

From: [Brian Malone](#)
To: [Brian Malone](#)
Subject: FW: Larry Hassett - Ward 6 - Board Contact Form
Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 10:54:51 AM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 11:09 AM
To: Clerk <clerk@openspace.org>; General Information <info@openspace.org>
Subject: Larry Hassett - Ward 6 - Board Contact Form

EXTERNAL

Name *	Kathleen Simpson
Select a Choice *	Larry Hassett - Ward 6
Email *	[REDACTED]
Location: (i.e. City, Address or District Ward)	Skyline Blvd across from Russian Ridge, next to Coal Creek, Clouds Rest Vista Lot
Daytime Phone Number (if you wish to be contacted by phone)	[REDACTED]

Comments: *

Hello Mr Hassett,

We are the residents who live along Skyline near Russian Ridge and Coal Creek. We have been fighting the dangers and the nuisance of the Clouds Rest Vista Point for over 3 years. Chris Baressi of Open Space has been the primary contact. With Covid, CalTrans has closed the Clouds Rest lot. Open Space is allowing the dangerous practice of having people park on the side of the 55mph highway which leads to a lot of horns during the day as people back out directly on the highway, and do illegal 3 point and u-turns. In addition, it is setting a precedent that it is okay to park in the Open Space driveway at night because the Clouds Rest lot is closed. The ongoing nightly disturbances continue and now are coming because people are parking on Open Space property. RWC CHP does not have the manpower to enforce in a timely manner. Imagine being woken up nightly and being kept up between 1 and 3 am. I have asked Chris Baressi (before he was OOTO) what Open Space is going to do to let people know that they cannot park on the premises or along the road at night. I have not had a response. Please take action. Open Space is responsible for this.

It is clear this is a popular area. We have asked Open Space through Chris Baressi to add a parking lot to Russian Ridge - at least get it in the 5 year plan.

I would have thought the residents' needs are in line with Open Space's desires: No smoking or fire at the vista, No litter, No vomit/condoms that the hikers have to trip over the next day or explain to their children, a safer crossing for hikers. We have had requests into CalTrans for years for: stand alone No Smoking signs, hiker crossing signs, a reduction in speed limit given the many uses (hikers/cyclists/cars/slowing to park or look at view), and Quiet! Residential Area signs. I have not heard Open Space pushing CalTrans to adopt these measures. Why?

Last night, there were fireworks set off from the Open Space driveway. Fire is the number one danger up here - to Open Space, the wild life who inhabit the area, and to residents.

If Open Space does not take action and the neighborhood goes up in flames or continues to be vandalized or there is a

drunk or reckless driving incident, we will hold Open Space as a contributing party.

Please let us know what Open Space will do to address these issues.

Regards,

Kathy Simpson





Midpeninsula Regional
OpenSpace

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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July 22, 2020

Re: Cal Trans Clouds Rest Vista Point

Dear Ms. Simpson,

Thank you for expressing your concerns about the Clouds Rest Vista Point on Highway 35 that is located adjacent to Coal Creek Open Space Preserve and across the highway from Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. The current roadside parking on the Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve side of the highway is within the highway right-of-way and is not owned or controlled by Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen). Although Midpen does not have ownership or jurisdiction over the Cal Trans Vista Point, we remain interested in its management as it affects our preserves, visitors, and neighbors.

Midpen staff, primarily through Skyline Area Superintendent Chris Barresi, has been continuously engaged in discussions with you, Cal Trans, California Highway Patrol, County Sheriff's Office, County Supervisor Don Horsley, Senator Jerry Hill, and others regarding the parking issues at this site. Midpen is familiar with the challenges for parking along Highway 35 and the ongoing issues with the Cal Trans Clouds Rest Vista Point, which have been exacerbated during the COVID pandemic. We remain committed to continuing our work with partner agencies and resident stakeholders in exploring solutions to the concerns you have raised.

As you know, Midpen staff have been involved with Cal Trans in designing improvements to the Clouds Rest Vista Point parking area, and based on information provided to us by Cal Trans, we believe that construction on improvements to the parking layout are expected to begin soon. We are also currently commenting on the Cal Trans pedestrian plan <https://www.catplan.org/district-4> to request a formal Highway 35 crossing with highway/pedestrian safety improvements to improve overall safety for anyone who may be crossing the highway between the preserve and the vista point parking area.

In addition, in conjunction with California Highway Patrol and San Mateo County, Midpen rangers have posted and will continue to enforce and maintain No Parking signs in narrow and blind roadside areas on Highway 35, adjacent to our preserves, where roadside parking poses a safety concern. Moreover, Midpen staff has requested additional "No Fires" and "No Littering" signs at the Clouds Rest Vista Point parking area; please note that Cal Trans approval is required since Midpen does not have authority to install them unilaterally on Cal Trans property. When Cal Trans opens the improved Vista Point parking

area, Midpen will work with Cal Trans to determine if additional parking restrictions along the highway are appropriate.

At this time, Midpen has not identified the need for additional parking areas at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve, which currently offers two formal parking areas for access. However, we continue to monitor use to determine if additional parking or other visitor-serving amenities are necessary. The current COVID pandemic has certainly increased use levels given the many restrictions that still exist across the Bay Area and public health guidelines on the safety of recreating outdoors in open space. However, it is too early to tell at this time whether use levels will be sustained or whether levels will return to 2019 levels. As stated earlier, we continue to monitor use across all 24 open space preserves that are open to the public to understand how use levels may change in the coming months.

Thank you again for raising your concerns to us and for your continued work on improving roadway safety at the Cal Trans Clouds Rest Vista Point parking area.

Sincerely,

Karen Holman
Board President