



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Photos available upon request

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District breaks ground on first public access to Lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

La Honda, Calif.—San Mateo County Supervisor Don Horsley, alongside open space leaders from Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) and Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), broke ground today on lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve’s first trailhead and parking lot. Located off Sears Ranch Road, today’s event marks the start of an ambitious plan for the Preserve, which will ultimately provide public access to over 30 miles of new trail. The first phase includes:

- 6 miles of hiking and equestrian trail
- 22 space parking lot on Sears Ranch Road
- Trailhead restroom
- Interpretive signage

The parking lot and trail are tentatively scheduled to open this November.

“Those who have only peered into La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve’s beautiful landscape from Highway 84 will soon be able to stop and explore it for the first time, thanks in part to those of you who supported open space by voting to pass Measure AA,” said Midpen’s General Manager Steve Abbors. “This project is an exciting first step in realizing the community’s greater vision for public enjoyment of this preserve.”

The \$1.2 million project on Sears Ranch Road is funded by Measure AA, a bond passed by local voters in 2014. When the project is complete, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve will become Midpen’s second area allowing cattle grazing alongside public recreation. Mindego Hill Trail at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve opened to the public in 2016. Midpen uses grazing as a tool to manage healthy grasslands, and as a way to preserve the region’s agricultural heritage.

In 2012, after a lengthy public input process, Midpen completed a comprehensive master plan for La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. The long-term plan supports agriculture, balances public access with environmental stewardship, and benefits both wildlife and the surrounding community. Protecting the environment is the highest priority. A number of watershed and habitat improvements have already been completed at La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, including pond rehabilitation to support threatened species like the California red-legged frog, road and trail upgrades to keep sediment out of creeks, and invasive plant removal.

Photo caption: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board Member Pete Siemens; General Manager Steve Abbors; Board Members Jed Cyr, Curt Riffle, Larry Hassett, San Mateo Supervisor Don Horsley, Board Member Yoriko Kishimoto and Peninsula Open Space Trust Director of Land Programs & Stewardship Daniel Olstein break ground on a new parking lot for Lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. The parking lot and six miles of new trail located on Sears Ranch Road is tentatively scheduled to open in November 2017.

https://www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/LaHondaCreek_GroundbreakingCeremony.jpg



Photo credit: Frances Freyberg

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Created by voter initiative in 1972, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has successfully protected more than 63,000 acres of open space. The District is a California special district governed by an elected board of directors. The District's mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land and agricultural land of regional significance in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

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