

From: [sandysommer](#)
To: [Tina Hugg](#); [Melissa Borgesi](#)
Subject: My votes for March 5th PAWG meeting
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 9:01:31 AM

EXTERNAL

Hi Tina and Melissa,

Regrettably I will not be able to join by phone due to the time difference. The meeting occurs in the middle of the night for me. Please forward the following votes and comments along to Chair Hooper and the rest of the La Honda PAWG.

Votes:

Suite 1:

Suite 2:

Suite 3:

Suite 4:

Suite 5:

Comments:

My perspective on these suites is shaped by a number of observations:

La Honda Creek is Midpen's second largest preserve, and the land was purchased at a taxpayer expense of about \$50,000,000. With this substantial investment of public funds, it deserves to be widely opened to all, dawn to dusk 365 days a year, not just to a few savvy permit holders.

Once the trail system and staging areas are in place, this preserve is likely to be extremely popular with visitors, due to the beauty of the area - rivalling Russian Ridge and Montebello OSPs.

The access to the central area of the preserve is quite constrained by topography, road conditions, land ownership patterns, and the creek. With these constraints, Midpen's typical approach of sprinkling staging areas around the preserve perimeter does not seem to provide adequate access coverage to disperse the visitors and avoid overcrowding any one area. Instead, perhaps it make sense to me to develop a system of smaller staging areas at the perimeter, some permit only where the constraints are particularly limiting, and focus public access on an interior staging area hub.

With this concept in mind, the C1/C2 sites are relatively central to the overall preserve, using an extension of the existing Sears Ranch Road. I believe the need for public access is a priority over the optimal cattle grazing situation. The D and E3 sites afford possibilities for small staging areas closer to the Red Barn area, for visitors less able to hike a long distance, such as seniors and children.

The A site is too far to be a viable staging access point for the central area, but it still belongs on the list of staging sites to serve the whole preserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these thoughts in writing. I look forward to hearing how the meeting goes!

Regards,

Sandy Sommer