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MEGAN DOYLE, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:



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Shirley R. Edwards, Deputy County Counsel

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**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, on \_\_\_\_\_, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
RICHARD P. SANTOS,  
Chair of the Board of Directors

ATTEST:

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Michele King,  
Clerk of the Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian C. Hopper  
Sr. Asst. District Counsel

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