



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-21-84
Meeting 21-19
June 23, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 5

AGENDA ITEM

Grant Funding Agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy for Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Program funding

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS *den*

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the General Manager to enter into a grant funding agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy for \$400,000 in Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Program funding.

SUMMARY

The General Manager recommends that the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board of Directors (Board) adopt a resolution authorizing the General Manager as signatory to enter into a grant funding agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC). The SCC announced the new Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Program grant opportunity on April 14, 2021 with a grant proposal deadline on April 28, 2021. The SCC authorized an award to the District of \$400,000 on June 7, 2021 to further work on the Board-approved Wildland Fire Resiliency Program (WFRP). This report provides a description of the SCC funding source and the grant-funded forest health and vegetation management activities proposed for District lands.

DISCUSSION

On April 13, 2021, the Governor signed a bill ([SB 85](#)) passed by the state legislature authorizing a [\\$536 million](#) Early Action Wildfire Package. Of this authorization, \$12M was allocated to the SCC. The SCC's Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Program will fund grants for "ready-to-implement" projects that reduce the risk of wildfire on public and protected lands. The District was selected for an award of \$400,000 for forest health and wildland fire prevention activities that can be implemented within the next 12 months. This is a partial award based on a full proposal submitted for \$1,374,000 in grant funding for treatment on 533.9 acres of District land through the original grant period end date of March 2025.

Due to the high number of applicants and SCC prioritization of "shovel-ready" work to reduce fire risk, a partial award was identified for treatment on approximately 114.7 acres by a new proposed end date of approximately July 2022. The Project, as revised for the partial award, will treat portions of high priority areas identified within 11 preserves in San Mateo County (Attachment 1). Specific locations for fuel treatment were determined by the criteria laid out in the WFRP (e.g., presence of rare species, areas that enhance and facilitate fire suppression activities, state or local fire management agency-designated expanded fire response/fire

monitoring clearing zone). District staff will manage the implementation of the proposed priority vegetation management work (e.g., shaded fuel break, defensible space), including work to be completed by Land & Facilities staff, California Conservation Corps crews, and additional contractors, as needed. District staff anticipate releasing a Request for Bids (RFB) for contracted work this summer.

Contingent upon Board authorization and with approval of the SCC Board on June 7, 2021, District staff are prepared to execute a funding agreement and begin implementation of the project starting in July/August 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Wildland Fire Resiliency Program (WFRP) was adopted by the Board on May 12, 2021. This comprehensive evaluation allows the District to increase the amount of ecologically sensitive vegetation management done annually. The feasible amount of annual work depends on staffing capacity, funding resources (such as this grant), partnerships, and other resource factors with consideration given to other District priorities that further its mission. High priority areas that can be accommodated in Annual Work Plan and adequately maintained over the long-term are expected to be implemented each year.

District staff bring budget adjustment requests to the Board once a specific grant award is approved and a final award amount is confirmed by a given funding agency. Consequent adjustments to District work may be necessary to ensure District staff resource loading is sufficient to successfully implement newly secured, grant-funded projects. If the Board approves this recommendation, staff will request a budget adjustment in FY22 to cover the cost of the work (including contracted work) and to increase grant revenue by \$400,000.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW

The proposed action has not been previously reviewed by the Board or a Committee. District staff have brought the following item for Board and Committee Review concerning environmental review for the proposed grant-funded activities:

- **May 12, 2021:** Board certified the final WFRP Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and adopted the WFRP ([R-21-58](#), [Draft Minutes](#)).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The acceptance of grant funding is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The forest health and wildland fire management activities to be completed in the 11 open space preserves include mechanized, handwork treatment, and limited chemical application and are consistent with the WFRP EIR certified by the Board on May 12, 2021. District staff will

incorporate the associated mitigation measures and BMPs from the environmental review documents into the project and the contract documents.

NEXT STEPS

If approved by the Board, the General Manager will execute a funding agreement with SCC.

Attachments:

1. Project Area Maps.
2. State Coastal Conservancy Funding Resolution.

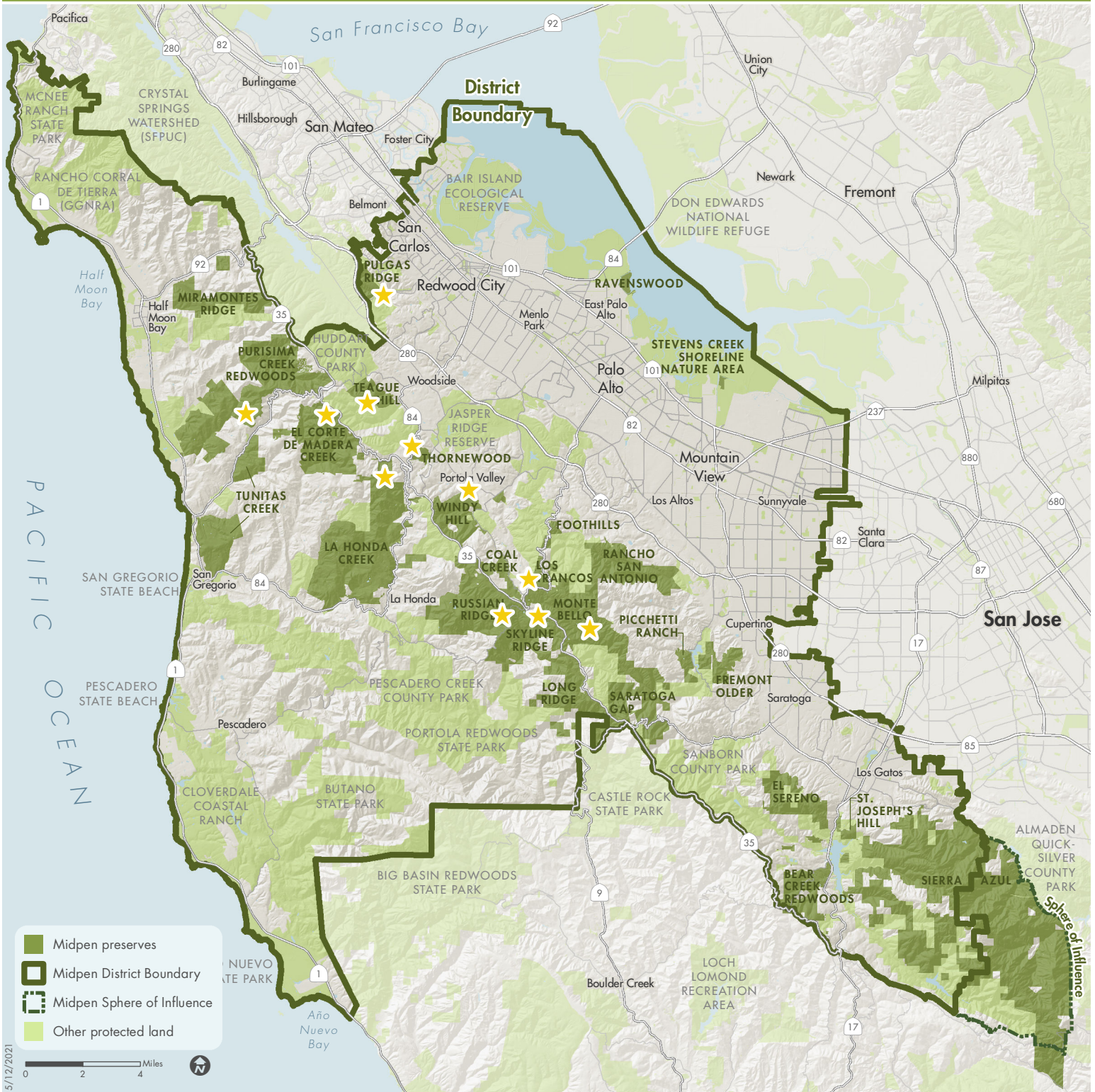
Responsible Department Head:

Stefan Jaskulak, Chief Financial Officer, Administrative Services

Prepared by:

Deborah Hirst, Grants Program Manager, Administrative Services

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District



Preserve

Protect

Restore

Educate

Enjoy



Midpen mission:

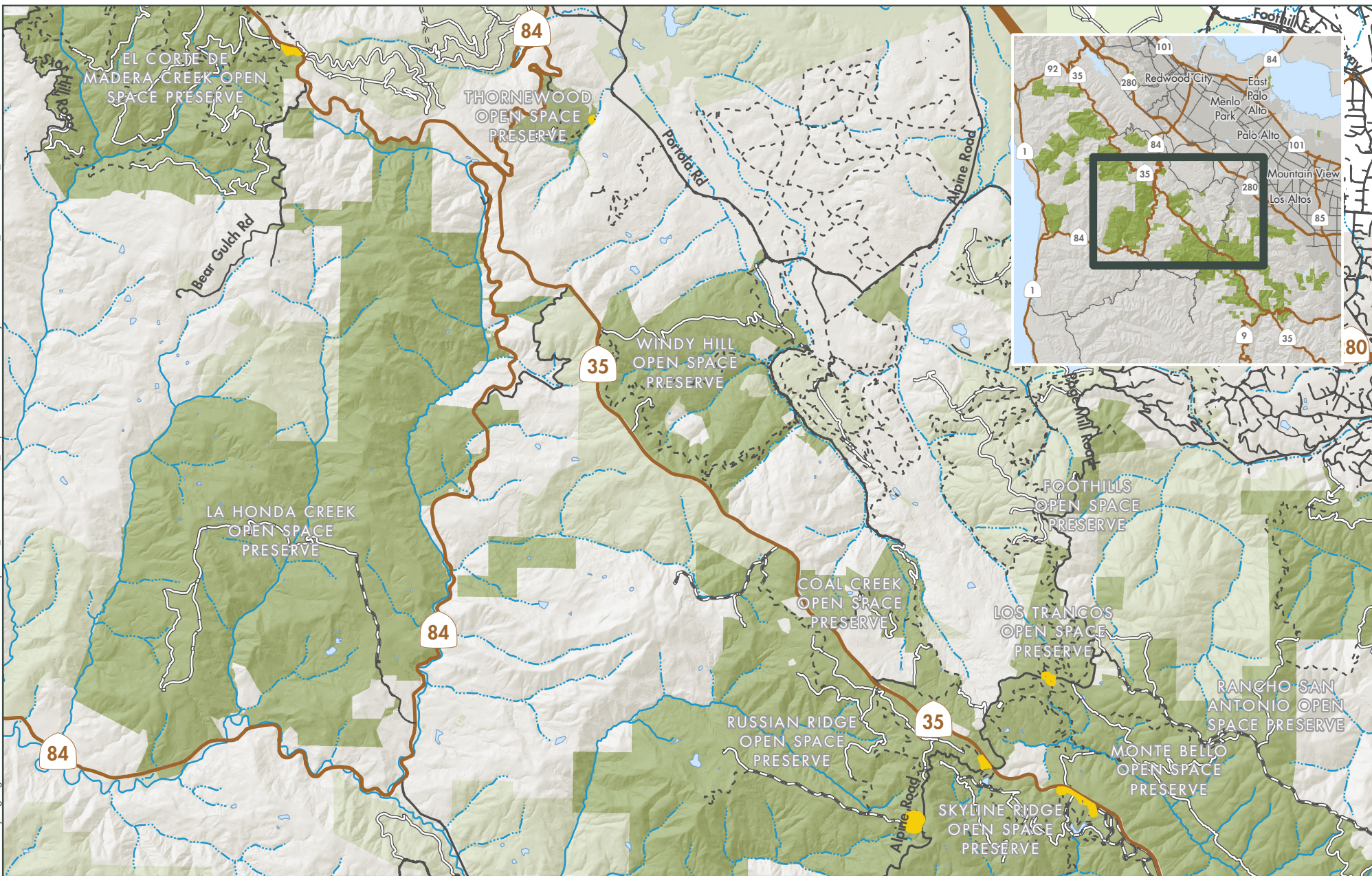
To acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

Coastside mission:

To acquire and preserve in perpetuity open space land and agricultural land of regional significance, protect and restore the natural environment, preserve rural character, encourage viable agricultural use of land resources, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

Project Area Map: Fire Management Area

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State Coastal Conservancy Forest Health & Wildland Fire Resilience Program - Initial Implementation

- Midpen preserve
- Fuel management project
- Other protected land

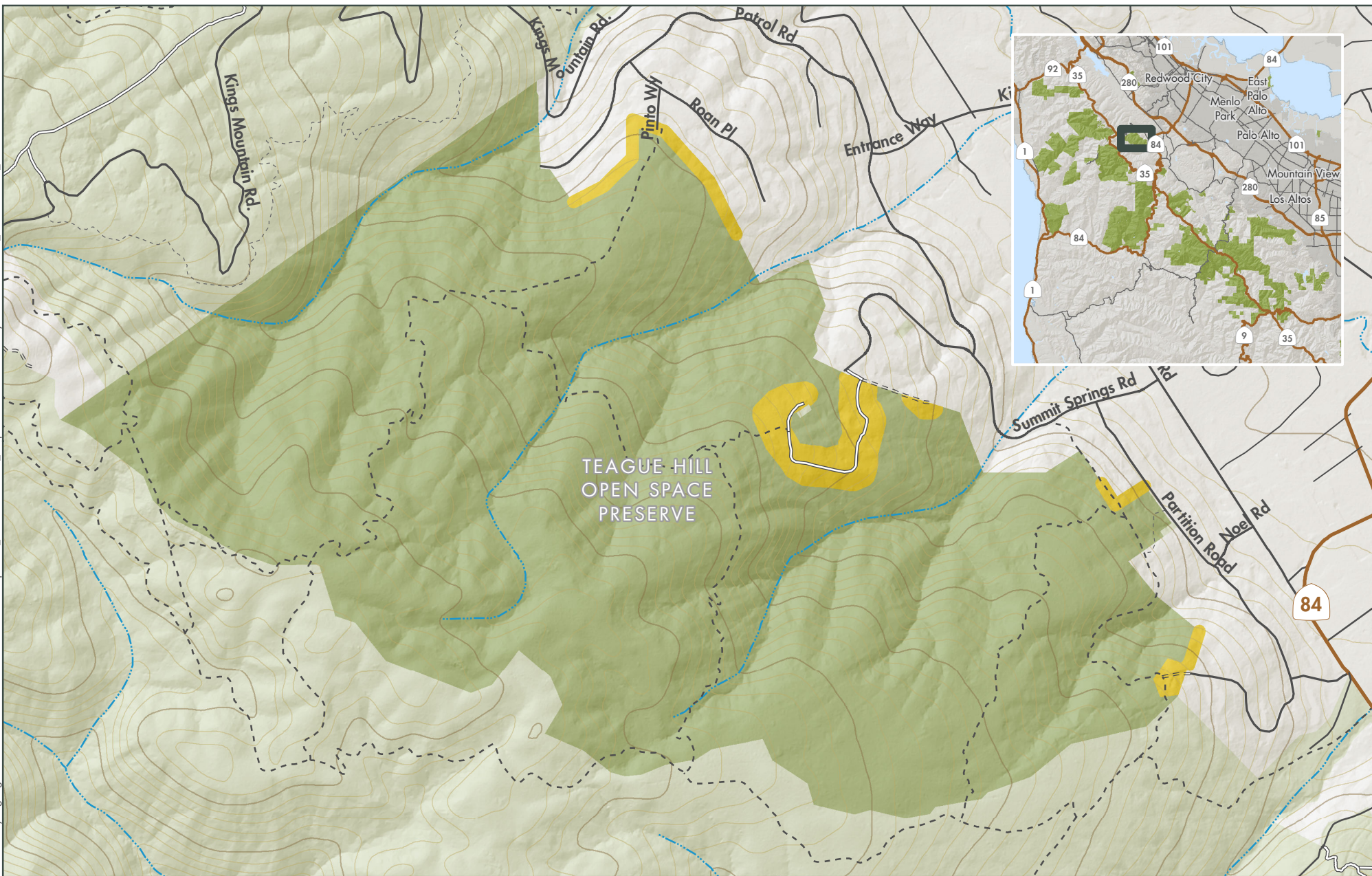
Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(Midpen)
5/10/2021



While the District strives to use the best available digital data, these data do not represent a legal survey and are merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.

Project Area Map: Teague Hill Open Space Preserve

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State Coastal Conservancy Forest Heath & Wildland Fire Resilience Program - Initial Implementation

-  Midpen preserve
-  Fuel management project
-  Other protected land

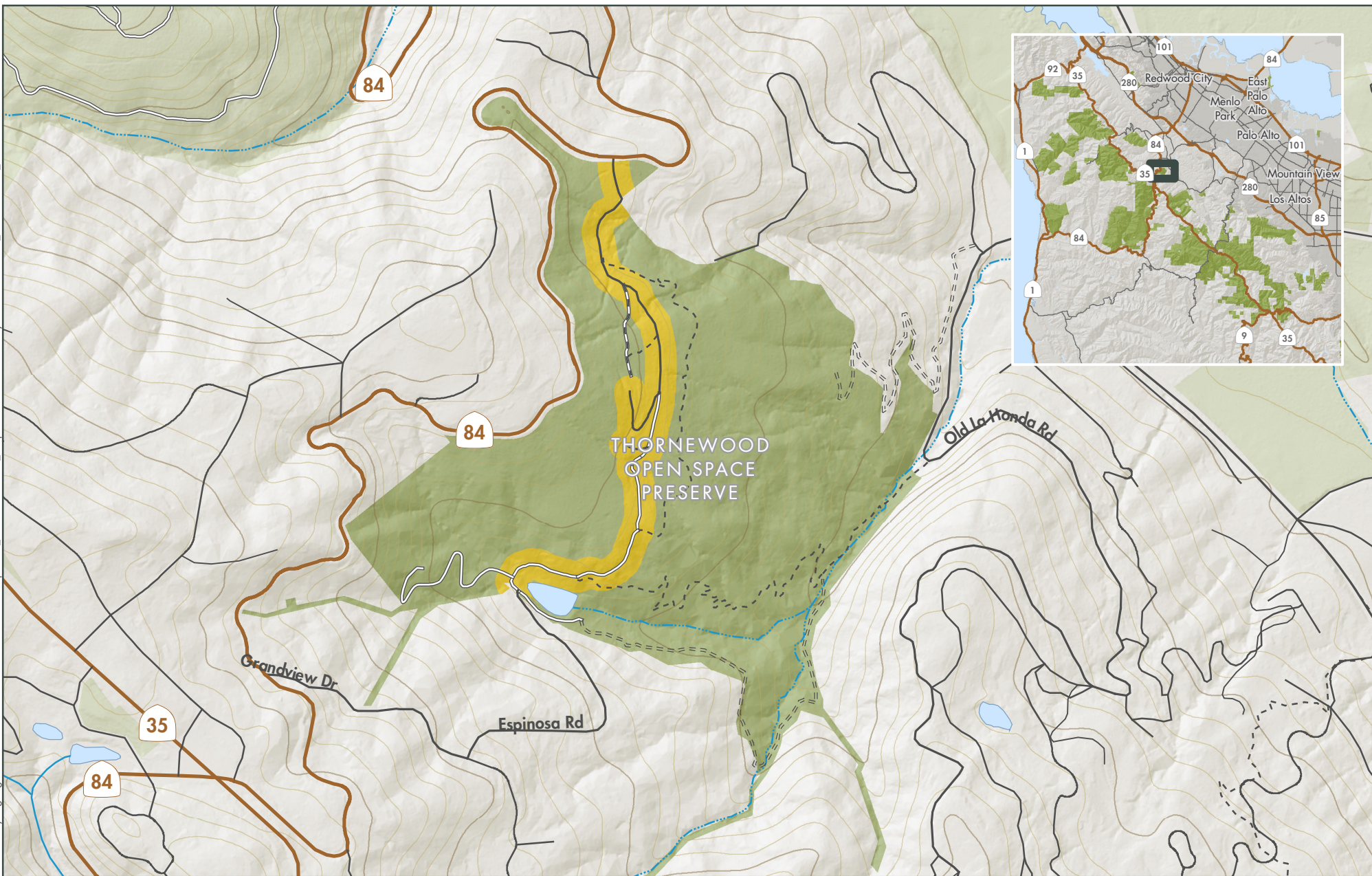
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Project Area Map: Thornewood Open Space Preserve

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State Coastal Conservancy Forest Health & Wildland Fire Resilience Program - Initial Implementation

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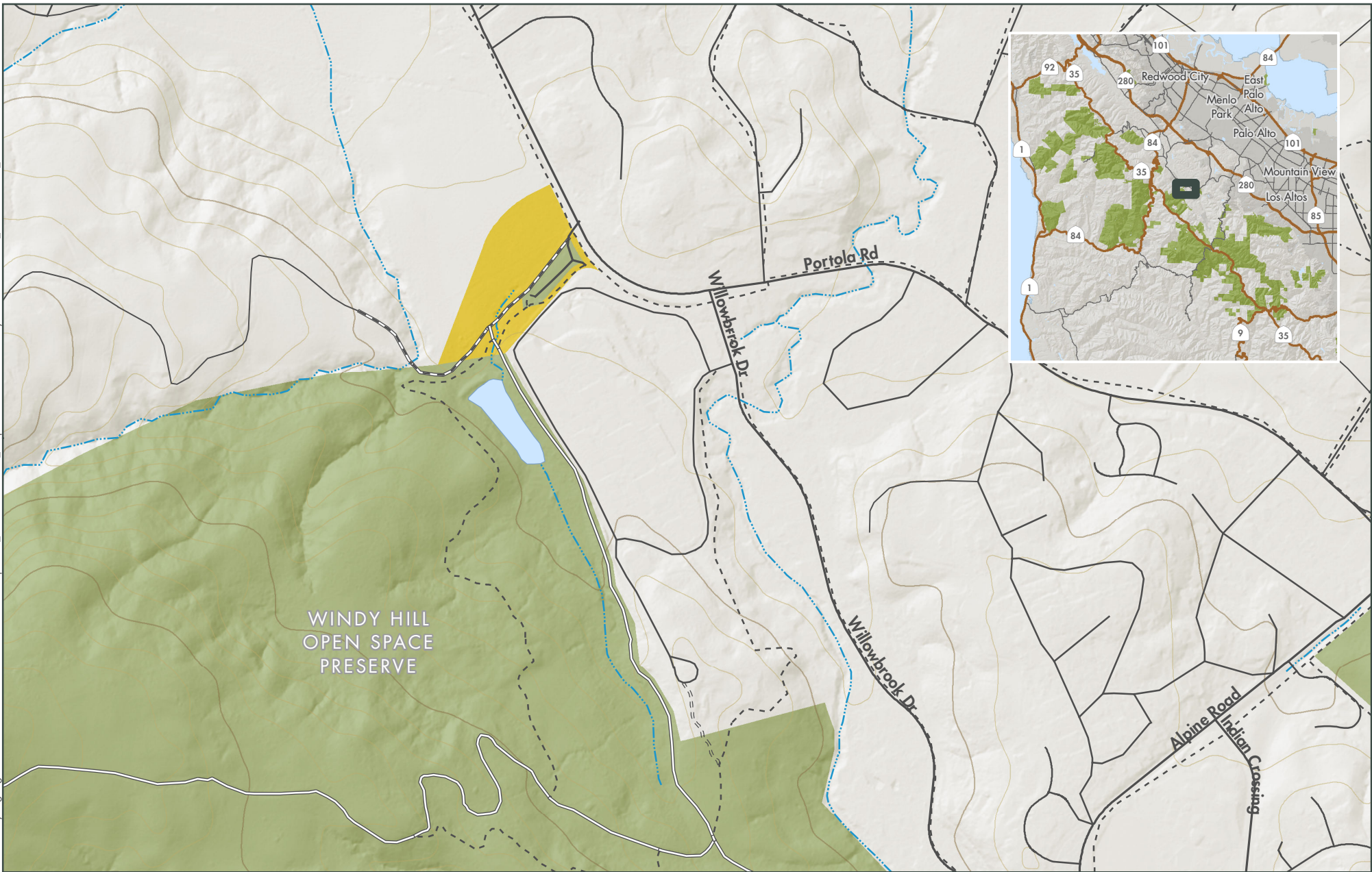
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5/7/2021



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Project Area Map: Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

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State Coastal Conservancy Forest Heath & Wildland Fire Resilience Program - Initial Implementation

-  Midpen preserve
-  Fuel management project
-  Other protected land

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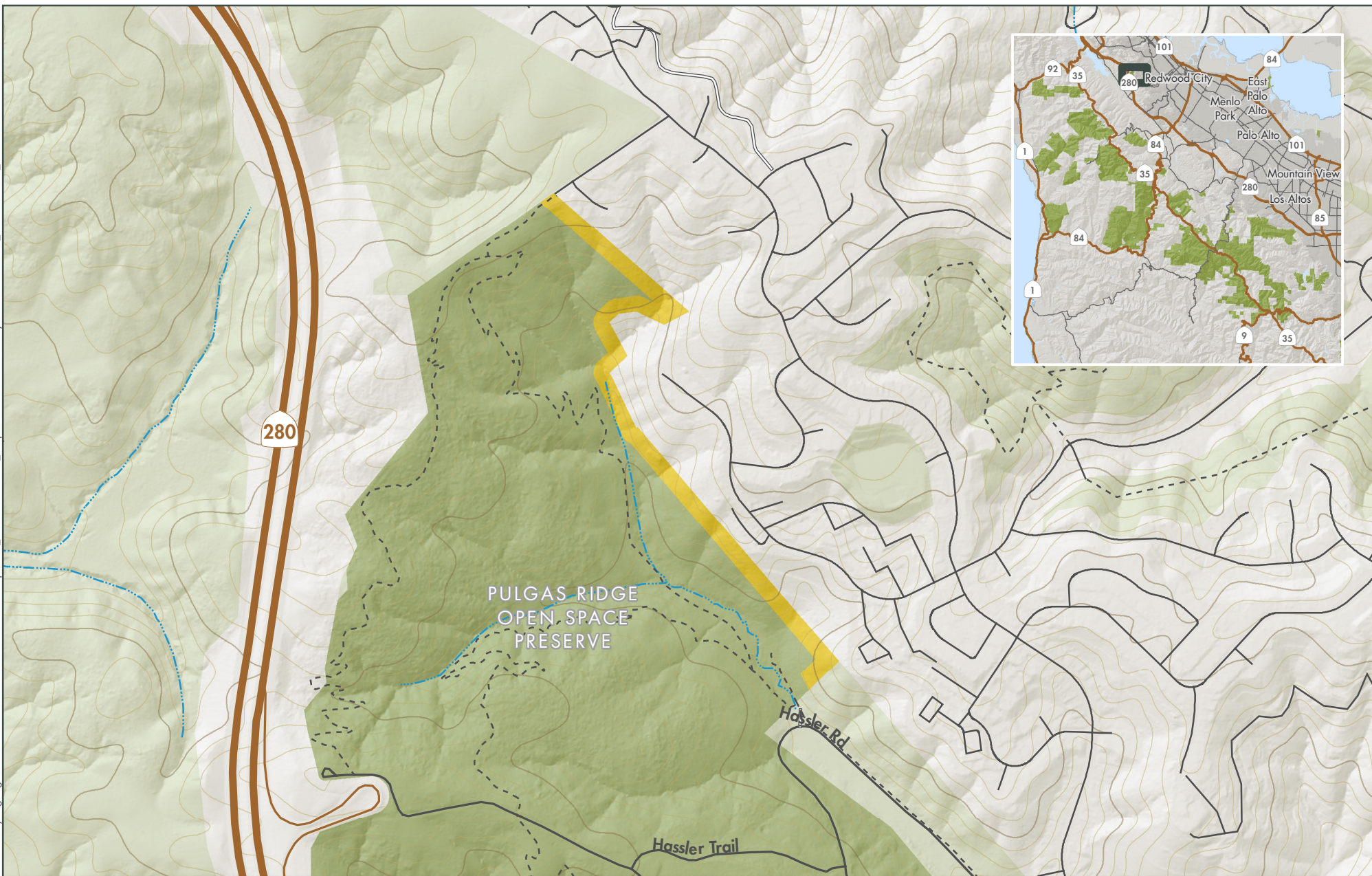


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Project Area Map: Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve

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State Coastal Conservancy Forest Heath & Wildland Fire Resilience Program - Initial Implementation

-  Midpen preserve
-  Fuel management project
-  Other protected land

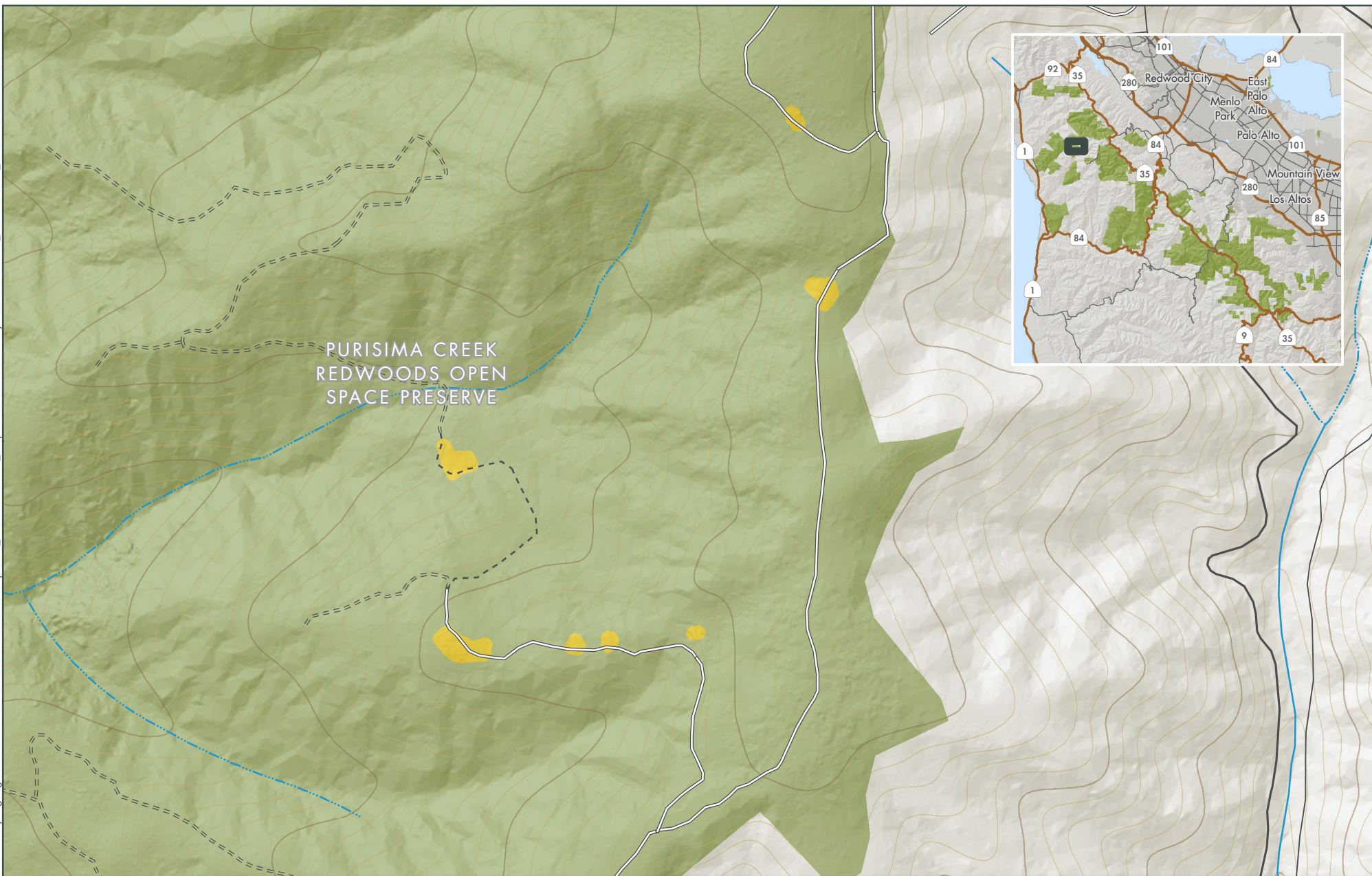
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Project Area Map: Irish Ridge, Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

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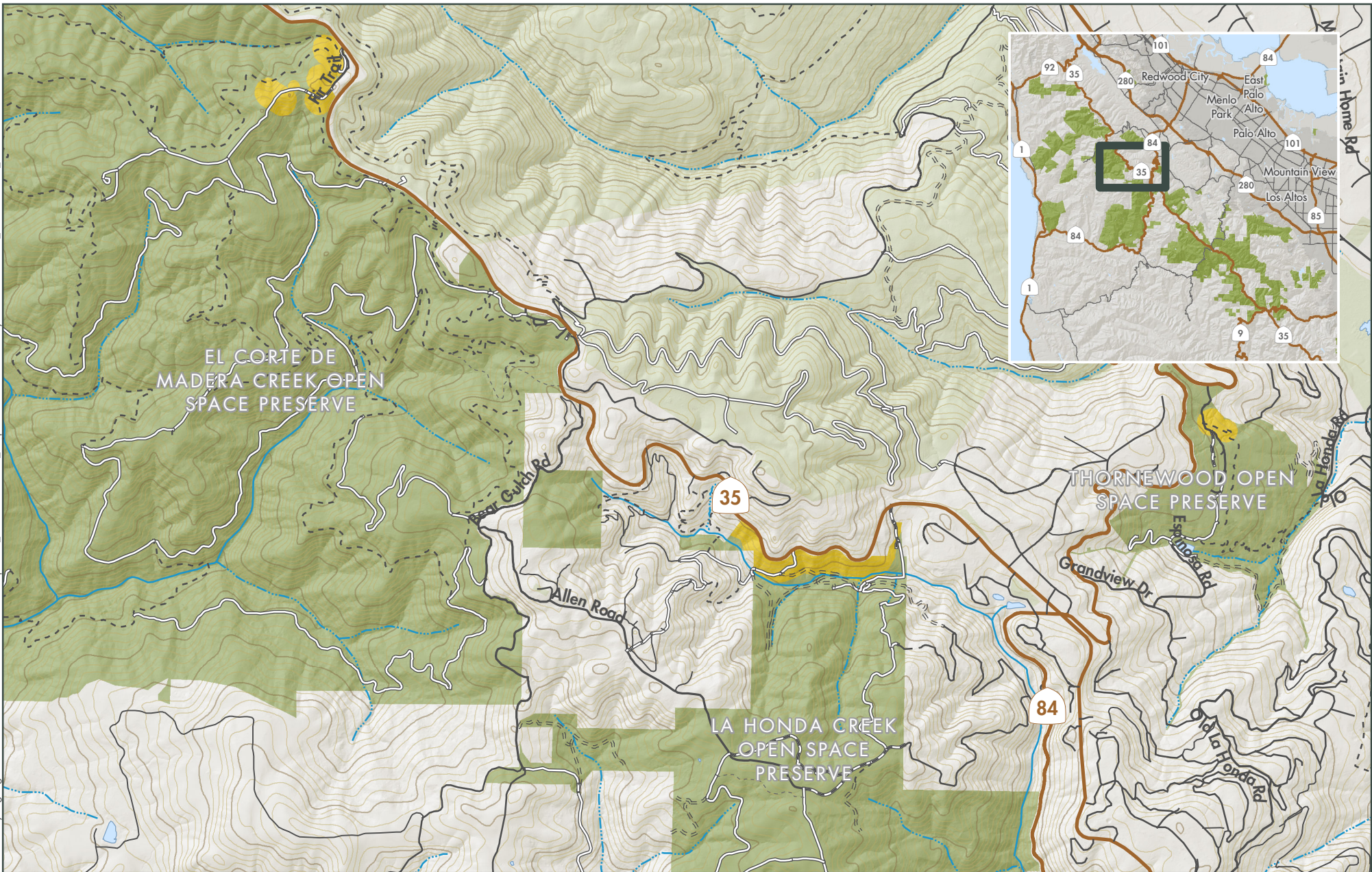
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Project Area Map: El Corte de Madera Creek, La Honda Creek, and Thornewood Open Space Preserves

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State Coastal Conservancy Forest Heath & Wildland Fire Resilience Program - Initial Implementation

- Midpen preserve
- Fuel management project
- Other protected land

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RESOLUTION NO. 21-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT APPROVING THE GRANT OF FUNDS FROM THE STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY FOR THE WILDAND FIRE RESILIENCY PROGRAM – INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has established the State Coastal Conservancy (“Conservancy”) under Division 21 of the California Public Resources Code, and has authorized the Conservancy to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to implement the provisions of Division 21; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy has solicited grant applications under its Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Program and met on June 7, 2021 to authorize projects for grant funding; and

WHEREAS, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (“applicant”) has applied for grant funding though the Conservancy’s Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Program for the Wildland Fire Resiliency Program – Initial Implementation Project (“the project”); and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy encourages applicants for grant funding to certify through a resolution the applicant’s approval of the application to the Conservancy for an award of grant funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the applicant hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for funding by the Conservancy.
2. Authorizes any of the following named officers or employees of the applicant or any person holding any of the following positions with the applicant to act as a representative of the applicant and to negotiate and execute on behalf of the grantee all agreements and instruments necessary to comply with the Conservancy's grant requirements, including, without limitation, the grant agreement: Ana M. Ruiz, General Manager and Hilary Stevenson, General Counsel.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on _____, 2021, at a regular meeting thereof, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Larry Hassett, Secretary
Board of Directors

Curt Riffle, President
Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Hilary Stevenson, General Counsel

I, the District Clerk of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District by the above vote at a meeting thereof duly held and called on the above day.

Jennifer Woodworth, District Clerk