



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-24-112  
Meeting 24-24  
September 11, 2024

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### AGENDA ITEM

Adoption of a Resolution Approving the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Annex of the 2023 Santa Clara County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution approving the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Annex of the 2023 Santa Clara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

#### SUMMARY

In January 2023, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) engaged with the Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) along with community-based organizations, city/town representatives, and special district partners, participating in a planning process to identify critical community and infrastructure risks and potential mitigating actions. As a planning partner, District staff prepared the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Annex Plan to address specific hazards related to District lands. Participating in this effort allows the District to apply for future hazard mitigation project funding from the suite of grant programs under Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) program.

#### DISCUSSION

##### Background

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) provides communities in the San Francisco Bay Area with planning and research resources related to land use, housing, environmental and water resource protection, disaster resilience, energy efficiency, hazardous waste mitigation, risk management, and financial services. In 2004, ABAG led a regional effort to address hazard mitigation planning for Bay Area jurisdictions. ABAG's regional template was used by numerous counties and cities to meet federal hazard mitigation planning requirements. The ABAG process enabled individual planning processes to meet local government needs, while pooling resources and eliminating redundant planning efforts.

In 2010, ABAG conducted its second regional planning effort. Municipalities that used the 2010 updated ABAG tools to meet federal hazard mitigation planning requirements included the County of Santa Clara and the cities of Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Town of Los Altos Hills, Town of Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San José, Santa Clara, Saratoga, and Sunnyvale. ABAG discontinued its full support of the regional planning concept in 2015, so jurisdictions that were covered under the regional plan must initiate individual or reformed multijurisdictional planning efforts to

continue to comply with federal mitigation planning requirements.

In 2016, Santa Clara County, the Santa Clara County Fire Department, and all incorporated cities in Santa Clara County teamed together to prepare an updated Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) tailored to the local needs and capabilities of the Santa Clara County Operational Area (OA). The planning partnership developed a new plan from scratch, using lessons learned from the earlier ABAG planning efforts. Compared to previous planning efforts, the plan focused on more localized concerns, leveraging newly available data and tools to enhance the risk assessment, considering FEMA's Community Rating System for flood insurance and identifying cost-effective actions. In 2022, the County reconvened the planning team and a consultant was hired to support the planning process. This allowed participants to focus on ongoing hazard events, including multiple atmospheric rivers and a winter storm while ensuring that mitigation planning efforts continued moving forward.

Additional ways the 2023 MJHMP plan differs from previous plans:

- The risk assessment includes further considerations of emerging hazards, like the impact of wildfire smoke, which have recently threatened the OA.
- A concentrated effort to ensure plan integration between the County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and County Safety Element of the County General Plan updates as well as other approved plans.
- The incorporation of additional special district planning partners, including Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County Fire Department, and Santa Clara Valley Water District, which are involved in hazard mitigation in the OA.
- The plan was developed in accordance with Emergency Management Accreditation Program standards.
- The risk assessment has been formatted to provide information on risk and vulnerability that will allow a measurement of cost-effectiveness.
- Mitigation goals and objectives and criteria for mitigation action item prioritization have been updated to include climate change, resiliency, and benefits to populations that are underserved and/or socially vulnerable.
- The update gave the planning partners an opportunity to engage residents, particularly those who are underserved and/or socially vulnerable and gauge their perception of risk and support for risk reduction through mitigation.
- Climate change has been added as a hazard for the planning area.
- Each planning partner has a minimum of one mitigation action for every hazard that can impact them.
- Expanded information about planning partner participation and compliance in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Components of the District Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- Systematically assesses local, natural, and human-caused hazards, such as flooding, drought, wildfire, landslides, severe weather, terrorism, cyber threats, pandemics, and the impact of climate change.
- Identifies mitigation actions that will be implemented by the District to reduce the level of injury, property damage, and community disruption that might otherwise result from such hazards.

- Identifies resources from throughout the County and creates a uniform local hazard mitigation plan that can be consistently implemented.
- Ensures eligibility for FEMA and Cal OES grants.

#### Adoption of the Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan:

On December 12, 2023, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors adopted the MJHMP, which resulted in County eligibility for hazard mitigation project funding. Each planning partner (District) that adopts its respective Annex of the Plan will also become eligible to apply for hazard mitigation project funding from the suite of grant programs under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) program.

On July 10, 2024, the District received notification from the County of Emergency Management that FEMA had completed the review of all associated annexes and found them to be approvable pending adoption by each agency's elected body.

The MJHMP is considered a living document. As awareness of additional hazards develop and new strategies and projects are conceived to offset or prevent loss due to natural hazards, the MJHMP will be evaluated and revised on an annual basis during the 5-year plan timeframe. As a living document, the MJHMP information can be integrated and used in conjunction with other emergency and related plans, such as the District's Emergency Operation Plan adopted in 2016.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None - however, implementation of the MJHMP within District lands requires District funding and staff resources, which may be eligible for at least partial reimbursement through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) program. Examples of current and planned projects on the District's Capital Improvement and Action Plan include implementation of Wildland Fire Resiliency Program vegetation management projects and road and trail improvements.

#### **PRIOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW**

**December 15, 2021:** Adoption of a Resolution Approving the 2021 San Mateo County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan ([R-21-173](#), [meeting minutes](#))

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. No additional notice is required.

#### **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Future District projects resulting from the MJLHMP will be individually reviewed for CEQA compliance prior to implementation.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Pending Board approval, the General Manager will direct staff to review the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Annex Plan and add projects to the CIAP accordingly.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Annex Plan
2. Resolution Adopting the 2023 Santa Clara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Responsible Manager:

Brian Malone, Assistant General Manager for Visitor and Field Services

Prepared by:

Brandon Stewart, Land and Facilities Department Manager



# Santa Clara County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 Update

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Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

February 21, 2024

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# 1. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

## 1.1. Hazard Mitigation Plan Points of Contact

The point of contact during the Santa Clara County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) planning process for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) was the Land & Facilities Manager. This annex within the MJHMP was developed using information provided by Midpen's Local Planning Team.

**Table 1: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Local Planning Team Members for the 2023 Santa Clara County MJHMP**

Name	Position	Organization	Role on Team and in Planning Process
Brandon Stewart	Land & Facilities Manager	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District	General oversight, hazard identification and plan development
Matt Andersen	Chief Ranger and Visitor Services Manager	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District	Hazard identification and plan development
Jane Mark	Planning Manager	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District	Hazard identification and plan development
Jason Lin	Engineering and Construction Manager	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District	Hazard identification and plan development

The Midpen's Local Planning Team Members participated in the MJHMP by attending a meeting on the Risk Assessment, and one one-on-one meetings with the planning consultant. In addition, Midpen filled out the requested forms on each section. Midpen also shared information regarding public opportunities to participate in the draft plan update utilizing the digital survey and seven in-person and virtual public outreach meetings. Further, the Midpen team was provided the opportunity to review the draft plan prior to submittal to Cal OES and FEMA.

**Table 2: External Stakeholders Invited to Be Involved in Planning Process**

Agency or Organization	Stakeholder Type	Description
American Red Cross	Representatives of nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations, that work directly with and/or provide support to underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations, among others.	A nonprofit humanitarian organization that provides emergency assistance, disaster relief, and disaster preparedness education in the United States.

Agency or Organization	Stakeholder Type	Description
Cal OES	Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities.	Office responsible for overseeing and coordinating emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and homeland security activities within the state.
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities.	The fire department of the California Natural Resources Agency.
California Department of Transportation	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development.	An executive department of the U.S. state of California.
City of East Palo Alto	Neighboring communities.	A city in San Mateo County, California, United States.
City of Menlo Park	Neighboring communities.	Menlo Park is a city at the eastern edge of San Mateo County.
Department of Homeland Security	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development.	The U.S. federal executive department responsible for public security, roughly comparable to the interior or home ministries of other countries.
Department of Toxic Substances	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development.	An agency of the government of the state of California that protects public health and the environment from hazardous waste.
Emergency Medical Services	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development.	Provides statewide coordination and leadership for the planning, development, and implementation of local EMS systems.
Emergency Services Volunteer Representative	Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities.	Organization that ensures public safety, security, and health by addressing and resolving different emergencies.
Federal Aviation Administration	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development.	Offers civil aviation safety enforcement services.
Google	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	American multinational technology company focusing on artificial intelligence, online advertising, search engine technology, cloud computing, computer software, quantum computing, e-commerce, and consumer electronics.



Agency or Organization	Stakeholder Type	Description
Hidden Villa Farm	Representatives of nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations, that work directly with and/or provide support to underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations, among others.	Nonprofit educational organization teaching programs on environmental and multicultural awareness.
Intel Corporation	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	An American multinational corporation and technology company headquartered in Santa Clara, California.
Kaiser Permanente—Santa Clara	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	An American integrated managed care consortium
Moffett Field Ames Research Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	Major NASA research center at Moffett Federal Airfield in California's Silicon Valley.
National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development.	Scientific and regulatory agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce.
Pacheco Pass Water District	Neighboring communities.	Independent special water district.
Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E)	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations, and neighboring communities.	One of the largest combination natural gas and electric utilities in the United States.
Regional Water Quality Control Board	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development.	Provides government regulatory services related to water pollution and control.
Santa Clara County CERT	Representatives of nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations, that work directly with and/or provide support to underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations.	Trains residents to prepare for and respond to life-threatening events in their community.
Santa Clara County FireSafe Council	Representatives of nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations, that work directly with and/or provide support to underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations.	A nonprofit, grassroots organization that provides education and project assistance for homeowners.

Agency or Organization	Stakeholder Type	Description
Santa Clara County Local Oversight Program	Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities.	Program to oversee assessment and mitigation of contaminated sites to protect groundwater resources, human health, safety, and the environment.
Santa Clara County Parks	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development, and neighboring communities.	Provide, protect, and preserve regional parklands for the enjoyment and education.
Santa Clara County Planning & Development	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development, and neighboring communities.	Plays a key role in supporting economic development and ensuring opportunities for the public to participate in land development.
Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office	Agencies that have the authority to regulate development, and neighboring communities.	A local law enforcement agency that serves Santa Clara County, California.
Santa Clara University	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations.	A private Jesuit university in Santa Clara, California.
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	Neighboring communities.	An independent special district in Santa Clara County.
Santa Cruz County	Neighboring communities.	A county on the Pacific coast of the U.S. state of California.
St. Louise Hospital (Santa Clara County Hospital System)	Representatives of nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations, that work directly with and/or provide support to underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations.	Community hospital.
Stanford Healthcare	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations, and neighboring communities.	Multispecialty clinic that provides convenient access to advanced, specialty care in the South Bay.
County of Santa Clara	Neighboring jurisdiction, local agency involved in hazard mitigation.	Response for engaging the whole community in assessing needs and developing strategies to achieve stronger mitigation capabilities within the Santa Clara County Operational Area.
City of Campbell	Neighboring communities.	A city in Santa Clara County.
City of Cupertino	Neighboring communities.	Located in Silicon Valley.
City of Gilroy	Neighboring communities.	A city in Santa Clara County.
City of Los Altos	Neighboring communities.	A city in Santa Clara County.
Town of Los Altos Hills	Neighboring communities.	A city in Santa Clara County.
Town of Los Gatos	Neighboring communities.	A city in Santa Clara County.
City of Milpitas	Neighboring communities.	A city in Santa Clara County.

Agency or Organization	Stakeholder Type	Description
City of Morgan Hill	Neighboring communities.	A city in Santa Clara County.
City of Mountain View	Neighboring communities.	A city in Santa Clara County.
City of Palo Alto	Neighboring communities.	Located in Silicon Valley.
City of San José	Neighboring communities.	Located in Silicon Valley.
City of Santa Clara	Neighboring communities.	A city near San Jose, in California’s Silicon Valley.
City of Saratoga	Neighboring communities.	Located in Silicon Valley.
City of Sunnyvale	Neighboring communities.	Located in the Santa Clara Valley.
Santa Clara County Fire Department	Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and neighboring communities.	A California Fire Protection District serving Santa Clara County.
Santa Clara Valley Water District	Representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations, and neighboring communities.	Provides stream stewardship, wholesale water supply, and flood protection for Santa Clara County, California.

Midpen supported a “whole community” approach to this plan update. Neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in mitigation activities, agencies that have the authority to regulate development as well as businesses, academia, and other private and nonprofit interests were invited to be involved in the planning process by participating in planning meetings, public meetings, or reviewing the draft plan. Additional stakeholders that were able to participate are included in Volume 1 of this plan.

### *1.1.1. Public Education and Outreach*

In addition to inviting a wide range of stakeholders, Midpen supported public outreach and engagement through distributing a digital survey utilizing social media and email. This survey reached members of underserved populations, including primarily non-English speaking households.





<input type="checkbox"/>	POST	PUBLISHED TIME
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<input type="checkbox"/>	 <p><b>Midpeninsula Regional Open Sp</b>            Santa Clara County, in collaboration with  <a href="http://www.PrepareSCC.org/MJHMPS">http://www.PrepareSCC.org/MJHMPS</a>            Published</p>	Apr 14, 2023 Fri 8:01 AM
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Figure 1: Midpen Social Media Posts Across Platforms

## Santa Clara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Survey

**The previous email had an incorrect link for the public survey. The correct information can be found below.**

Santa Clara County in collaboration with the cities, towns, and special districts, including Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, are working together to update the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) which is now open for public participation.

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Community members are encouraged to participate in the public survey to share their experiences, knowledge, and concerns about local hazards by going to [www.PrepareSCC.org/MJHMPSurvey](http://www.PrepareSCC.org/MJHMPSurvey).

The survey is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Tagalog. Information provided in the survey will inform strategies and actions to reduce future risk of death, injuries and property damage from hazards.

Hazard mitigation plans address a range of natural hazards including flooding, wildfire, and severe weather. For the first three months of 2023, Santa Clara County experienced record and widespread snowfall, rainfall and power outages due to a series of atmospheric rivers.

### Figure 2: Midpen Email

In addition, the MJHMP was discussed at two virtual and five in-person public meetings across Santa Clara County. These in-person meetings were targeted towards areas with socially vulnerable populations. In this case, the plan focused on those who are socially vulnerable as they belong to an access and functional needs (AFN) population. This plan update utilized the legal definition of AFN for this approach. The California Government Code Section 8593.3 defines Access and Functional Needs as “Individuals who have: Developmental, intellectual, or physical disabilities; Chronic conditions or injuries; Limited English proficiency or non-English speaking; Or individuals who are: older adults, children, or

pregnant; living in institutional settings; or Low-income, homeless, and/or transportation disadvantaged.” In Saratoga, according to the U.S. Census an estimated 46.1% of the population speaks a language other than English, a key factor to consider while developing any kind of emergency management and mitigation approach to public outreach. The C-MIST framework is used to integrate AFN populations in the operational area into emergency management through communications, maintain health, independence, support, safety and self-determination, and transportation. These meetings were also designed to be accessible for AFN (access and functional needs) populations. The public was also provided the opportunity to comment on the draft plan. Comments from the public survey were reviewed, evaluated for alignment with planning priorities, and incorporated as appropriate.

The participation of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and its stakeholders helped inform the development of the MJHMP and this annex in accordance with current priorities. The new plan continues to expand upon the work of the prior plan including emphasizing partnerships both within jurisdictions and special districts as well as with external stakeholders. Further, there is an increased emphasis on climate change, reflecting the increased understanding of the risk this hazard poses to the OA. Midpen did not identify additional changes in priorities to be highlighted in their annex. There were common trends in the public feedback relevant to Midpen including an emphasis on the need for additional public outreach, the importance of protecting the urban forest, the need for air filtration, and the value of accessible evacuation routes. Significant discussion of evacuation routes in particular, including both planning and protecting these routes, was noted. This feedback is incorporated into the mitigation actions Midpen selected.

## 1.2. District Profile

The Bay Area experienced rapid growth in the late 1960s. Through a determined and heartfelt grassroots effort by local conservationists, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District was created in 1972, when the Measure R “Room to Breathe” Initiative was passed by Santa Clara County voters. Local residents voted to expand Midpen’s boundary into southern San Mateo County in 1976, and, in 1992 to a small portion of Santa Cruz County. In the late 1990s, development pressure increased on the San Mateo County Coast, threatening sensitive habitat and the area’s rural heritage. This led to the 2004 Coastsides Protection Area, an extension of Midpen boundaries to the Pacific Ocean in San Mateo County, and the addition of preserving rural character and encouraging viable agricultural use of land resources to our mission.

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a special district that preserves a connected greenbelt of over 70,000 acres of public open space in the greater Santa Cruz Mountains region. The diverse and scenic landscapes, from bay wetlands to redwood forests and coastal grasslands, host an incredible diversity of life, making the region one of the world’s biodiversity hotspots. Midpen’s mission is to acquire and preserve open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education. On the Coast, Midpen has an expanded mission to acquire and preserve agricultural land of regional significance, preserve rural character, and encourage viable agricultural uses of land resources.

Midpen is governed by a seven-member board of directors. Midpen is divided into seven geographic wards, each represented by an elected board member for a four-year term. Midpen employs a staff of more than 180 employees in 13 departments: budget and analysis, engineering and construction, finance, the general manager’s office, general counsel’s office, human resources, information systems and technology, land and facilities services, natural resources, planning, public affairs, real property, and visitor services.

## 1.2.1. Assets

**Table 3: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Assets**

Asset	Value
<b>Property</b>	
59,687 acres of land	\$800,000,000
<b>Equipment</b>	
13- Portable Generators	\$19,500
16- Ranger Fire Pumps	\$300,000
1 -1800 Gallon Water Truck	\$150,000
1- 2000 Gallon Water Truck	\$165,000
2 -John Deere 210 skip loader	\$260,000
4 -Mini Excavators	\$200,000
2 -10 Yard Dump Trucks	\$300,000
2- 6 Yard Dump Trucks	\$200,000
5- 3 Yard Dump Trucks	\$90,000
3- Skid Steer Loaders	\$75,000
2- Electric Road Signs	\$34,000
1- Trailer Chipper	\$40,000
1- Large Track Chipper	\$75,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$801,908,500</b>
<b>Critical Facilities</b>	
Foothill Field Office - 22500 Cristo Rey Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014	\$3,000,000 (Zone X)
Skyline Field Office - 21150 Skyline Ranch Road, La Honda, CA 94020	\$2,500,000 (Zone X (Shaded))
Coastal Area Office - 5710 La Honda Road, La Honda, CA 94020	\$200,000 (Zone A)
South Area Office - 240 Cristich Lane, Campbell, CA 95008	\$7,000,000 (Zone X)
Administration Office – 5050 El Camino Real Los Altos, CA	\$40,000,000 (Zone X (Shaded))
Foothill Field Office - 22500 Cristo Rey Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014	\$3,000,000 (Zone X)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$55,700,000</b>

## 1.3. Development Trends

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's lands are in the Santa Cruz Mountain Region. The area is influenced by San Francisco, San Jose, and other Peninsula cities. There's low-density suburban development and scattered small communities on the slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Much of the land in the upper portions of the mountains includes natural areas in open space preserves and parks.



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's jurisdiction covers 17 cities and unincorporated areas in San Mateo, Santa Clara, and northern Santa Cruz counties. Over 700,000 residents call this area home.

Due to their commitment to open space as well as no previous plan, no change in vulnerability has occurred. As discussed in the 2017 Vision Plan, there is public interest in expanding the amount of open space available and increased access. As access or area managed by Midpen increases, there is potential for increased exposure to natural hazards. The Vision Plan also identifies goals to reduce or eliminate hazards and promote safe use of the preserves. Preserving open space also provides the benefit of limiting urban development in areas that are at high risk to hazards, which serves as a means of reducing risk.

## 1.4. Capability Assessment

### 1.4.1. Resources for the 2023 Planning Initiative

The following technical reports, plans, and regulatory mechanisms were reviewed to provide information for inclusion into the 2023 Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for both Volume 1 and Volume 2 (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Annex). All the below items were additionally reviewed as part of the full capability assessment for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

- **Hazard Related Plans:** Plans including but not limited to the Local Emergency Operations Plan, Wildland Fire Resiliency Plan, and the Climate Action Plan were reviewed for identify potential integrative initiatives for mitigation strategies and planning.
- **Ordinances:** The 2020 Use of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Lands Ordinance was reviewed for alignment with natural hazard mitigation planning efforts.
- **Financial Resources:** Local, state, federal, and private funding resources were analyzed to identify possible sources of funding for mitigation strategies.
- **Technical Reports and Local Information:** Additional resources such as maps, existing local documentation, and other resources were used to complete the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Annex.

### 1.4.2. Full Capability Assessment

An assessment of legal and regulatory capabilities is presented in Table 237 and Table 238. An assessment of fiscal capabilities is presented in Table 239. An assessment of staffing capabilities is presented in Table 240. An assessment of administrative and technical capabilities is presented in Table 241. An assessment of education and outreach capabilities is presented in Table 242. Classifications under various community mitigation programs are presented in Table 243, and the community's adaptive capacity for the impacts of climate change is presented in Table 244. Midpen does not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program as it is not eligible, and no structures are repetitive or severe repetitive loss properties.

**Table 4: Legal and Regulatory Capabilities: Codes, Ordinances, and Requirements**

Legal and Regulatory Capability	Local Authority	Other Jurisdiction Authority	State Mandated	Integration Opportunity?
Acquisition of land for open space and public recreation uses	Yes	No	Yes	Yes



Legal and Regulatory Capability	Local Authority	Other Jurisdiction Authority	State Mandated	Integration Opportunity?
<i>Comment: The Ordinance for Use of Midpeninsula Open Space District Lands was adopted in 2020.</i>				

**Table 5: Planning, Legal, and Regulatory Capabilities**

Planning, Legal, or Regulatory Capability	Local Authority	Other Jurisdiction Authority	State Mandated	Integration Opportunity?
<b>General Plan</b>	Yes	No	No	Yes
<i>Is the plan compliant with Assembly Bill 2140? N/A</i>				
<i>Comment: The adopted strategic plan will guide decisions for the upcoming years and was updated in 2023.</i>				
<b>Capital Improvement Plan</b>	Yes	No	No	Yes
<i>How often is the plan updated? Annually</i>				
<i>Comment: Every year Midpen adopts a budget and action plan to set financial priorities.</i>				
<b>Parks or Open Space Plan</b>	Yes	No	No	Yes
<i>Comment: The Vision Plan was adopted in 2014 and outlines priority actions to expand, protect, and utilize open spaces.</i>				
<b>Community Wildfire Protection Plan</b>	Yes	No	No	Yes
<i>Comment: The Wildland Fire Resiliency Plan was adopted in 2021.</i>				
<b>Climate Action Plan</b>	Yes	No	No	Yes
<i>Comment: The Climate Action Plan was adopted in 2018.</i>				
<b>Local Emergency Operations Plan</b>	Yes	No	No	Yes
<i>Comment: The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) was adopted in 2017.</i>				

**Table 6: Financial Capabilities**

Financial Capability	Could the resource be used to fund future mitigation activities?	Has the funding resource been used in the past for mitigation activities? If yes, for what type of mitigation activities?
<b>Community Development Block Grants</b>	No	N/A
<b>Other Federal Funding Programs</b>	Yes	No
<b>Capital Improvements Project Funding</b>	Yes	Yes, for projects related to wildland fire, flooding, landslides, and climate change.
<b>Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes</b>	No	N/A
<b>User Fees for Water, Sewer, Gas or Electric Services</b>	No	N/A

Financial Capability	Could the resource be used to fund future mitigation activities?	Has the funding resource been used in the past for mitigation activities? If yes, for what type of mitigation activities?
Stormwater Utility Fee	No	N/A
Incur Debt through General Obligation Bonds	No	N/A
Incur Debt through Special Tax Bonds	No	N/A
Incur Debt through Private Activity Bonds	No	N/A
State Funding Programs	Yes	Yes. Midpen has secured state funding from Cal-Fire to complete wildland fuel reduction projects.
Development Impact Fees for Homebuyers or Developers	No	N/A
Public or Private Partnership Funding Sources	Yes	Yes. Midpen has secured grant funding from the State Coastal Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board to fund wildland fuel reduction projects.
Other Funding Sources	Yes	Yes, Midpen uses General Fund resources to budget for culvert repair and replacement as part of the Open Space Maintenance and Restoration Program to reduce flooding and landslides.

Table 7: Staffing Capabilities

Staffing Capability	Have Capability?	Is staffing adequate to enforce regulations?	Is staff trained on natural hazards and mitigation?
Emergency Manager	No	N/A	N/A
Engineers or professionals trained in building or infrastructure construction practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• Full Time</li> <li>• Engineering Department</li> </ul>	No	No
Planners or engineers with knowledge of land development and land management practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• Full Time</li> <li>• Engineering Department</li> </ul>	Yes	No
Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards	No	N/A	N/A
Surveyors	No	N/A	N/A

Staffing Capability	Have Capability?	Is staffing adequate to enforce regulations?	Is staff trained on natural hazards and mitigation?
<b>GIS Coordinator or personnel skilled or trained in GIS applications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• Full Time</li> <li>• Information Systems Technology Department</li> </ul>	No	No
<b>Fire Chief</b>	No	N/A	N/A
<b>Staff with training in benefit/cost analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• Full Time</li> <li>• Finance Department</li> </ul>	No	No
<b>Scientist familiar with natural hazards in local area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• Full Time</li> <li>• Natural Resources Department</li> </ul>	No	Yes

**Table 8: Administrative and Technical Capabilities**

Administrative or Technical Capability	Have Capability?	Has the capability been used to assess or mitigate risk in the past? If yes, what type of hazard event?
<b>Maintenance programs to reduce risk</b>	Yes	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance and repairs of rails, roads, and facilities, which include restrooms, parking lots, field offices, shops, outbuildings, residences, Administrative Office, etc.</li> <li>• Layout and construction of trails</li> <li>• Resource management, which includes managing the control of invasive non-native plants, habitat restoration, erosion control</li> <li>• Maintenance of equipment and tools</li> <li>• Minor maintenance of vehicles</li> </ul>

Administrative or Technical Capability	Have Capability?	Has the capability been used to assess or mitigate risk in the past? If yes, what type of hazard event?
<b>Mutual aid agreements</b>	Yes	Yes, Midpen has four Mutual Agreements with local counties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement with San Mateo County regarding Fire Services in the Coastside Protection Area.</li> <li>• Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Santa Clara County Parks to provide Fire Services.</li> <li>• Agreement with San Mateo County Fire regarding Fire Services in San Mateo County Preserves.</li> <li>• MOU with San Mateo Fire for Cooperative Radio Frequency Use.</li> </ul>
<b>Hazard data and information</b>	Yes	Midpen’s Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) encompasses a broad range of major emergencies. Such incidents include earthquakes, flooding, winter storms, hazardous materials incidents, wildfires, and animal & human-caused events. Also included are procedures for emergencies that may or may not require the full or partial activation of the Midpen’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which will coordinate with other local jurisdiction’s EOCs.
<b>Hazus analysis or GIS software</b>	Yes	Yes, for wildland fires.
<b>Grant writing</b>	Yes	Yes, for Wildland Fire Fuel Reduction Projects.
<b>Does your district have any established warning systems or services for hazard events?</b>	No	N/A

**Table 9: Education and Outreach Capabilities**

Education or Outreach Capability	Response	How does the personnel, program, or organization relate to disaster resilience and mitigation?	Could the personnel, program, or organization help implement future mitigation activities?
<b>Does your district have a Public Information Officer or Communications Office?</b>	Yes	The Public Information Officer (PIO) can directly communicate disaster or hazard related information.	No

Education or Outreach Capability	Response	How does the personnel, program, or organization relate to disaster resilience and mitigation?	Could the personnel, program, or organization help implement future mitigation activities?
Does your district have personnel skilled or trained in website development?	Yes	Websites can be developed to provide hazard and disaster preparedness related information.	No
Does your district have hazard mitigation information available on your website?	Yes	The website reports trails affected by storms and other hazards.	Yes
Does your district utilize social media for hazard mitigation education and outreach?	No	N/A	N/A
Does your district have any citizen boards or commissions that address issues related to hazard mitigation?	No	N/A	N/A
Does your district have any ongoing public education or information programs that could be used to communicate hazard-related information?	No	N/A	N/A
Does your district have local citizen groups or nonprofit organizations focused on environmental protection, emergency preparedness, and/or underserved populations?	No	N/A	N/A
Does your district have ongoing public education or information programs?	No	N/A	N/A
Does your district have natural disaster or safety related school programs?	No	N/A	N/A
Does your district have public/private partnership initiatives addressing disaster-related issues	No	N/A	N/A

Table 10: Community Classifications

	Participating?	Classification	Date Classified
Community Rating System	No	N/A	N/A
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule	No	N/A	N/A
Insurance Services Office (ISO) Fire Rating	No	N/A	N/A
National Weather Service StormReady Program®	No	N/A	N/A
Firewise USA® Program	No	N/A	N/A

Table 11: Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change

Adaptive Capacity Assessment Question	District Rating
<b>Technical Capacity</b>	
District -level understanding of potential climate change impacts	Medium
<i>Comment: None</i>	
District -level monitoring of climate change impacts	Low
<i>Comment: None</i>	
Technical resources to assess proposed strategies for feasibility and externalities	Low
<i>Comment: None</i>	
District-level capacity for development of greenhouse gas emissions inventory	High
<i>Comment: A Climate Action Plan exists and GHG inventory is taken biannually.</i>	
Capital planning and land use decisions informed by potential climate impacts	Low
<i>Comment: None</i>	
Participation in regional groups addressing climate risks	Low
<i>Comment: None</i>	
<b>Implementation Capacity</b>	
Clear authority/mandate to consider climate change impacts during public decision-making processes	High
<i>Comment: Climate Change Policy is one of many guiding Resource Management policies applied during the decision-making process.</i>	
Identified strategies for greenhouse gas mitigation efforts	High
<i>Comment: Strategies identified in Climate Action Plan; new strategies added as they arise.</i>	
Identified strategies for adaptation to impacts	Low
<i>Comment: None</i>	
Champions for climate action in local government departments	Low
<i>Comment: None</i>	

Adaptive Capacity Assessment Question	District Rating
<b>Political support for implementing climate change adaptation strategies</b>	High
<i>Comment: High interest and support from Board of Directors, General Manager's Office.</i>	
<b>Financial resources devoted to climate change adaptation</b>	Low
<i>Comment: None</i>	
<b>Local authority over sectors likely to be negative impacted</b>	Medium
<i>Comment: Authority over wildlands/habitat likely to be impacted, but not people.</i>	
Public Capacity	
<b>Local residents' knowledge of and understanding of climate risk</b>	Low
<i>Comment: None</i>	
<b>Local residents support of adaptation efforts</b>	Medium
<i>Comment: Opposition remains to certain mitigating activities e.g., fuel management through fire/conservation grazing.</i>	
<b>Local residents' capacity to adapt to climate impacts</b>	Low
<i>Comment: None</i>	
<b>Local economy current capacity to adapt to climate impacts</b>	Low
<i>Comment: None</i>	
<b>Local ecosystems capacity to adapt to climate impacts</b>	Medium
<i>Comment: Adaptive capacity varies widely by ecosystem/habitat type.</i>	

### 1.4.3. Opportunities to Expand Upon and Improve Existing Capabilities

The hazard mitigation planning process presented the opportunity for the community to discuss and evaluate their current capabilities however, building mitigation capabilities is an ongoing process. New capabilities can be added which will support mitigation. Current capabilities can also be enhanced to actively support mitigation and reduce risk. Significant efforts have been made to increase the capabilities of jurisdictions across the OA. By participating in this plan update, each community is reinforcing their support for mitigation and understanding of the capabilities they need to successfully implement mitigation measures. Actions that can expand and improve existing authorities, plans, policies, and resources for mitigation include:

- Developing a Climate Action Plan which incorporates hazard data and actions to adapt to a changing climate.
- Budgeting and passing policies and procedures for mitigation actions.
- Adopting and implementing stricter mitigation regulations.
- Approving the training of staff for mitigation activities.
- Approving mitigation updates to existing plans as new needs are recognized.
- Continuing to update plans as necessary to ensure they are current and reflect the needs of the community or special district.
- Further developing warning systems and messaging.
- Creating and implementing additional public education and outreach offerings and increasing the volume of translated materials.

- Ensuring grant opportunities are capitalized upon to meet mitigation goals.

Each type of the four FEMA-identified capabilities were evaluated, in addition to OA-priority capabilities like adaptive capacity. Gaps and limitations, if any, are discussed in the tables above. Additional jurisdiction-specific opportunities to expand on and improve capabilities for reducing risk include:

- Approving the hiring and training of staff for mitigation activities.
- Approving mitigation updates to existing plans as new needs are recognized.
- Engaging in ongoing preparedness and emergency response training.
- Identify additional grant opportunities for risk reduction and expand the Midpen's current grant writing capabilities.
- Incorporating mitigation principles into local event management during Incident Command Post and Department Operations Center Action Planning.
- Updating and enhancing the GIS data systems and mapping for all hazards in Midpen.
- Implementing trail and road assessment recommendations to reinforce Midpen infrastructure from flooding and erosion through protection activities, including elevating the roads/bridges, installing/widening culverts, or upgrading storm drains by use of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Details and Specifications standards.
- Studying the feasibility of conducting an inventory of existing residential structures for seismic upgrades.
- Encouraging the development of water conservation plans.
- Implementing Midpen's Wildland Fire Resiliency Program targeting high priority areas for vegetation management, ecosystem resiliency, invasive species management, and other fire mitigation activities.
- Creating and implementing a public education program to increase awareness of fire risks and promote implementation of fire safe practices in wildland fire areas, such as, but not limited to, vegetation management, fire resistant construction, onsite water storage, adequate access and other fire prevention measures.

## 1.5. Integration with Other Planning Initiatives

This section describes the process for integrating the hazard mitigation plan into local planning mechanisms.

### 1.5.1. Existing Integration

The following plans and programs currently integrate the goals, risk assessment and/or recommendations of the prior San Mateo County hazard mitigation plan Midpen participated in:

- **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP):** The EOP addresses a broad range of hazards, addressing the risks outlined in the mitigation plan.
- **Strategic Plan:** The 2023 update includes goals and objectives related to the continuity of operations during a disruptive event.
- **2014 Vision Plan:** This plan outlines goals to reduce natural hazards and promote safe use of the preserves and promotes public awareness and education safety programs.
- **Climate Action Plan:** The Climate Action Plan addresses flood and drought hazards, while identifying strategies to further mitigate climate change impacts for the regional area.



- **Wildland Fire Resiliency Program:** This program directly addresses wildfire hazards and includes many different plans and policies to mitigate wildfire risk in the regional area.
- **Ordinance for Use of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Lands:** This ordinance promotes protection and maintenance of the environment and natural open space lands.

### 1.5.2. Opportunities for Future Integration

The following plans and programs do not currently integrate the goals, risk assessment and/or recommendations of the hazard mitigation plan, but provide an opportunity for future integration:

- **Capital Improvement Plan:** Midpen’s Capital Improvement Program has incorporated actions to reduce risk in the past. Future updates will likely include additional related information, goals, and mitigation actions.
- **Site-Specific Resource Management Plans:** These plans may be generated to address a high priority or urgent resource protection issue such as endangered species habitat preservation. Incorporating hazard risk information and mitigation actions may be essential in order to address the urgent issue.
- **Local Plans:** There is an opportunity for Midpen to coordinate with local jurisdictions to integrate mitigation strategies into local economic development plans, general plans, and even hazard specific plans.

Long-range planning is key to successfully implementing Midpen’s mission to protect and restore the natural environment; and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and educations. It also helps provide a blueprint for future actions. While Midpen does not have many of its own planning mechanisms that will be updated prior to the next plan update as a special district, it partners with multiple communities around the OA and can continue to promote hazard information and risk reduction measures as a planning partner. Midpen’s Land & Facilities Manager represented the special district during this plan update. The Local Planning Team will be responsible for incorporating information, data, goals, and actions from this plan into other planning mechanisms as possible.

## 1.6. Midpen-Specific Natural Hazard Event History

Table 245 lists all past occurrences of natural hazards within the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

**Table 12: Natural Hazard Events**

Type of Event	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Date	Preliminary Damage Assessment
California Severe Winter Storms and Flooding	DR-1203	02/09/1998	\$37,880
California Severe Winter Storms and Flooding	DR-1203	02/09/1998	\$122,870
California Severe Winter Storms and Flooding	DR-1203	02/09/1998	\$28,820

Type of Event	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	Date	Preliminary Damage Assessment
California Severe Winter Storms and Flooding	DR-1203	02/09/1998	\$26,119.33
California Severe Winter Storms and Flooding	DR-1203	02/09/1998	\$7,753.42
California Severe Winter Storms and Flooding	DR-1203	02/09/1998	\$10,327
California Severe Winter Storms and Flooding	DR-1203	02/09/1998	\$103,484
California Severe Winter Storms and Flooding	DR-1203	02/09/1998	\$2,692.91
California Severe Winter Storms and Flooding	DR-1646	03/29/2006-04/16/2006	\$27,376.78

## 1.7. Midpen-Specific Vulnerabilities

In addition to the assets mentioned in Table 236, Midpen offers other amenities such as observation benches, picnic tables, shelters, trash and recycling receptacles, bike racks, observation decks, and campgrounds. Specific dollar values for these amenities are unknown. The vegetation, creeks, and natural scenery could also be considered assets that adds value to the open space preserves. Hazus results are not easily applied toward broad district boundaries and will not be referenced for Midpen. More general statements of vulnerability will be used to identify possible impacts from the hazards identified within Midpen.

Unlike other jurisdictions in the planning area, Midpen does not have a permanent population. The number of recreational users in the open space areas can be highly variable at different times of day or seasons. It is difficult to estimate how many people might be present at the time of a hazard impacts the area. This discussion focuses on permanent fixtures and amenities with an understanding that a non-permanent population in the area may also be affected by hazard conditions if recreating in the area at the time of hazard impact.

- Drought can make vegetation more vulnerable to disease and wildfire. These impacts may be more noticeable in open space preserves. Extended drought may negatively impact the health of the natural vegetation and natural systems such as wildlife habitat, watersheds, and other ecosystems and natural resources in the preserves.
- Extreme heat can impact the health of vegetation, wildlife, streams, and other natural resources throughout Midpen. It can also have negative health impacts for visitors recreating at Midpen who may overexert themselves or otherwise be exposed to heat for prolonged periods of time.
- Climate change is expected to exacerbate conditions of drought and extreme heat, contributing to both more frequent and more severe events. Drought and extreme heat are not expected to directly damage preserve amenities but can have significant impact on vegetation that are among the assets people visit the preserves to enjoy. Decreased health in vegetation caused by extreme heat and drought can also lead to an increased risk of wildfire.

- Wildfire could severely damage or destroy the natural vegetation and improvements made in the area designed to encourage outdoor recreation the open spaces. Recreation would be greatly limited following a wildfire and during restoration period. Smoke from wildfire creates poor air quality with negative health effects that makes outdoor recreation at Midpen unsafe. Power providers sometimes deenergize power lines to reduce risk of wildfire, but loss of power can negatively impact delivery of other services. As noted above, climate change may contribute to increased risk of wildfire.
- Areas impacted by wildfires are also more likely to experience post-fire soil erosion, debris flows or other mass land movement. This can damage structures, trails, or other amenities provided by Midpen that can be costly to repair.
- Heavy rain has the potential to create localized flooding, wash out sections of trails, or otherwise damage recreational amenities. Hail and high winds can damage trees, which may block access to trails or other landmarks at Midpen. Midpen facilities such as visitor centers or field offices could also be damaged from high winds or from localized flooding in a heavy rain event. It is anticipated that heavy precipitation events may become more extreme due to climate change. An increase in the severity of heavy rain events, such as atmospheric rivers, would also increase the risk of flooding, and impacts may become more severe in the future as a result.
- High wind can result in falling tree limbs that can block trails or cause other damage to MROSD amenities. Falling limbs also have the potential to cause injuries to visitors. An in-depth assessment of the possibility of increasing numbers and intensities of windstorms due to climate change was not available for Midpen; however, changes in temperature and extreme weather events may also be accompanied with increases in high wind. Winds can damage utility lines, resulting in power outages and can also contribute to extreme wildfire risk conditions.
- Moderate to high landslide potential exists in much of the hilly terrain in the outer lying areas of Santa Clara County. Several of the open space preserves intersect areas with landslide potential. Landslides could disrupt access to trails, roads, parking areas, or other landmarks or amenities in Midpen. If persons are recreating at the time a landslide occurs, they may become isolated if roadways are impacted by the landslide and may require assistance to exit the area. Heavy rain can contribute to increased landslide activity. Intense rainstorms can result in increased risk of landslides occurrences, so increased heavy rain events driven by climate change may further increase the occurrence of landslides. Loss of vegetation from wildfire reduces slope stability, so an increase in wildfires resulting from climate change may also increase post-fire debris flows.
- The entire OA could potentially experience strong ground shaking in an earthquake. Although Hazus is unable to model specific impacts to open spaces, various amenities in the MROSD can be damaged from ground shaking. Access to and from the open space areas may be disrupted if surface rupture or other damage to roads occurs. Shaking from an earthquake could trigger landslides that might further block access to and from the area.
- Dam failure is not anticipated to have significant impacts on Midpen. Most of the potential inundation areas lie downstream or outside of preserve areas. Dam failure actions were not identified for this annex due to very low risk.
- Hazus flood model results were not able to be applied to the MROSD area and facilities. Flooding is generally always a possibility along rivers and creeks. Several creeks cross different open space preserves in Midpen. High flows from heavy rain or snowmelt could cause erosion along the banks. Although specific amenities at risk to potential flooding were not identified, it should be noted that trails could be washed out by flooding, and other amenities in close proximity could also be potentially at risk to damage from floodwaters.
- Critical infrastructure at risk from flooding includes Coastal Area Office, which is located in Flood Zone A, as well as Skyline Field Office and Administration Office which are located in Zone X (Shaded)

- No direct impacts are expected from tsunami due to distance from the shoreline and higher elevation at the preserves. Tsunami is not profiled for this annex.
- Permanent populations and residences are not located in the Midpen preserves. Recreationists could be impacted by sudden onset of heavy rain, high wind, wildfire, landslide, or earthquake and may require emergency assistance.

Other noted vulnerabilities include:

- There is potential for the isolation of rural communities during a large disaster (i.e., an earthquake, tsunami, wildfire, or major storm). There are limited means of access to both the mid-coast communities and rural communities located adjacent to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District lands. These roads could be damaged, blocked, or made impassable during a disaster.
- Water tanks on Midpen property serve as critical supply reservoirs in case of an emergency. A hazard that would damage this infrastructure could significantly affect fire-fighting capabilities in the area.
- The Coastal Area Office does not have a generator to assist with emergency response operations.
- Midpen buildings, including both field offices (Skyline Field Office and Coastal Field Office), lack seismic reinforcement. The field offices are critical to emergency response actions to surrounding preserves.
- The majority of land owned by Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is within the WUI and has a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Fire Hazard Severity Zone rating of “High” or “Very High.”

As a special district, Midpen is not a participant in the NFIP program and does not have any repetitive loss/severe repetitive loss structures.

- Number of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-identified Repetitive-Loss Properties (RL): 0
- Number of FEMA-identified Severe-Repetitive-Loss (SRL) Properties: 0
- Number of RL Properties or SRL Properties that have been mitigated: 0

## 1.8. Hazard Risk Index

Table 246 presents the hazards of concern from highest risk index number to lowest, as assigned by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

**Table 13: Hazard Risk Index**

Hazard	Probability	Life Impact	Property Impact	Percentage of Area Impacted	Maximum Probable Extent
Wildfire/Smoke/Air Quality	Highly Likely	Catastrophic	Catastrophic	Extensive	Major
Climate Change	Highly Likely	Limited	Limited	Extensive	Moderate
Drought	Highly Likely	Minor	Minor	Extensive	Moderate

Hazard	Probability	Life Impact	Property Impact	Percentage of Area Impacted	Maximum Probable Extent
Landslide/Mass Movement	Likely	Limited	Critical	Minimal	Moderate
Heavy Rain	Likely	Limited	Limited	Minimal	Moderate
High Wind	Likely	Limited	Limited	Minimal	Moderate
Extreme Heat	Likely	Limited	Limited	Minimal	Moderate
Flood	Likely	Limited	Limited	Negligible	Moderate
Earthquake	Occasional	Limited	Critical	Significant	Major
Dam/Levee Failure	Unlikely	Minor	Limited	Negligible	Weak

**Table 14: Comparison of Midpen Risk Scores to Operational Area (OA)**

Risk Score	Earthquake	Dam/Levee Failure	Heavy Rain	High Wind	Extreme Heat	Wildfire	Drought	Flood	Landslide	Climate Change
MidPen	1.35	0.25	1.3	1.3	1.3	3	1.2	1.2	1.55	1.8
OA	2.24	1.19	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.68	1.21	0.90	0.36	1.13

## 1.9. Status of Previous Plan Actions

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District was not a Planning Partner in the 2017 Santa Clara County mitigation plan and therefore does not have previous mitigation actions.

## 1.10. Future Needs to Understand Risk/Vulnerability

- Most of the land owned by Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is within the WUI and has a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Fire Hazard Severity Zone rating of “High” or “Very High.” Updated Severity Zone ratings from CAL FIRE are needed to evaluate and prioritize future fuel reduction projects.
- Potential for isolation of rural communities during a large disaster (i.e., an earthquake, tsunami, wildfire, or major storm). There are limited means of access to both the mid-coast communities and rural communities located adjacent to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District lands. These roads could be damaged, blocked, or made impassable during a disaster. Evacuation coordination with local emergency services should be assessed to prepare a vulnerability assessment.
- Midpen buildings including both field offices (Skyline Field Office and Coastal Field Office) lack seismic reinforcement. The field offices are critical to emergency response actions to surrounding preserves. Access to seismic and vibration sensors would help Midpen monitor earthquakes and vulnerability in the future.
- Water tanks on Midpen property serve as critical supply reservoirs in case of an emergency. A hazard that would damage this infrastructure could significantly affect fire-fighting capabilities in the area.

- The Coastal Area Office does not have a generator to assist with emergency response operations. The addition of a generator would expand the ability of this site to address community needs in an emergency.

Mitigation actions addressing these issues were prioritized for consideration in the action plan presented in this annex.

## 1.11. Hazard Mitigation Action Plan and Evaluation of Recommended Actions

Table 248 lists the actions that make up the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District hazard mitigation action plan.

Descriptions of the expected time frames for actions are provided below:

- Short term: 1–5 years
- Medium term: 5–10 years
- Long term: Over 10 years
- Ongoing: Currently being funded and implemented under existing programs

The planning partners utilized the following criteria to prioritize action items into the categories of high, medium, or low.

- High Priority— A project that:
  - Meets multiple goals and objectives (i.e., multiple hazards);
  - Addresses multiple hazards;
  - Has benefits that exceed cost;
  - Has funding secured or is an ongoing project;
  - Meets eligibility requirements for Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants;
  - Can be completed in the short term (1 to 5 years);
  - Addresses immediate short-term impacts of climate change;
  - Benefits underserved and/or socially vulnerable populations; AND
  - Considers the Multi-Benefit Criteria utilized by the Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative, including equity, long-term value, ecosystem benefit, community benefit, and cross-jurisdictional alignment.
- Medium Priority— A project that:
  - Meets multiple goals and objectives;
  - Addresses multiple hazards;
  - Has benefits that exceed costs;
  - Has funding has not been secured, but that is grant eligible under Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants or other grant programs;
  - Project can be completed in the short term (1-5 years), once funding is secured. Medium priority projects will become high priority projects once funding is secured;

- Addresses immediate short-term impacts of climate change;
  - Benefits underserved and/or socially vulnerable populations; AND
  - Considers the Multi-Benefit Criteria utilized by the Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative, including equity, long-term value, ecosystem benefit, community benefit, and cross-jurisdictional alignment.
- Low Priority— A project that:
    - Will mitigate the risk of at least one hazard;
    - Has benefits that do not exceed the costs or are difficult to quantify;
    - Does not have secured funding;
    - Is not eligible for Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding;
    - Has a timeline for completion that is long term (greater than 5 years). Low priority projects may be eligible for other sources of grant funding from other programs;
    - May address impacts of climate change;
    - May benefit underserved and/or socially vulnerable populations; AND
    - Considers the Multi-Benefit Criteria utilized by the Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative, including equity, long-term value, ecosystem benefit, community benefit, and cross-jurisdictional alignment.

Table 15: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District 2023 Action Items

Action Item Number	Action Item Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead Position, Office, Department, or Division Responsible for Implementation	Potential Funding Sources	Expected Timeline for Completion	Priority
1.	Update the Emergency Operations Plan, and the Emergency/Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Plan.	All Hazards	General Manager's Office, Visitor Services Department	Staff Time, General Funds	Ongoing	Medium
2.	Engage in ongoing preparedness and emergency response training.	All Hazards	All Departments	Staff Time, General Funds	Ongoing	Medium
3.	Incorporate the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan into Midpen's Capital Improvement and Action Plan in response to evolving hazards and mitigation strategies.	All Hazards	All Departments	Staff Time, General Funds	Short-term	Medium
4.	Incorporate mitigation principles into local event management during Incident Command Post and Department Operations Center Action Planning.	All Hazards	Visitor Services	Staff Time, General Funds	Ongoing	Medium
5.	Update and enhance the GIS data systems and mapping to include slope and known land instability in Midpen.	Earthquake, Landslide, Wildfire	Information Systems and Technology Department, Planning Department, Land & Facilities Department	Staff Time, General Funds	Short-term	High



Action Item Number	Action Item Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead Position, Office, Department, or Division Responsible for Implementation	Potential Funding Sources	Expected Timeline for Completion	Priority
6.	Continue to acquire lands to protect, preserve and prevent development due to, slope, fire risk and other hazards. Integrate the Midpen's mitigation plan into current capital improvement plans to ensure that development does not encroach on known hazard areas.	All Hazards, including Wildfire, Landslide, Drought, Extreme Heat	Planning Department, Engineering & Construction Department, Land & Facilities Department	Staff Time, General Funds	Short-term	Medium
7.	Midpen staff, in conjunction with Cal Fire, State Coastal Conservancy, and the Wildlife Conservation Board to implement grant projects to expand capacity and perform vegetation management strategies to improve forest health and wildland fire resiliency.	Landslide, Wildfire, Drought, Extreme Heat	Natural Resources, Land & Facilities	Staff Time, General Funds, HMGP, PDM	Short-term	High

Action Item Number	Action Item Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead Position, Office, Department, or Division Responsible for Implementation	Potential Funding Sources	Expected Timeline for Completion	Priority
8.	Implement the Open Space Maintenance and Restoration Program to reinforce Midpen infrastructure from flooding and erosion through protection and resilience activities, including elevating the roads/bridges, installing/widening culverts, or upgrading storm drains by use of Midpen Details and Specifications standards including the Kennedy Trail Retaining Wall, Bear Creek Redwoods Parking Lot Culvert, Prospect Road Culvert Replacement, Allen Road Washout Repair, Shilling Lake Spillway Repair.	Earthquake, Landslide, Flooding, Heavy Rain, High Wind	Engineering & Construction Department, Land & Facilities Department, Natural Resources Department	Staff Time, General Funds, HMGP, PDM, FMA	Ongoing	High
9.	Study the feasibility of conducting an inventory of existing residential structures for seismic upgrades.	Earthquake	Engineering & Construction Department, Land & Facilities Department, Planning Department	Staff Time, General Funds, HMGP, PDM, FMA	Short-term	Medium
10.	Finalize a Drought Response Plan that sets thresholds for activating water conservation measures in Midpen operations.	Drought	Natural Resources Department, Public Affairs Department	Staff Time, General Funds, HMGP, PDM, FMA	Ongoing	Medium

Action Item Number	Action Item Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead Position, Office, Department, or Division Responsible for Implementation	Potential Funding Sources	Expected Timeline for Completion	Priority
11.	Implement the Wildland Fire Resiliency Program targeting high priority areas for vegetation management, ecosystem resiliency, invasive species management, with a 5-year focus on community evacuation routes specifically along Alpine Road, Page Mill Road, and Highway 35.	Wildfire, Drought, Extreme Heat	Natural Resources Department, Land & Facilities Department	Cal Fire, WCB, SCC, Staff Time, General Funds, HMGP, PDM, FMA	Ongoing	High
12.	Expand the public education program to increase awareness of fire risks and promote implementation of fire safe practices in wildland fire areas, such as, but not limited to, vegetation management, fire resistant construction, onsite water storage, adequate access, and other fire prevention measures by updating the Wildland Fire Resiliency webpage.	Wildfire, Drought, Extreme Heat	Natural Resources Department, Public Affairs Department	Staff Time, General Funds, HMGP	Ongoing	High

Action Item Number	Action Item Description	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead Position, Office, Department, or Division Responsible for Implementation	Potential Funding Sources	Expected Timeline for Completion	Priority
13.	Actively participate in the plan maintenance protocols outlined in Volume 1 of this hazard mitigation plan.	All Hazards, including Earthquake, Landslide, Wildfire, Flood, Heavy Rain, High Wind, Drought, Extreme Heat	All Departments	Staff Time, General Funds	Short-term	Medium
14.	Identify and pursue strategies to increase adaptive capacity to climate change in areas of repeated slide activity including Purisima Creek Trail, and the Spring Board Trail.	Climate Change, Heavy Rain, Drought, Extreme Heat, Landslide, Wildfire	Natural Resources Department, Land & Facilities Department	Staff Time, General Funds, HMGP, PDM, FMA	Short-term	Medium
15.	Purchase generators for critical facilities and infrastructure that lack adequate backup power.	Earthquake, Flood, Landslide, Heavy Rain, High Wind, Wildfire	Land & Facilities Department	Staff Time, General Funds, HMGP, PDM	Short-term	Medium

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-\_\_****RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADOPTING THE 2023 SANTA CLARA COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

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**WHEREAS**, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is subject to various earthquake related hazards such as ground shaking, liquefaction, landslides, fault surface rupture, and tsunamis, and

**WHEREAS**, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is subject to various weather-related hazards including wildfires, floods, and landslides; and

**WHEREAS**, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District recognizes that disasters do not recognize city, county, or special district boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District seeks to maintain and enhance a disaster-resilient region by reducing the potential loss of life, property damage, and environmental degradation from natural disasters, while accelerating economic recovery from those disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is committed to increasing the disaster resilience of the infrastructure, health, housing, economy, government services, education, environment, and land use systems in the Santa Clara County as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires all cities, counties, and special districts to have adopted a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to receive disaster mitigation funding from FEMA; and

**WHEREAS**, in June 2022, the Santa Clara County Emergency Operational Area Council initiated a hazard mitigation planning process that was guided by a 19-member coalition of partner agencies, including Santa Clara County, 15 city and town governments, the Santa Clara County Fire District, Valley Water, and the Valley Transportation Authority; and

**WHEREAS**, the result of this effort is a two-volume Santa Clara County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan (“SCC MJHMP”), a multi-hazard mitigation plan; and

**WHEREAS**, upon adoption of the SCC MJHMP Volume I and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Annex within Volume II and the subsequent approval of said plan by FEMA and Cal OES, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District will be eligible to apply for and potentially receive specified grants;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors as follows:

1. The Board of Directors adopts the Santa Clara County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), which includes Volume 1 Base Plan and Volume 2 as the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.
2. The General Manager or designee is hereby authorized to accept amendments thereto.
3. The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District commits to continuing to take those actions and initiating further actions as appropriate, as identified in the HMP.

\* \* \* \* \*

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on September 11, 2024, at a regular meeting thereof, by the following vote:

**AYES:**  
**NOES:**  
**ABSTAIN:**  
**ABSENT:**

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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Curt Riffle, Secretary  
Board of Directors

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Margaret MacNiven, President  
Board of Directors

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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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.

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Maria Soria, District Clerk