

From: [REDACTED]
To: [web; Clerk; General Information](#)
Subject: Full Board of Directors and District Clerk - Board Contact Form
Date: Sunday, September 30, 2018 8:56:59 AM

Name * Ken Lucchesi

Select a Choice * Full Board of Directors and District Clerk

Email * [REDACTED]

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

Comments: *

Dear Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space Board of Directors:

We have for many years deeply appreciated the beautiful and peaceful trails of Rancho San Antonio. Thank you for all you have done to preserve this wonderful area and all of those within the district. Our proposal concerns the parking at Rancho San Antonio.

As you may know, the parking lots at Rancho San Antonio can become full quickly, especially on weekends. On weekends, one needs to arrive by 6:30 AM (or close to the park opening) to be assured a spot. After that point, cars circle around, or wait behind people who have finished their workout or hike, and apply unnecessary pressure to leave quickly. We have heard of verbal conflicts over parking, in fact just last weekend. Parking has been an issue at Rancho since we first started running there over 10 years ago. And it has become worse, despite the nice new parking facility by the Equestrian lot. Not only do the parking pressures disturb the peace that people seek at Rancho, we believe that people too easily drive in alone rather than car pool, resulting in more carbon emissions.

To alleviate the parking situation at Rancho, and assist the MROSD in raising additional revenue, we recommend making the lots at Rancho San Antonio permit only. The public may purchase an annual parking permit placard or a one time use permit from a dispenser in the lot. Electric vehicles would be granted free parking and special reserved spots. To ensure all are able to enjoy the Park, fee waivers could be granted and permits issued to those demonstrating income below a certain threshold, to students, and to others with extenuating circumstances. We believe permit parking at Rancho San Antonio would provide the following benefits, and few, if any, drawbacks:

- Increase the number of parking spots available at the preserve.
- Reduce the number of vehicles jockeying for spots during peak use times keeping the tone in line with the preserve's peaceful nature.
- Reduce the number of single-person, carbon-emitting vehicles at the preserve and encourage preserve users to drive electric vehicles.
- Increase revenue for the MROSD that would be used to further improvements of the lands and facilities, or perhaps, more specific to Rancho, assist with operating costs for Deer Hollow Farm.

Our open space on the Peninsula and in the South Bay is invaluable, much like our state parks. Perhaps a wider plan for parking, including other MROSD preserves, could be considered using the state park system as a model.

Thank you for considering our thoughts.

Best Regards,
Ken Lucchesi
Maggie Tides
Stephen Wassather



Midpeninsula Regional
OpenSpace

DRAFT RESPONSE FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

GENERAL MANAGER
Ana María Ruiz

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

October 10, 2018

Dear Ken Lucchesi, Maggie Tides, and Stephen Wassather,

Thank you for your comments regarding your enjoyment of Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve, as well as your concerns about the parking challenges there. The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) owns and manages the preserve, and manages the County Park portion (where the parking lots are) on behalf of Santa Clara County Parks. Midpen is aware and concerned about the parking challenges during peak times, as well as the limitations on parking that have been imposed by neighboring jurisdictions, and current limitations on multi-modal options for accessing the park/preserve (transit, bike, pedestrian). Your experiences are evidence of these challenges.

We understand that you believe charging a fee would alleviate some of the parking issues. However, Midpen manages the county park in part because our Board of Directors want to ensure that visitors have free access to open space preserves 365 days a year, as they do to all 24 Midpen open space preserves that are open to the public. We are currently evaluating options to address the parking constraints and promote viable multi-modal alternatives to access the preserve/park.

With an eye toward finding solutions to these challenges, Midpen and Santa Clara County Parks have begun to study options in a collaborative effort with numerous other partner organizations, such as the cities of Cupertino, Mountain View, and Los Altos, the town of Los Altos Hills, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. This collaboration is underway. Unless you object, Midpen will retain your contact information as part of an interested parties list to be notified when future public meetings related to Rancho parking/transit solutions are held. We will also share your comments with these partner organizations as we discuss the parking challenges.

Again, I appreciate you taking the time to send in your comments. I am hopeful that we will be able to improve this situation and enable you to continue to enjoy this great regional park/preserve.

Sincerely,

Jed Cyr, Board President

CC: Board of Directors