

From: [REDACTED]
To: [web; Clerk; General Information](#)
Subject: Full Board of Directors and District Clerk - Board Contact Form
Date: Thursday, September 12, 2019 11:03:20 PM

EXTERNAL

Name *	Udi Fishman
Select a Choice *	Full Board of Directors and District Clerk
Email *	[REDACTED]
Location: (i.e. City, Address or District Ward)	Los Gatos
Daytime Phone Number (if you wish to be contacted by phone)	[REDACTED]

Comments: *
September 12, 2019

Dear Board Members,

We would like to thank you for listening at yesterday's board meeting to our grave concerns for our safety in the case of wild fire in our neighborhood. Thank you for considering our proposal to scout and clear the existing dirt road across Midpen land as an emergency escape route for our residents. As discussed in the meeting, the road leads from our neighborhood to Kennedy Road. It was the first access to the top of the hill from Los Gatos, but it fell into disuse after the development of Blackberry Hill Road, and subsequently became overgrown. It is a great advantage that a new road or path does not need to be constructed.

The neighbors on Blackberry Hill Road are willing to share with the cost of clearing and maintaining this emergency escape route.

We look forward to hearing your response.

Respectfully,
Udi Fishman and the neighbors at the top of Blackberry Hill



Midpeninsula Regional
OpenSpace

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

GENERAL MANAGER
Ana M. Ruiz

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Pete Siemens
Yoriko Kishimoto
Jed Cyr
Curt Riffle
Karen Holman
Larry Hassett
Zoe Kersteen-Tucker

September 25, 2019

Udi Fishman
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Re: Consideration of Blackberry Hill Escape Route

Dear Mr. Udi Fishman,

Thank you for your letter and appearing before the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) Board of Directors (Board) on September 11, 2019. As you were made aware at the meeting, the Board has directed the General Manager to assign staff to perform an initial analysis of your request. More specifically, staff will be looking at the feasibility of opening an escape route from the end of Blackberry Hill Road to the Kennedy Trail in Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve.

Staff will shortly contact you directly to discuss potential options. One known viable and recommended option at this time is for the private property owners to work on Blackberry Hill Road to provide better clearance and pullouts for vehicle passage where feasible. Additionally, homeowners are advised to clear vegetation around their homes and harden their houses against fire. Midpen provides Defensible Space Permits for homeowners to complete the recommended 100 feet of clearance for structures that abut Midpen lands. Regarding road maintenance and road brushing, the responsibility is typically set forth in a road agreement or, in the absence of an agreement, financial responsibility for road maintenance is based on proportional use of the road. Staff is available to work with you and your neighbors if you are interested in pursuing additional vegetation clearance through the approximately one-half mile of Blackberry Hill Road through Midpen property.

We appreciate the community coming together to seek opportunities to enhance wildfire safety in the wildland-urban interface. We look forward to our continued discussions.

Sincerely,

Pete Siemens
Board President