


From: [Midpen Public Comment Form](#)
To: [Clerk](#); [web](#); [Leigh Ann Gessner](#); [Coty Sifuentes-Winter](#)
Subject: I want my comment to be read into the record during the board meeting. (250 word limit) - May 13 - Board of Directors Meeting -
Date: Sunday, May 10, 2020 10:45:54 PM

EXTERNAL

Meeting Date *	May 13 – Board of Directors Meeting
Is this a comment about a specific board item? *	Yes
Agenda Item Number *	Entire meeting
Subject *	Public Scoping Meeting Wildland Fire Resiliency Program
Please check one: *	In Opposition
Name *	Craig Dremann
City of Residence *	East Palo Alto
Email *	
Select a Choice *	I want my comment to be read into the record during the board meeting. (250 word limit)

Comments to be read into the record *

For the District to manage natural resources and native vegetation according to CEQA--Must NEVER utilize the following methods, because they destroy the very resources you are supposed to preserve:

1.) Plowing fire breaks, because they drive native seeds in soil too deep, so they can never sprout, producing permanent weed-covered areas. Alternative is mowing when weed seeds are still green, and weeds will be replaced by dormant native seeds in the soil. See-- 70 acres at 300 Byers Lane, La Selva Beach and 15 acres across from 144 Alta Mesa in Woodside--Mowing only, no seeds sown, solid native cover produced, and the most fire-safe possible.

2.) Fire or prescribed burns, because weed can take advantage faster than the natives can, like the five Calfires at Russian Ridge. Also, fires pyrolize surface organic matter and nutrients, lowering levels below native seedling survival--see USFS and BLM fire-soil studies.

3.) Exotic animal grazing--many reasons, A.) Animals eat tender natives first, before the weeds, B.) Produce methane 30X worse than CO2, C.) Cow "mine" organic matter and nutrients from the soil, dropping levels below what is needed for native seedling survival. D.) Grazing will never convert the weeds back to natives, because those animals love the natives too much.

The CEQA-safe and best alternative to either plowing, fire or grazing, and the least damaging to the resources--is mowing the weeds while seeds are still green, and unearth dormant native seeds, to produce the most fire-safe environment that can exist on the District's preserves?

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Clerk; General Information](#)
Subject: Pete Siemens - Ward 1 - Board Contact Form
Date: Friday, April 24, 2020 2:54:58 PM

EXTERNAL

Name * John Smillie
Select a Choice * Pete Siemens - Ward 1

Email * [REDACTED]

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

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

Comments: *


Hi Pete,

As a Cupertino resident and avid mountain biker I'm concerned about the "temporary ban to cyclists and equestrians". When are you going to lift the "temporary" ban? I am a mid 60's responsible cyclist and I find it unfair that my user group has been denied access at this time. So if I want to ride my mountain bike I need to go to a Santa Clara Co. park, or Santa Cruz or the North bay to ride. So what you are doing is sending people to other local parks because Mid Pen can't figure out a way to manage the trail systems. There are accidents in all user groups so why ban cyclists and equestrians. I feel a better way is to manage access at this time. Why not have something like "even and odd calendar days" where hikers use the trail system on even days and cyclists and equestrians use the trail system on odd days. Something like that lets everyone use the trail systems and doesn't punish certain user groups. Some other trail systems had a temporary ban during Easter but those bans have been lifted now. I'm concerned that this "temporary" ban is overdone and the ban should be lifted immediately.

Regards, John

From: [Midpen Public Comment Form](#)
To: [Clerk](#); [web](#); [Leigh Ann Gessner](#); [Coty Sifuentes-Winter](#)
Subject: I want my comment to be read into the record during the board meeting. (250 word limit) - May 13 - Board of Directors Meeting -
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 8:26:22 AM

EXTERNAL

Meeting Date *	May 13 – Board of Directors Meeting
Is this a comment about a specific board item? *	Yes
Agenda Item Number *	scoping session
Subject *	Wildfire Resilience Scoping session
Please check one: *	Neutral
Name *	Karen Maki
City of Residence *	Menlo Park
Email *	
Select a Choice *	I want my comment to be read into the record during the board meeting. (250 word limit)

Comments to be read into the record *

Even though CalFire's Vegetation Treatment Program documents acknowledges that fuel reduction will not stop the few wind-driven catastrophic fires that cause most of the damage, MidPen's Wildland Resiliency Program focuses almost exclusively on fuel reduction. The plan should be expanded to include the hardening of Midpen's 117 buildings against fire as well as encouraging neighbors to make their home's safer for their own protection as well as Midpen's. The plan should also include the installation of cameras for early detection and decision-making during fire fighting. In addition, since antiquated PG&E equipment has caused many of the more serious fires, Midpen should take proactive steps to ensure that PG&E's equipment on their property is safe.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Clerk; General Information](#)
Subject: All Board Members - Board Contact Form
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:48:00 PM

EXTERNAL

Name * Maya Sun

Select a Choice * All Board Members

Email * [REDACTED]

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

Comments: *

Dear Board Members,

I hope that this message finds you well. I am writing to ask a question about the closure of various parks and open spaces in the region as a response to the COVID-19 epidemic.

I understand that social distancing is essential in order to minimize the number of people who contract the disease simultaneously. I understand that the closure of parks and open spaces is part of the response to this. At the same time, I recognize that it is valuable for people to be able to go outside during this time.

I have made some observations about the impact of closing outdoor spaces:

1. Because many parks and bike paths are closed, there are constantly people walking and biking in the streets in order to get outside and exercise. The ability to be outside has a large positive impact on people's physical and mental health and well-being.
2. With more people on the streets, the risk of accidents increases and drivers must be more careful.
3. Having more options of places to go allows people to spread out more; having fewer options concentrates them.
4. People who live far from beaches are still driving to them, parking on the roads, and earning tickets. This is a bad day for everyone involved.

I understand that some people choose not to obey social distancing recommendations, and that open space closures and strict policies are one response to this. But I do not believe that the majority of people disobey social distancing recommendations, nor do I believe that social distancing and closing outdoor spaces must be synonymous. I think we can do better, especially since this situation may continue for a while yet.

Are there other rules or improvements on existing rules that will help keep people distanced yet allow them to use open spaces? The options that come to mind include:

1. Setting a capacity for each open space to limit the number of people who can go in at once. This way, everyone has a chance of getting to visit, they just need to get there early, go at less busy times, or wait their turn.

2. Allocating different days and times for people to visit an open space by some method (for example, differentiating by address, car registration, or last name, or by lottery). People would know that they can go on a certain day, so they might not feel the need to all go on the same day or to break the rules by going on a different day.

Yes, implementing such a system would take time and effort, and it wouldn't be perfect. But I am sure that people with more knowledge and experience will have even better ideas than the ones above. If current policies could be improved to allow people to be in open spaces, isn't it worth trying?

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Maya Sun

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Clerk; General Information](#)
Subject: Pete Siemens - Ward 1 - Board Contact Form
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:02:09 PM

EXTERNAL

Name * Ryan Fell
Select a Choice * Pete Siemens - Ward 1

Email * [REDACTED]

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

Comments: * Please reopen our preserves to trail users who choose to enjoy nature on a bicycle. The ER departments are empty invalidating, at the moment, your reason for the closure.

<https://www.mercurynews.com/coronavirus-bay-area-ers-are-eerily-empty-and-worried-youre-too-afraid-to-visit>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Clerk; General Information](#)
Subject: Yoriko Kishimoto - Ward 2 - Board Contact Form
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:03:00 PM

EXTERNAL

Name * Ryan Fell
Select a Choice * Yoriko Kishimoto - Ward 2

Email * [REDACTED]

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

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

Comments: * Please reopen our preserves to trail users who choose to enjoy nature on a bicycle. The ER departments are empty invalidating, at the moment, your reason for the closure.

<https://www.mercurynews.com/coronavirus-bay-area-ers-are-eerily-empty-and-worried-youre-too-afraid-to-visit>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Clerk; General Information](#)
Subject: Jed Cyr - Ward 3 - Board Contact Form
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:05:06 PM

EXTERNAL

Name * Ryan Fell

Select a Choice * Jed Cyr - Ward 3

Email * [REDACTED]

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

Daytime Phone Number (if you wish to be contacted by phone) (650) 224-2443

Comments: * Please reopen our preserves to trail users who choose to enjoy nature on a bicycle. The ER departments are empty, invalidating, at the moment, your reason for the closure.

<https://www.mercurynews.com/coronavirus-bay-area-ers-are-eerily-empty-and-worried-youre-too-afraid-to-visit>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Clerk; General Information](#)
Subject: Curt Riffle - Ward 4 - Board Contact Form
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:05:58 PM

EXTERNAL

Name * Ryan Fell
Select a Choice * Curt Riffle – Ward 4

Email * [REDACTED]

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

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

Comments: * Please reopen our preserves to trail users who choose to enjoy nature on a bicycle. The ER departments are empty invalidating, at the moment, your reason for the closure.

<https://www.mercurynews.com/coronavirus-bay-area-ers-are-eerily-empty-and-worried-youre-too-afraid-to-visit>

Thank you,
Ryan Fell

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Clerk; General Information](#)
Subject: Karen Holman - Ward 5 - Board Contact Form
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:06:47 PM

EXTERNAL

Name * Ryan Fell
Select a Choice * Karen Holman – Ward 5

Email * [REDACTED]

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

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

Comments: * Please reopen our preserves to trail users who choose to enjoy nature on a bicycle. The ER departments are empty invalidating, at the moment, your reason for the closure.

<https://www.mercurynews.com/coronavirus-bay-area-ers-are-eerily-empty-and-worried-youre-too-afraid-to-visit>

Thank you,
Ryan Fell

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Clerk; General Information](#)
Subject: Larry Hassett - Ward 6 - Board Contact Form
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:07:21 PM

EXTERNAL

Name * Ryan Fell
Select a Choice * Larry Hassett – Ward 6

Email * [REDACTED]

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

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

Comments: * Please reopen our preserves to trail users who choose to enjoy nature on a bicycle. The ER departments are empty invalidating, at the moment, your reason for the closure.

<https://www.mercurynews.com/coronavirus-bay-area-ers-are-eerily-empty-and-worried-youre-too-afraid-to-visit>

Thank you,
Ryan Fell

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Clerk; General Information](#)
Subject: Zoe Kersteen-Tucker - Ward 7 - Board Contact Form
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:07:46 PM

EXTERNAL

Name *	Ryan Fell
Select a Choice *	Zoe Kersteen-Tucker - Ward 7
Email *	[REDACTED]
Location: (i.e. City, Address or District Ward)	San Carlos
Daytime Phone Number (if you wish to be contacted by phone)	[REDACTED]


Comments: * Please reopen our preserves to trail users who choose to enjoy nature on a bicycle. The ER departments are empty invalidating, at the moment, your reason for the closure.

<https://www.mercurynews.com/coronavirus-bay-area-ers-are-eerily-empty-and-worried-youre-too-afraid-to-visit>

Thank you,
Ryan Fell

From: [Midpen Public Comment Form](#)
To: [Clerk](#); [web](#); [Leigh Ann Gessner](#); [Coty Sifuentes-Winter](#)
Subject: I am submitting a comment to be provided to the board of directors. (no limit) - May 13 - Board of Directors Meeting -
Date: Sunday, May 3, 2020 1:54:13 PM

EXTERNAL

Meeting Date *	May 13 – Board of Directors Meeting
Is this a comment about a specific board item? *	Yes
Agenda Item Number *	Closures
Subject *	Closure logic
Please check one: *	In Opposition
Name *	Steve LeBlanc
City of Residence *	Monte Sereno
Email *	
Select a Choice *	I am submitting a comment to be provided to the board of directors. (no limit)
Comments to be provided to the board of directors *	I'm just wondering if keeping your parks closed at the same time as the Santa Clara County park system is still open is a good idea. It has concentrated more people into a smaller area therein defeating the whole purpose. I'm sure people will behave like adults when they are treated as such. Thanks. I'd love to hear the reasoning you based your plan.