

From: _____
To: [web](#); [Clerk](#)
Subject: Full Board of Directors and District Clerk - Board Contact Form
Date: Monday, April 20, 2015 5:38:19 PM

Name *	Karl Rowley
Select a Choice	Full Board of Directors and District Clerk
Email *	_____
Location: (i.e. City, Address or District Ward)	Sunnyvale, CA

Comments: *

It's now 2015, and it's been nearly 10 years since the purchase of many acres for the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. I am writing you today because I think you need to make access to this land a major priority.

I read on the District web site that the plan for opening this land is delayed. I'm starting to wonder if the planning and study process you are following has become too cumbersome and too expensive. How much money have you spent on paying consultants to study La Honda Creek at this point? We the taxpayers paid for this 5,000-plus acres through our hard-earned tax dollars, and we expect access in a reasonable time frame.

We are now 10 years out from the purchase, well how long is it going to take, another 10-20 years? It shouldn't take this long. If there are endangered species and threatened landscapes, let's identify them right now and decide what to do. Then just go ahead and do it, it doesn't need to take 10 years.

The District got additional funding from the voters in the last election. OK spend the money and open up La Honda Creek for access right now!!!! We paid for it and we deserve it soon!!!!

Please move the whole project back to the FRONT BURNER!!!

Sincerely,

Karl Rowley
20 year Sunnyvale MPROSD taxpayer

DRAFT RESPONSE FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION

May 13, 2015

Karl Rowley


RE: Electronic Comment Dated April 20, 2015 related to public access to La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

Dear Mr. Rowley:

Thank you for submitting your comments regarding the planning process, timing and prioritization for opening La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (La Honda Preserve) to public access. You will be happy to know that two major projects in the La Honda Preserve are on the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (District) work plan for this fiscal year. As you state in your letter, these projects are made possible through the public's support of Measure AA, which is allowing the District to prioritize and ramp up on the implementation of new open space projects in support of land conservation, public access and environmental restoration.

Soon after the successful passage of Measure AA, the District facilitated a public process in September and October 2014 that resulted in the approval of a 5-Year Measure AA Project List by the District's Board of Directors (Board) that identifies the first set of Measure AA projects to be completed (refer to <http://www.openspace.org/measureaa/>). This list includes the following two public access projects at the La Honda Preserve: *(1) Red Barn Complex and trail connections, and (2) Sears Ranch Road staging area and trail connections*. Both projects are scheduled to begin by later summer and will be managed by a new public access capital project manager position, which was approved by the Board specifically to provide staff capacity to implement these two new projects. Recruitment for this position is currently underway, with selection expected by June. In addition, on March 2015, the Board also approved sufficient funding for the design, engineering and permitting of these new public access projects as part of the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget (the District's fiscal year runs from April 1 – March 31). Future fiscal years will include additional project budgets to fund construction. Your letter has reminded us that we need to update our website to inform the public of these new developments and the upcoming implementation projects that the District will be initiating this year.

We realize that it has taken the District some time to get to this point where we can begin focusing on the implementation of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan. In the past, the District has faced many competing priorities, many of which have received the benefit of outside grants and partnerships, which has expediting their implementation and resulted in the delay of other projects such as the opening of the La Honda Preserve. Now, with the recent passage of Measure AA, members of the public, including you, will begin to see great benefits coming from this new secured source of funding as new Preserve areas and recreational amenities are made open to the public.

Finally, in your letter you ask specifically about the prior costs to study the La Honda Preserve. For the Master Plan, the District hired the firm Design, Community, and Engagement at a cost of approximately \$150,000 to assist with the planning process, as well as Ascent Environmental at a

DRAFT RESPONSE FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION

cost of approximately \$55,000 to prepare the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). The Master Plan was approved and the IS/MND was certified by the Board on August 2012. The Master Plan provides a full implementation roadmap for a wide range of public access, natural resource restoration, cultural resource protection, and maintenance/operational projects that can be phased in over the course of 30 years.

I would like to thank you again for taking the time to submit your comments and for providing us the opportunity to respond to questions related to the timing of opening the La Honda Preserve for public access. We share your eagerness to see new Preserve areas made open to the public and hope to see you soon in the near future as we host ribbon cutting celebrations with the public. Please feel free to contact Ana Ruiz, Assistant General Manager, with any other questions or comments via email at aruiz@openspace.org or via phone at (650) 691-1200.

Sincerely,

Pete Siemens, Board President

cc: MROSD Board of Directors
Steve Abbors, General Manager
Ana Ruiz, Assistant General Manager