



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Memorandum

DATE: October 23, 2024
MEMO TO: Board of Directors
THROUGH: Ana Ruiz, General Manager *den*
FROM: Ashley Mac, Planner III; Tina Hugg, Senior Planner
SUBJECT: Hawthorns Area Plan - Feedback Sessions with Portola Valley Ad Hoc Hawthorns Committee and Portola Valley Town Council

On September 17, 2024 ([R-24-115](#)), the Planning and Natural Resources (PNR) Committee reviewed and supported the Hawthorns Area Public Access Working Group's (PAWG) recommendations. The project team is next preparing to present the PAWG's recommendations to three Town of Portola Valley appointed/elected bodies for their feedback before presenting the PAWG's recommendations alongside a compilation of PNR, Town and public input to the Midpen full Board of Directors (Board) at a future Study Session. The Town of Portola Valley groups that the project team will meeting with are as follows: the Portola Valley Ad Hoc Hawthorns Committee (a special committee comprised of representatives from seven Town committees convened by the Town to liaise on this project) and Portola Valley Town Council.

As a reminder, in 2023, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board formed the PAWG, comprised of volunteer Ward Stakeholders and Interest Area Representatives as voting members and a Board Liaison and Town Liaison as non-voting members. The PAWG was charged to develop recommendations for ecologically sensitive public access within the Hawthorns Area consistent with the Board-adopted vision and goals. The PAWG concluded its work on June 13, 2024. On September 17, 2024, the PNR reviewed and supported the PAWG's public access recommendations. The recommendations include two parking area location options, a loop trail with trail connections to the Town of Portola Valley's (Town) trails, and use designations for hiking, bicycles, equestrians, and dogs-on-leash. The recommendations are consistent with an existing conservation easement that overlays the property.

District staff will next present the PAWG's recommendations to the Portola Valley Ad Hoc Hawthorns Committee and Town Council. Each meeting is being organized and facilitated by the Town, is expected to be held at the Town Center and will be open to the public. These meetings are anticipated to take place in October 2024, and the agendas are anticipated to be posted on the [Town's website](#) and distributed through the Town's normal distribution channels.

NEXT STEPS

Following the meetings with the Town, the project team will present the PAWG's recommendations and input from PNR, the Town and public to the full Board at a future Study Session. At a subsequent Board meeting following the Study Session, the Board will consider final policy decisions. These decisions will determine the public access components to include in the Hawthorns Area Plan and subsequently advance into environmental review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

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