

From:
To: [web](#); [Clerk](#)
Subject: Full Board of Directors and District Clerk - Board Contact Form
Date: Friday, May 01, 2015 7:56:14 PM

Name * Andy Lott

Select a Choice Full Board of Directors and District Clerk

Email *

Location: (i.e. City, Address or District Ward) Sunnyvale

Comments: *

I am writing to urge the district to include bicycle access to the trails at Bear Creek Redwoods OSP. I am a longtime supporter of the district, and feel the new opportunities presented at Bear Creek should include multi-use trails.

Access from Los Gatos, via the LG Creek Trail, would provide a welcome, safe route to Bear Creek.

Years ago I spoke at a meeting regarding Los Trancos and Picchetti Ranch bicycle access, which was in vain, as both preserves remain closed to bicyclist. Has the district done a study on Los Trancos, to see the usage? This is one Preserve which should be re-opened to bicycles.

I voted for measure AA as a Mountain Biker, and the narrow passage of this measure is due in large part to the Mountain Bike community voter turnout. The district should acknowledge this support and the fact bicyclists are a large user of the preserves, not a fringe community.

Thank you.



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

GENERAL MANAGER
Stephen E. Abbors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Pete Siemens
Yoriko Kishimoto
Jed Cyr
Curt Riffle
Nonette Hanko
Larry Hassett
Cecily Harris

May 27, 2015

RE: Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve Public Access Plan

Dear Mr. Lott,

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) Board of Directors received your communication, dated May 1, 2015, regarding trail access at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. Thank you for your interest in Bear Creek Redwoods and for your stating your desire to see the Preserve trails open to mountain bicycling and to connect to the nearby regional trail, Los Gatos Creek trail. In addition, you also mention your interest in seeing Los Trancos and Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserves opened to bicycles as well, and wondered if current trail use patterns merit a reconsideration of the allowed trail uses at these two Preserves. At this time, the District is focused primarily on delivering the Measure AA-funded projects, which do include the construction of new trails and facilities to open closed areas to public use, including new areas for bicycling use. Based on public input during the development of our Vision Plan, neither Los Trancos nor Picchetti Ranch ranked high for this work, and are therefore not part of the list of 25 Measure AA Project Portfolios. However, Bear Creek Redwoods ranked notably very high, as did Sierra Azul and La Honda Creek Open Space Preserves, both of which will include the opening of new areas and additional trail mileage to bicycle use.

More specifically at this time, Midpen is developing a public access plan for Bear Creek Redwoods that includes hiking and equestrian trails of various lengths and levels of difficulty, and new parking areas to welcome the public to the Preserve. Given the sensitivity of the Preserve's natural resources and ecology, visitor use and enjoyment of these open space lands must be balanced with the resource protection needs of the open space land and its native plants and wildlife. With this in mind and recognizing the desire from bicyclists for a through connection, we are also currently evaluating the feasibility of a multi-use trail (open to mountain bicycling, hiking, and horseback riding) that traverses the periphery of the Preserve to connect Bear Creek Redwoods to nearby regional open spaces. We are still developing our findings regarding this potential trail, which will be presented and discussed at our upcoming public meetings. Please note the following upcoming opportunities to participate in the Preserve Plan development:

June 2, 5:00 pm
Planning and Natural Resource Committee Meeting
Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center, 208 E. Main St., Los Gatos

June 24, 7:00 pm
Board of Directors Regular Meeting (CEQA Scoping Meeting)
District Administrative Office, 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos

For further information about the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan, please do not hesitate to contact project manager Lisa Bankosh at lbankosh@openspace.org.

Thank you again for your interest in Open Space! We hope that you will be able to join us at our upcoming public meetings on the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan and continue to provide your comments and input.

Sincerely,

Pete Siemens,
President
Board of Directors

Cc: Midpen Board of Directors
Stephen E Abbors, Midpen General Manager
Lisa Bankosh, Project Manager

From:
To: [web](#); [Clerk](#)
Subject: Full Board of Directors and District Clerk - Board Contact Form
Date: Sunday, May 03, 2015 12:22:53 PM

Name *	Anne Paulson
Select a Choice	Full Board of Directors and District Clerk
Email *	<input type="text"/>
Location: (i.e. City, Address or District Ward)	1299 Eva Ave
Comments: *	<p>Thanks for having the Bear Creek planning meeting last week. I want to express my support for either (or both!) of the multi-use trail options, the Western Edge Trail and the Eastern Edge Trail. The Western Edge Trail is a through trail, which, as a cyclist, I prefer. I can't tell if the Eastern Edge Trail's upper end connects to a through trail or road.</p> <p>I expect MidPen to fulfill its Measure AA promise to make trails that are available to all users, including cyclists.</p> <p>Please make more trails for bikes.</p>



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Cecily Harris

May 27, 2015

RE: Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve Public Access Plan

Dear Ms. Paulson,

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) Board of Directors received your communication, dated May 3, 2015, regarding trail access at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. Thank you for your interest in Bear Creek Redwoods and for your stating your desire to see the Preserve trails open to mountain bicycling. Measure AA funding is allowing Midpen to focus on opening closed areas to public use, and we are thrilled to be able to offer this recreational resource to the public starting in late 2016.

Through the Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve planning process, Midpen is developing a public access plan that includes hiking and equestrian trails of various lengths and levels of difficulty, and new parking areas to welcome the public to the Preserve. Given the sensitivity of the Preserve's natural resources and ecology, visitor use and enjoyment of these open space lands must be balanced with the resource protection needs of the open space land and its native plants and wildlife. With this in mind and recognizing the desire from bicyclists for a through connection, we are currently evaluating the feasibility of a multi-use trail (open to mountain bicycling, hiking, and horseback riding) that traverses the periphery of the Preserve to connect Bear Creek Redwoods to nearby regional open spaces. As you point out, Bear Creek Redwoods will provide opportunities to evaluate a multi-use trail on the western periphery or the eastern periphery of the Preserve. We are still developing our findings regarding this potential trail, which will be presented and discussed at our upcoming public meetings. Please note the following upcoming opportunities to participate in the Preserve Plan development:

June 2, 5:00 pm
Planning and Natural Resource Committee Meeting
Los Gatos Adult Recreation Center, 208 E. Main St., Los Gatos

June 24, 7:00 pm
Board of Directors Regular Meeting (CEQA Scoping Meeting)
District Administrative Office, 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos

For further information about the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan, please do not hesitate to contact project manager Lisa Bankosh at lbankosh@openspace.org.

Thank you again for your interest in Open Space! We hope that you will be able to join us at our upcoming public meetings on the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan and continue to provide your comments and input.

Sincerely,

Pete Siemens,
President
Board of Directors

Cc: Midpen Board of Directors
Stephen E Abbors, Midpen General Manager
Lisa Bankosh, Project Manager

From:

To: [web](#); [Clerk](#)

Subject: Full Board of Directors and District Clerk - Board Contact Form

Date: Saturday, May 02, 2015 12:07:07 AM

Name *

Eric Solberg

Select a Choice

Full Board of Directors and District Clerk

Email *

Location: (i.e. City, Address or District Ward)

Campbell, ca

Daytime Phone Number (if you wish to be contacted by phone)

(408) 761-1422

Comments: *

I am in favor of opening up bike access in the trails of bear creek redwoods so I can have more options to enjoy narrow trails in our open space parks with my family without having to drive almost an hour.
Thank you!



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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May 27, 2015

RE: Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve Public Access Plan

Dear Mr. Solberg,

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) Board of Directors received your letter, dated May 2, 2015, regarding trail access at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. Thank you for your interest in Bear Creek Redwoods and for your stating your desire to see the Preserve trails open to mountain bicycling so that you may be able to enjoy them while riding a bicycle with your family. As you point out, Bear Creek Redwoods is within close proximity to many people in the south Bay. Measure AA funding is allowing Midpen to focus on opening closed areas to public use, and we are thrilled to be able to offer this recreational resource to the public starting in late 2016.

Through the Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve planning process, Midpen is developing a public access plan that includes hiking and equestrian trails of various lengths and levels of difficulty, and new parking areas to welcome the public to the Preserve. Given the sensitivity of the Preserve's natural resources and ecology, visitor use and enjoyment of these open space lands must be balanced with the resource protection needs of the open space land and its native plants and wildlife. With this in mind and recognizing the desire from bicyclists for a through connection, we are currently evaluating the feasibility of a multi-use trail (open to mountain bicycling, hiking, and horseback riding) that traverses the periphery of the Preserve to connect Bear Creek Redwoods to nearby regional open spaces. We are still developing our findings regarding this potential trail, which will be presented and discussed at our upcoming public meetings. Please note the following upcoming opportunities to participate in the Preserve Plan development:

June 2, 5:00 pm
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June 24, 7:00 pm
Board of Directors Regular Meeting (CEQA Scoping Meeting)
District Administrative Office, 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos

For further information about the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan, please do not hesitate to contact project manager Lisa Bankosh at lbankosh@openspace.org.

Thank you again for your interest in Open Space! We hope that you will be able to join us at our upcoming public meetings on the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan and continue to provide your comments and input.

Sincerely,

Pete Siemens,
President
Board of Directors

Cc: Midpen Board of Directors
Stephen E Abbors, Midpen General Manager
Lisa Bankosh, Project Manager

From:
To: [web](#); [Clerk](#)
Subject: Full Board of Directors and District Clerk - Board Contact Form
Date: Tuesday, May 05, 2015 9:18:20 AM

Name *	Patrick Leal
Select a Choice	Full Board of Directors and District Clerk
Email *	<input type="text"/>
Location: (i.e. City, Address or District Ward)	Los Gatos, CA
Daytime Phone Number (if you wish to be contacted by phone)	(408) 464-0039

Comments: *

I attended the Bear Creek Redwoods meeting last week in Los Gatos and must say I was extremely pleased by the format of the meeting; often times it turns into a soapbox for the differing user groups to lambast others. I felt this format allowed us to have our say in a civilized manner.

As an avid hiker and mountain biker, I am looking forward to the opening of Bear Creek Redwoods to the public. I am also looking forward to accessing the Stables, so that I can take my kids in for equestrian lessons, horse rides, etc. It seems that all user groups will have ample opportunity to find something within Bear Creek Redwoods to enjoy.

The only negative of the night came from the seemingly exclusive equestrian community. This started right out from the get-go, with a pro-equestrian lobbying effort starting their messaging before even entering the community center; since I am advocate for open use for all, I had to respectfully decline the stickers being handed out openly promoting the Bear Creek Stables. (I'd prefer a Open To All Users sticker instead.) I heard a lot of snipping by equestrians whenever a green sticker was placed on the MTB section of the comment board. Again, I am fighting for all user groups to have access to this preserve. I want to mountain bike, yet I can work with equestrians. I don't think that feeling was reciprocated.

All that being said, the preserve is large enough to accommodate all user groups; in fact, segregation is possible if that's what's required to serve all groups. I don't think exclusion of a user group is the answer; Bear Creek will ultimately provide a huge way to link up the various public lands in the area, enabling, for example, mountain bikers to traverse a large portion of the Santa Cruz Mountains on dirt, without using (dangerous) roads (for what it's worth, I don't road bike because I don't like riding with cars).

I hope all groups get equal access to Bear Creek Redwoods. Please make it happen.



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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Cecily Harris

May 27, 2015

RE: Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve Public Access Plan

Dear Mr. Leal,

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) Board of Directors received your communication, dated May 5, 2015, regarding the recent public workshop and future trail access at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. Thank you for your interest in Bear Creek Redwoods and for stating your desire to see the Preserve trails open to all uses. As you point out, Bear Creek Redwoods will provide ample opportunities for outdoor enjoyment and education. Measure AA funding is allowing Midpen to focus on opening closed areas to public use, and we are thrilled to be able to offer this recreational resource to the public starting in late 2016.

Through the Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve planning process, Midpen is developing a public access plan that includes hiking and equestrian trails of various lengths and levels of difficulty, and new parking areas to welcome the public to the Preserve. Given the sensitivity of the Preserve's natural resources and ecology, visitor use and enjoyment of these open space lands must be balanced with the resource protection needs of the open space land and its native plants and wildlife. With this in mind and recognizing the desire from bicyclists for a through connection, we are currently evaluating the feasibility of a multi-use trail (open to mountain bicycling, hiking, and horseback riding) that traverses the periphery of the Preserve to connect Bear Creek Redwoods to nearby regional open spaces. We are still developing our findings regarding this potential trail, which will be presented and discussed at our upcoming public meetings. Please note the following upcoming opportunities to participate in the Preserve Plan development:

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For further information about the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan, please do not hesitate to contact project manager Lisa Bankosh at lbankosh@openspace.org.

Thank you again for your interest in Open Space! We hope that you will be able to join us at our upcoming public meetings on the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan and continue to provide your comments and input.

Sincerely,

Pete Siemens,
President
Board of Directors

Cc: Midpen Board of Directors
Stephen E Abbors, Midpen General Manager
Lisa Bankosh, Project Manager