



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-24-116
Meeting 24-26
September 25, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 3

AGENDA ITEM

Annual Year-End Report for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

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Informational item only. No Board action required.

SUMMARY

The Fiscal Year 2023-24 (FY24) year-end progress report looks back at the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (District) advancements in achieving its goals as set out in the FY24 Budget and Action Plan. Included as supplemental attachments to this report are the FY24 Major Accomplishments Report (Attachment 1) and the FY24 Year-End Action Plan Progress Report (Attachment 2). The Major Accomplishments Report is a public-facing document that presents significant project milestones, program achievements, grants secured and special acknowledgements in FY24. The Year-End Action Plan Progress Report lists each project on the FY24 Budget and Action Plan, including the fiscal year project scope, project scope status and, where applicable, specific reasons for project scope changes or deviations from the anticipated project timeline. A broad analysis of this year's action plan progress is included in this report.

DISCUSSION

FY24 Major Accomplishments Report

The District proudly presents the FY24 Major Accomplishments Report (Attachment 1). This public-facing document showcases significant project milestones in addition to programmatic or operational achievements, secured grants and special acknowledgements that have furthered the District's mission and Coastside mission:

***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.*

The Major Accomplishments Report has become a flagship publication in recent years, presenting the District's outstanding achievements in a visually engaging and narrative-driven

format. The District's work has a lasting impact on the region, and the infographics and photos in the report effectively illustrate this significance. The report highlights achievements through the lens of the District's four core program areas:

- Land Acquisition and Preservation
- Natural Resource Protection and Restoration
- Public Access, Education and Outreach
- Assets and Organizational Support

The FY24 report also highlights the District's decisive action on achieving 12 major Measure AA milestones and the agency's commitment to prioritizing the following key focus areas:

- Agriculture
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Wildland Fire Resiliency

Key accomplishment highlights include:

- Preserved 845 acres of additional open space land
- Fuel reduction treatments completed at 8 different preserves
- Pond improvements that support the endangered San Francisco garter snake and threatened California red-legged frog
- Installed 14,000 linear feet of wildlife-friendly fencing in support of the conservation grazing program
- Full cleanup of a historic landfill at Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve
- Adoption of a new Agricultural Policy
- Multiple storm damage repairs to trails and roads impacted by the 2022-23 winter storms
- Opened 1.1 miles of additional trail across 3 preserves, including completing repairs to reopen Alpine (Road) Trail at Coal Creek Preserve
- Substantially completed more than 2 miles of trails within northeastern Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve that will open to the public in October 2024
- Arrived at final public access recommendations by a citizen working group for the Hawthorns Area of Windy Hill Preserve
- 4,547 volunteer docent hours, 249 guided public activities and over 2,000 participants
- 22 field trips serving 349 students
- 145 volunteer activities that logged 10,627 hours of land stewardship work
- 1,937 volunteer trail reports in support of land management
- Received \$9.5 million in grants with another \$8 million under review
- Awarded \$250,000 in grants to 5 local community organizations focused on connecting people to nature, climate resilience and indigenous land stewardship
- Launched the Trail Explorer app to enhance the preserve experience for visitors
- Received 8 awards for excellence in innovation, technical solutions, parking design and financial reporting

FY24 Capital Improvement and Action Plan Progress

The FY24 Major Accomplishments Report summarizes the progress made to carry out the annual Capital Improvement and Action Plan (CIAP). The CIAP identifies the project scopes, schedules, and budgets of priority capital projects. Many projects span multiple fiscal years and involve collaborative partnerships. On June 14, 2023, the District's Board of Directors (Board)

adopted the FY24 Capital Improvement and Action Plan (CIAP) with a total of 125 projects. Subsequently, the District added eight projects mid-year, resulting in a total of 133 projects. On average, the District completes approximately half of all project scopes identified for the fiscal year and makes significant progress on the other half (see Table 1). Taken together, the District completed or made progress on 118 (88%) project scopes in FY24.

Table 1. FY24 CIAP Project Scope Status Trend

Project Scope Status as of June 30, 2024	FY22		FY23		FY24		3-Year Avg
	#	%	#	%	#	%	%
Complete	53	45%	58	47%	71	53%	48%
In Progress	59	50%	59	47%	46	35%	44%
Cancelled/Deferred	6	5%	8	6%	16	12%	8%
Total	118	100%	125	100%	133	100%	

Table 2 provides a preliminary look at the FY24 CIAP budget remaining by fund and project scope status. Unaudited actuals show a net budget remaining of \$3.2 million. Where applicable, budget overages are shown in parentheses. As shown in Table 2, project scopes deemed “in progress” as of June 30, 2024 account for most of the budget remaining.

Table 2. Preliminary FY24 CIAP Budget Remaining (Unaudited Actuals)

District Fund / Project Scope Status	Budget Remaining/(Overage)
10 - General Fund Operating	560,690
Cancelled	-
Complete	635,655
Deferred	-
In Progress	(74,965)
20 - Hawthorns	86,005
Complete	86,005
30 - Measure AA Capital	621,755
Complete	(663,666)
Deferred	14,729
In Progress	1,270,693
40 - General Fund Capital	1,895,856
Cancelled	-
Complete	264,416
Deferred	(2,316)
In Progress	1,633,757
Total	3,164,306

**A full report on FY24 budget to actuals, including operating expenses and revenues, will be presented to the board in calendar year 2024, following the completion of the District's annual audit.*

Table 3 summarizes the primary factors affecting FY24 CIAP budget statuses by fund. Positive impacts relate to reassigning outside contracted work to internal Midpen crews (e.g., cost savings), securing additional grant dollars to offset District funds, and the distribution of grant funds sooner than expected. Negative impacts largely relate to delays in securing other grants,

staffing issues, regulatory hurdles with permitting delays, extended partner coordination, and supply chain disruptions for vehicles, equipment and materials.

Table 3. FY24 CIAP Budget Remaining – Primary Drivers by Fund

District Fund	Primary Drivers
10 - General Fund Operating	<p>We completed the Fuel Reduction Implementation project (61017) FY24 scope of work with budget remaining.</p> <p>The Los Gatos Creek Watershed – Wildland Fire Resiliency project (61023) also had a significant budget remaining. This was due to Santa Clara County Firesafe Council, the lead partner on the grant, performing the acres of fuel treatment with additional grant funds. Therefore, more grant funds were allocated to complete the fuel treatment work on our behalf, resulting in a greater offset of District funds.</p> <p>Other FY24 project scopes (ADA Barrier Removal and Wildland Fire Capacity-operating) were not completed as planned due to the redirection of staffing resources to secure federal grant funding for 2022-23 winter storm damage projects.</p>
20 - Hawthorns	<p>The budget remaining in Fund 20 is primarily due to the Hawthorns Historic Complex Partnership project (VP06-003). In FY24, staff pivoted to focus on a potential partnership project for one specific historic building, affecting the scope and schedule for evaluating the future use and management of the larger site and remaining buildings.</p>
30 - Measure AA Capital	<p>The Bear Creek Redwoods (BCR) Phase 2 Trails (MAA21-011) and Highway 17 Crossing projects (MAA20-001 and MAA20-002) experienced external partner agency issues, namely additional coordination with and an extended permitting review by Caltrans for the BCR Phase 2 Trails to address multiple technical requirements, and multiple meetings with and response to comments from responsible agencies on the draft CEQA/NEPA document for the Highway 17 Crossing projects. Also, the Alpine Road Regional Trail project (MAA10-001) was impacted by key staff turnover that affected the permit closeout schedule. Moreover, the County was also delayed in closing out the permit on their end.</p> <p>The budget adjustment for the Johnston Ranch property purchase (MAA01-005) was \$700,000 short because the close of escrow occurred sooner than expected due to the timing of final grant reimbursement approvals. As a result, the adjustment process also did not account for \$700,000 in state grants.</p>

40 - General Fund Capital

The budget remaining in Fund 40 is due to ongoing supply chain issues with vehicle and machinery purchases.

Also, the Sierra Azul Ranger Residence project (35004) was subject to several unexpected permitting requirements set forth by Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health that delayed construction.

Other FY24 project scopes (Bear Creek Redwoods Parking Lot Culvert, Miramontes Ridge Madonna Creek Dam Repair, Wildland Fire Capacity-capital, and Skyline Ridge Road and Big Dipper Inholding) were not completed as planned due to the redirection of staffing resources to secure federal grant funding for 2022-23 winter storm damage projects.

For additional detail, Attachment 2 has specific information on each FY24 CIAP project, including the FY24 project scope, project scope status and, where applicable, the reason(s) for project scope changes or deviations from the anticipated project timeline.

Looking Forward

As noted in the 2023 Financial and Operational Sustainability Model (FOSM) Refresh, addressing permitting issues can enhance operational efficiency. Staff have already begun making improvements in this area. In FY24, the District worked with the County of San Mateo to streamline local permits by obtaining a 5-Year Master Permit for routine maintenance and project work. The master permit is expected to reduce project delays due to County permitting over the next five years. Staff will continue to explore streamlined permitting options, including blanket approvals, self-permitting and consolidating permit processes.

The 2023 FOSM Refresh also proposes the hiring of over 90 employees over 10 years with a short-term "catch up" period from FY24 to FY27 of 32 FTEs. The additional capacity will bring added support to project delivery, reducing the potential for delays due to staffing issues and enhancing overall productivity.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

PRIOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW

- **June 14, 2023:** Board adoption of the FY24 Budget and Action Plan ([R-23-66](#), [minutes](#)).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Attachments:

1. FY24 Major Accomplishments Report
2. FY24 Year-End Action Plan Progress Report

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FY24 Major Accomplishments Report

JULY 1, 2023-JUNE 30, 2024



Headquarters in Los Altos, California



MISSION The mission of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is 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.



PHOTO CREDITS

Cover, top: Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Area Midpen
Cover, lower left: San Jose State University (San Jose State University)
Cover, lower middle: La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (RP Staff)
Cover, lower right: La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (Austen Baxter)
This page: Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve (Richard Jarvis)

FY24 Major Accomplishments Report

JULY 1, 2023-JUNE 30, 2024

As we conclude fiscal year 2024, this report highlights significant accomplishments in Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (Midpen's) priority program areas.

PRIORITY PROGRAM AREAS

Land Acquisition and Preservation

Midpen seeks to purchase or otherwise acquire interest in the maximum feasible area of strategic open space land within the District, including baylands, foothills and ridgelines, and link its open space lands with federal, state, county and city parklands and watershed lands.

Public Access, Education and Outreach

Midpen provides public access to the open space lands for low-intensity recreational uses to everyone, regardless of physical abilities or economic status.

Natural Resource Protection and Restoration

Midpen protects and restores the natural diversity and integrity of its resources for their value to the environment and the public.

Assets and Organizational Support

Midpen employs a highly capable and professional staff and provides them with the facilities and resources needed to run an efficient and responsible organization on behalf of the public.

ICON KEY



Land
Acquisition
and
Preservation



Natural
Resource
Protection and
Restoration



Public Access,
Education
and Outreach



Assets and
Organizational
Support



Agriculture



Diversity,
Equity and
Inclusion



Wildlife Fire
Resiliency



Measure AA

Midpen is proud of the work we've accomplished to serve our communities and region, in close collaboration with partner agencies. All projects and programs reflect the priorities set annually by the board of directors.

View prior year Major Accomplishments Reports at openspace.org/reports.



Land Acquisition and Preservation



PROPERTY ADDITION TO LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

With the completed acquisitions of the Eberhard property in December of 2023 and the Fifths property in May of 2024, a total of 156 acres were added to La Honda Creek in FY24. These acquisitions protect redwood forested lands and wildlife habitat on the headwaters of La Honda Creek within the San Gregorio watershed. In terms of public access, the Eberhard acquisition advances a connection between La Honda Creek and El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserves. The Eberhard acquisition was made possible in part by Measure AA funding and a grant from the Moore Foundation (\$1 million).



La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (Midpen Staff)

TRAIL EASEMENT ADDITION TO PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Midpen closed escrow on a forested, 3.7-acre trail easement area as an addition to Purisima Creek Redwoods. The Boothroyd-Krebs public trail easement is located southerly adjacent to the preserve and may be utilized in the future as part of the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail or other trails within the preserve.

TRAIL EASEMENT ADDITION TO TEAGUE HILL OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Midpen secured a 50-foot-wide public trail easement as an addition to Teague Hill Open Space Preserve, protecting public access on an existing segment of the Skyline Trail.



MAA

ATTACHMENT 1 PROPERTY ADDITION TO MIRAMONTES RIDGE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

In May of 2024, Midpen finalized the purchase of a 644-acre portion of the undeveloped uplands area of the Johnston Ranch property from the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST). The purchase continues to protect 1.2 miles of Arroyo Leon Creek, a tributary to Pilarcitos Creek, with potential spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead trout. The purchase also provides opportunities for public access through expanding and connecting local trail systems. This acquisition was made possible in part by Measure AA funding and grants from the California Coastal Conservancy (\$500,000) and California Department of Parks and Recreation Habitat Conservation Fund (\$200,000).



Miramontes Ridge Open Space Preserve (Aaron Peth)

PROPERTY ADDITION TO SIERRA AZUL OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

In September of 2023, Midpen closed escrow on a 40.83-acre property as an addition to Sierra Azul. The Vielbaum property rests at 3,400 feet in elevation and is bordered by the 19,437.84-acre Sierra Azul Preserve to the north, east and south and private property to the west. The purchase protects fire-adaptive California bay forest and serpentine leather-oak chaparral within the Upper Los Gatos Creek and Upper Guadalupe Creek watersheds. In March of 2024, Midpen obtained an access easement over several road segments in the Rancho de Guadalupe area of Sierra Azul for patrol and maintenance purposes.



Natural Resource Protection and Restoration



WILDLAND FIRE FUEL REDUCTION AND WILDLAND FIRE RESILIENCY TREATMENTS THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT

Midpen remains hard at work to support healthy forests that are resilient to wildland fire and climate change as part of our Wildland Fire Resiliency Program. Staff continue to identify partnerships, grant funding and ways to increase Midpen’s resource management capacity.

Midpen is currently involved in several collaborative groups to create a more fire resilient region. As part of Midpen’s work with the Los Gatos Creek Watershed Collaborative, 254 acres at Bear Creek Redwoods, Long Ridge and Sierra Azul Open Space Preserves have received forest health treatments. In addition, fuel reduction work was completed in areas of La Honda Creek, Windy Hill, Coal Creek, Skyline Ridge and Russian Ridge Open Space Preserves by FireSafe San Mateo, Woodside Fire Protection District, San Mateo RCD and Midpen staff.

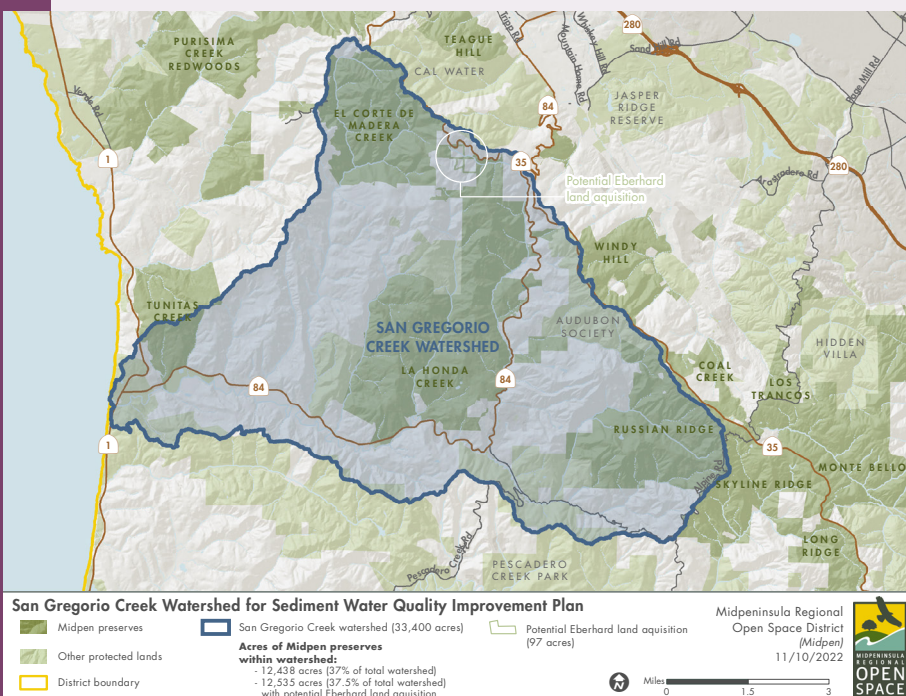
One of many ways Midpen prepares for fire season is an annual spring training for our rangers and other wildland firefighting-certified staff to keep their skills current. This year, Midpen also identified five staff members as future Resource Advisors and have sent them to obtain their red card training, the first step in a two- to three-year training program. The primary role of a Resource Advisor is to identify and evaluate potential impacts and benefits of fire operations (wildland or prescribed fire) on natural and cultural resources.

Meanwhile, in an effort to train the next generation of land and fire management stewards, Midpen teamed up with the San Francisco Conservation Corps, who have already begun forest health work in Midpen preserves. Midpen trained the Corps members in topics such as wildlife biology and fire ecology, as well as land management techniques like preventing the spread of invasive species, arboriculture and sensitively thinning trees and vegetation for conservation purposes.

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SAN GREGORIO CREEK WATERSHED

Midpen owns roughly 40% of the 33,000-acre San Gregorio Creek watershed. San Gregorio Creek was first listed as a sediment-impaired waterbody in 1998 under the Federal Clean Water Act. This year, in coordination with the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, Midpen completed a sediment inventory

of the watershed which identified the top 20 sites for reducing sediment. Of the 446 stream-crossing and culvert sites assessed, 13% showed evidence of active erosion, 31% had potential erosion while the majority (56%) had a low potential for erosion. Overall, Midpen’s relative sediment contribution is low compared to the total human-caused sediment delivery within the watershed. Thankfully, Midpen’s routine maintenance and best management practices have provided a substantial head start in reducing sediment delivered to San Gregorio Creek. A final report is now available and will further enable the protection and enhancement of water quality and stream habitat over a long-term period for listed species such as steelhead trout and coho salmon.





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HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS FOR TURTLES AND BATS AT LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

The western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*) is California's only native freshwater turtle. Unfortunately, this California "species of special concern", has experienced population reductions of 75-80% due to loss of habitat, predation and competition from non-native turtle species. This year, Midpen successfully completed spillway repairs at Lower Turtle Pond, located within La Honda Creek. Ponds provide prime habitat for turtles; their time in the sun is essential to shell development and overall health. These improvements not only support special status species recovery for the western pond turtle, but also the federally endangered San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*) and federally threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*). The project also improves flood resiliency and maintains conservation grazing water availability.

MAA

La Honda Creek is also home to eight different species of bats, several of which are California state species of special concern and are extremely beneficial to the environment. Several bats were found in the immediate area of the 160-year-old White Barn. The barn, located along the Cielo Trail, was in dire need of structural repairs for preservation and public safety. This year, Midpen completed stabilization and repairs, which included bat-specific enhancements to the interior of the barn.



La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (Frances Freyberg)



WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY LIVESTOCK FENCES FOR GRAZING UNITS AT PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS AND LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVES

Conservation grazing is integral to the management of approximately 15,000 acres of the District's Open Space Preserves on the San Mateo County coast. Coastal prairies and native grassland comprise one of the most biodiverse and threatened ecosystems in North America. In September of 2023, Midpen completed approximately 14,000 linear feet of wildlife-friendly livestock fences in the 450-acre Lobitos/Elkus property and the neighboring 340-acre Lobitos Ridge property, which protect riparian resources in both the Lobitos Creek and San Gregorio Creek watersheds.

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LANDFILL REMEDIATION AT BEAR CREEK REDWOODS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

When Midpen acquired Bear Creek Redwoods in 1999, the land had been heavily used and manipulated by human hands. As part of Midpen's mission to reclaim natural areas and restore the land's natural functions to support a healthy thriving ecosystem, staff recently completed the cleanup of this old landfill discovered within the preserve. The cleanup involved two distinct efforts: systematically collecting and documenting as many historic artifacts as possible, and removing contaminated soil and other hazardous waste, which included 274



tons of hazardous soils and ash, three tons of recyclable metals, one cubic yard of non-friable asbestos containing materials, 32 tires, 1.5 tons of general waste and debris and an undocumented 500-gallon fuel storage tank along the Alma Loop Trail.

MONITORING OF LEHIGH QUARRY RIDGELINE EASEMENT AND RECLAMATION PLAN

Midpen hired a consultant to prepare a report on ridgeline easement conditions and track conditions for three years. The original easement was put in place to avoid further loss of the ridgeline and ridgeline views from quarry activities. After a second year of monitoring, major breaches of the ridgeline easement before 2022 were clear. Since then, no one has reported major system failures. But, heavy rains worsened cracks and caused landslides in the quarry wall. Also, a monument delineating the boundary of a separate conservation easement went missing. Midpen requested Lehigh to replace the monument, per the easement. Midpen also supported Santa Clara County's new mining ordinance. It requires Lehigh to maintain a 50-foot buffer from groundwater. It also supported the completeness of Lehigh Quarry's 2023 Reclamation Plan Amendment application.



ADOPTED NEW AGRICULTURAL POLICY

After extensive public and stakeholder outreach, Midpen adopted a comprehensive agricultural policy in November 2023. The policy reaffirms Midpen's work preserving upland grazing areas protected through acquisition and conservation grazing leases, which support both agriculture and grassland habitats. It also adds policy framework working with partners to support the preservation of row crops and other intensive agricultural lands through affirmative agricultural easements and to support farm worker housing. The policy emphasizes ecologically sensitive agricultural practices, operations that embrace Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and consideration for local preference when selecting agricultural tenants.



Public Access, Interpretation, Education & Outreach

2022-23 WINTER STORMS REPAIR UPDATE

The winter storms of 2022-23 demonstrated how destructive winter storms can be to trails. The unprecedented deluge caused landslides, toppled thousands of trees and disrupted access to preserves and trails for visitors and Midpen staff. This year, Midpen crew repaired the damage to trails and culverts as well as two major landslides in Bear Creek Redwoods and Sierra Azul Open Space Preserves. Whether we are in for a quiet winter or a series of intense storms this year, we have Midpen's field crews to thank for their tireless work.

GUIDED HIKES AT CLOVERDALE RANCH OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Following the acquisition of Midpen's 27th open space preserve in FY23, Midpen has welcomed the public to Cloverdale Ranch. In July of 2023, District staff hosted two initial "Community Field Day" events, with three subsequent docent-led hikes throughout the fiscal year, inviting people to experience and learn more about coastal grasslands and the role of conservation grazing at the preserve.



TRAIL PROJECTS AT BEAR CREEK REDWOODS, COAL CREEK, PULGAS RIDGE, RUSSIAN RIDGE AND LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVES

This year, Midpen opened approximately 1.1 miles of additional trails to the public! In coordination with the City of San Carlos, Midpen designated a new trailhead with amenities and an unnamed 0.1-mile trail segment at Pulgas Ridge. The new trail segment is open to hiking and dogs on leash and connects the trailhead with the Dusky-footed Woodrat Trail. At Russian Ridge, Midpen utilized a former interior unpaved road to access a beautiful ridgeline vista point, opening the 0.5-mile Fog Drift Vista Trail for hiking, equestrian and bicycle use.

MAA Meanwhile, Midpen completed trail improvements in Coal Creek that reestablished the Alpine Trail as a safe connection between Portola Valley and Skyline Boulevard. In fall of 2023, work concluded on two retaining walls that will prevent a total washout at the trailhead to maintain this portion of the trail for visitor use and emergency response vehicle access, while reducing sediment into Corte de Madera Creek. In spring of 2024, Midpen completed the removal of the informal bypass trail and opened connections to the new, more sustainable 0.5-mile bypass trail.



Coal Creek Open Space Preserve (Frances Freyberg)



MAA In Los Gatos, Midpen staff and contractors are finalizing more than two miles of trails within the northeastern portion of Bear Creek Redwoods that will be opened to the public in the coming fiscal year. These trails will increase the land’s ecological health and eventually provide opportunities to explore an area of the preserve that was previously only accessible via permit. This project is made possible in part to Measure AA funding and a \$2.5 million grant from the California Natural Resources Agency.



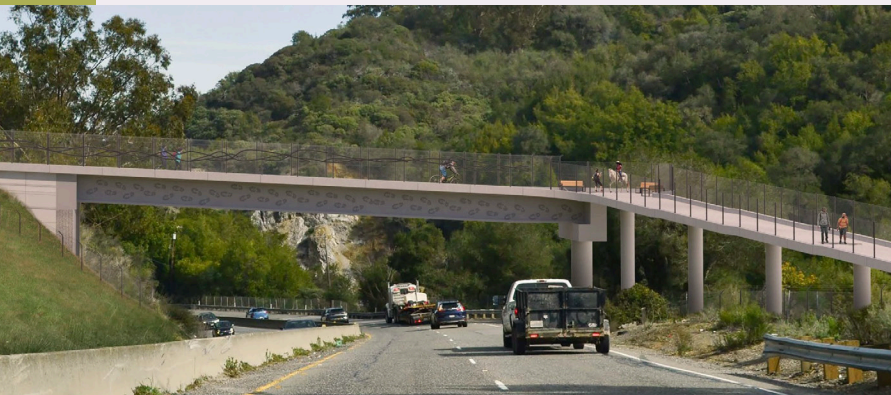
La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (Austen Baxter)



MAA On the coast, Midpen secured permits and initiated trail construction that will ultimately connect visitors from the Harrington Creek Trail in the southern area of La Honda Creek to the central and northern areas of the preserve. Since first opening to the public in 2017, the preserve has become a regional destination for birding.

MAA HIGHWAY 17 TRAIL OVERCROSSING SELECTED, DESIGN PLANS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDERWAY

While greenbelts and open spaces are critical for the health of animals and people alike, their benefits are exponentially greater when they are connected. Midpen reached a major milestone in the Highway 17 Wildlife and Trail Crossing project. In May of 2024, the Midpen board of directors selected the northern trail overcrossing location, which will connect the Los Gatos Creek Trail to El Sereno Open Space Preserve. The future trail overcrossing will connect over 50 miles of existing regional trails and will also be accompanied by a separate wildlife undercrossing. This past fiscal year, Midpen and our partners moved our conceptual design plans toward the preparation of more detailed construction plans and administered the public review period for the environmental analysis document for the project.



Rendition of pedestrian bridge connecting Los Gatos Creek Trail and El Sereno Open Space Preserve (Midpen)

PLANNING AT PURISIMA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

MAA Along Skyline Boulevard in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the vision of a public trail encircling Bay Area ridgetops is being realized piece by piece. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is planning a new Bay Area Ridge Trail segment on their watershed lands that would terminate near Purisima Creek Redwoods' North Ridge parking area. This year, the Midpen board of directors approved the preferred conceptual parking design for expanded parking to accommodate the new Bay Area Ridge Trail segment, as well as the Highway 35 trail crossing location that will connect the east and west trail systems in this northern area of the preserve. This project is made possible in part due to partnership funding from SFPUC, POST and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council.

MAA Connecting to the coast, planning continues for the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail (which will become a significant portion of the future and larger Bay to Sea Trail) and a new coastal trailhead and parking area. Midpen's board of directors have approved contracts for design development and environmental review for these projects, which are now underway.

Preserve-wide, Midpen is performing multimodal access planning to understand how transportation demand management strategies, such as shuttle services, carpool and reservation parking and real-time parking information, can be incorporated into existing and future trailheads to improve the experience for both preserve visitors and neighbors. As part of this work, the board approved the development of a formal carpool lot at the main Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve trailhead based on findings from a prior carpool pilot program. Design work to repurpose the lower west lot for carpools will begin in FY25. This project was awarded the **California Chapter Northern Excellence Award!**

PLANNING AT HAWTHORNS AREA OF WINDY HILL OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Midpen formed a public access working group in June of 2023 to collaborate with Midpen on a plan for introducing public access to the 79-acre Hawthorns Area of Windy Hill. After a total of seven meetings, the working group developed their final recommendations for parking and trails, which will be presented to the Planning & Natural Resources Committee later in 2024.

MAA As part of a separate planning effort, Midpen formed and worked with an Ad Hoc Committee to draft the long-term vision and goals for the 13-acre Hawthorns Historic Complex, located within Hawthorns Area. At the direction of the Ad Hoc Committee, Midpen staff engaged a structural engineer to further evaluate potential reuse options and cost estimates for the Hawthorns mansion. Midpen staff also developed an interim stabilization and debris removal plan that proposes to mitigate structural degradation over the next five to 10 years for structures that retain historical integrity for board consideration to lay out a pathway for on-the-ground stabilization and cleanup work. The Historic Hawthorns Complex vision and goals will be brought to the board of directors for approval in FY25.



Hawthorns Public Access Working Group Meeting (Midpen)

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Docents are long-term volunteers who educate and inspire preserve visitors through hosting interpretive hikes and bicycle/horseback rides, welcoming visitors on weekends at the Daniels C. Nature Center, located in Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, or conducting field trips for elementary school students.



TRAILS AND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

Trails and Stewardship Program volunteers deliver hands-on landscape restoration, assist visitors along the trails, contribute to community science and increase community awareness through both short and long-term programs.



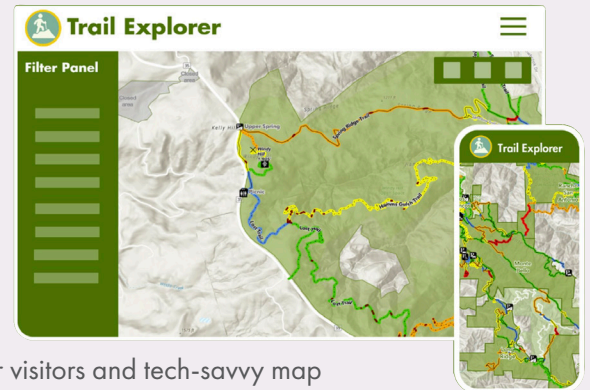


Assets and Organizational Support

LEVERAGING GIS TO VISUALIZE MIDPEN LAND AND COMMUNITY

While spreadsheets are valuable for data organization, mapping unlocks a deeper understanding. It reveals spatial distribution, concentration areas and empowers data-driven decisions with a geographic lens. This year, Midpen's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) team released several applications for users to explore:

It took more than three years for interns in the Planning department to walk and assess all 255 miles of Midpen's trails to develop **Trail Explorer**, an interactive online experience designed to help visitors plan an outing to Midpen preserves. Trail Explorer was launched on November 15, International GIS Day, and subsequently received the **Merit Award in Technology** from California Trails and Greenways.



Open Data Midpen, Midpen's central hub of GIS data and interactive mapping applications, is now available for visitors and tech-savvy map enthusiasts who want to plan their outdoor activities or learn more about Midpen preserves.

For those looking to explore demographics in California and reveal meaningful trends on a census tract level, Midpen proudly presents the **Disadvantaged Communities Explorer** and the **California Demographics Data Explorer** dashboards. The dynamic dashboard duo received an **Innovation Award** from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers. The data is updated annually to ensure relevance and accuracy.

CUTTING THROUGH GREEN TAPE

With over 900 culverts, 150 trail bridges and 230 miles of streams across our preserves, Midpen's professional trails crews are constantly making improvements and conducting ongoing maintenance activities. Administering these activities as a program, as opposed to individual activities, allows us to apply a consistent set of methods, best management practices and impact avoidance approaches. This year, Midpen worked with San Mateo County to streamline the local permitting process, which will reduce project delays over the next five years.

FINANCIAL & OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Completed a comprehensive update of Midpen's Financial Organization Sustainability Model with an emphasis on a five-year detailed outlook on program delivery, organization, reporting structure, staffing and financial sustainability.

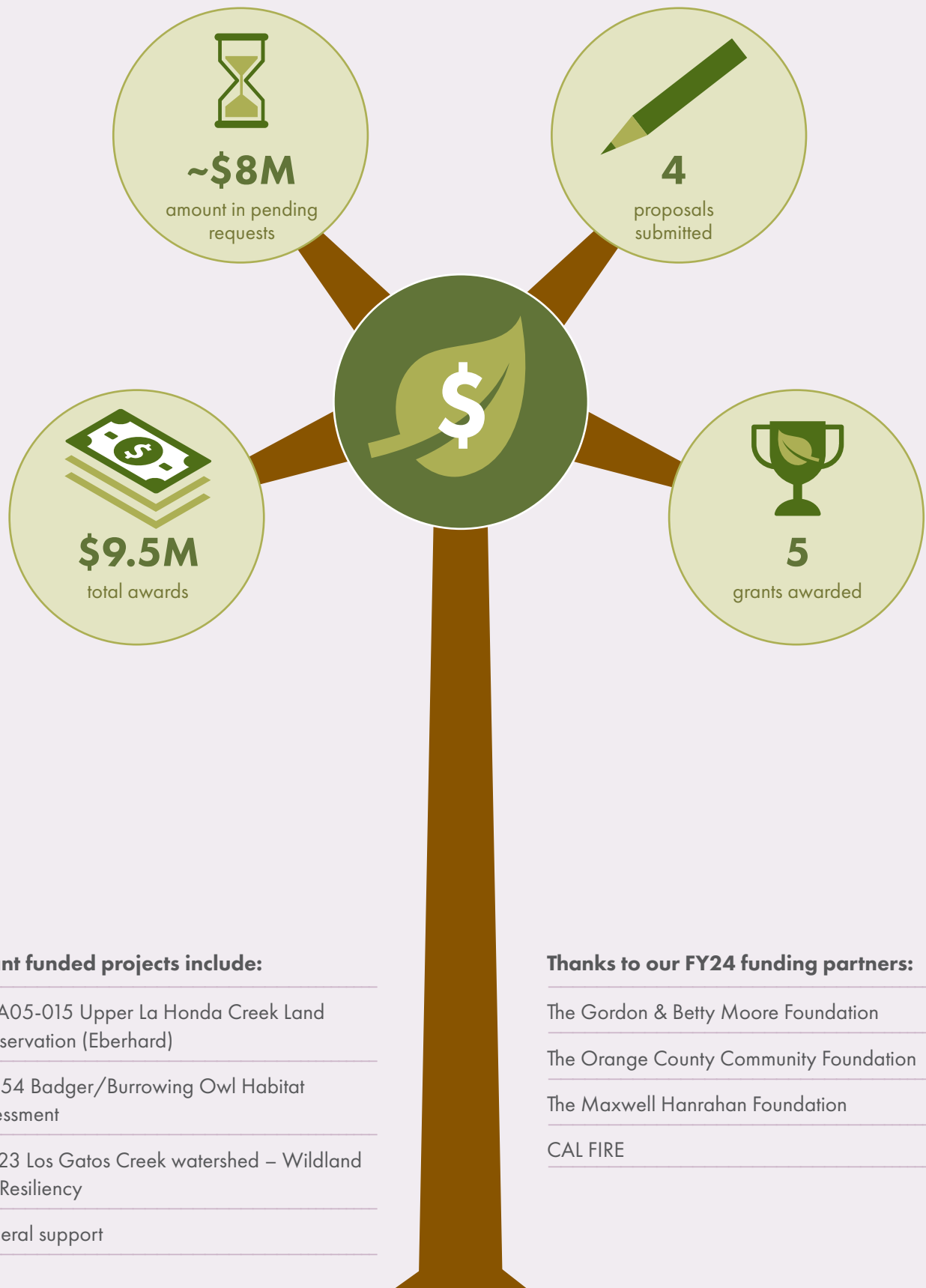
Received the Government Finance Officers Association's special **Triple Crown medallion** for preparing annual comprehensive financial reports that embody the spirit of transparency:

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award (eighth year).

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report Award (sixth year).

Popular Annual Financial Report Award (fifth year).

Received the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers **Budget Award** (sixth straight year).



Grant funded projects include:

MAA05-015 Upper La Honda Creek Land Conservation (Eberhard)

80054 Badger/Burrowing Owl Habitat Assessment

61023 Los Gatos Creek watershed – Wildland Fire Resiliency

General support

Thanks to our FY24 funding partners:

The Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation

The Orange County Community Foundation

The Maxwell Hanrahan Foundation

CAL FIRE

GRANTMAKING PROGRAM

Midpen is delighted for the opportunity to collaborate with community organizations, both long-standing and new, to support the vital role they play in connecting our communities to open space. In December 2023, Midpen awarded \$250,000 in funding to **five local community organizations** as part of our 2023 grantmaking program: Canopy, Grassroots Ecology, Saved By Nature, Tamien Nation and TOGETHER Bay Area. Planned projects and programs aim to bring nature within the reach of tribal communities and students from traditionally underserved communities. Other projects will foster connections and learning between groups, enhancing capacity for climate initiatives and resilience efforts and promote a better understanding of Indigenous land stewardship practices.



Saved by Nature



Together Bay Area



Tamien Nation



Canopy



Grassroots Ecology

YEAR-END REVIEW OF FY24 ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

#	Project #	Project Name	FY24 Adopted Project Scope	FY24 Adopted Scope Status	FY24 Status Reason
Land Acquisition and Preservation					
1	20125	Cal-Water Land Exchange, Teague Hill Preserve	Negotiate and finalize all transactional documents and bring a proposed agreement to the Board for approval.	In Progress	The finalization of transactional documents was paused due to Cal Water seeking preliminary approval from San Mateo County permitting agencies for their water tank project.
2	MAA01-005	Johnston Ranch Land Acquisition	Work with granting agencies to authorize grant change for fee and partial interest purchase of the Johnston upland property. Bring purchase amendment to Board for approval.	Complete	N/A
3	MAA03-006	South Cowell Upland Land Conservation	Continue to work with the county to complete a land division application, which has been delayed by litigation.	Deferred	Project paused to complete farm transfers at Cloverdale.
4	MAA05-015	Upper La Honda Creek Land Conservation (Eberhard)	Pursue lot line adjustment approval with San Mateo County to complete the purchase of the Eberhard property as an addition to La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.	Complete	N/A
5	MAA13-003	Cloverdale Ranch Land Opportunity	Continue due diligence for Phase 3 of the Cloverdale Ranch purchase. Work with POST and shareholders of Lake Lucerne Mutual Water Company to address future water infrastructure improvements and clearly define maintenance and repair responsibilities.	In Progress	Continuing to develop deal terms with Lake Lucerne Mutual Water Company and working on farm parcel transfers. The District technically has until 2027 to pursue the option purchase (utilizing all extensions).
6	MAA15-005	Upper La Honda Creek Land Conservation (Eberhard)	Pursue lot line adjustment approval with San Mateo County to complete the purchase of the Eberhard property as an addition to La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.	Complete	N/A - Note: Expenditure Plan allocation constraints forced a split in the Eberhard acquisition. Initially slated for MAA05, a portion of the property purchase and associated fees were charged to MAA15 due to insufficient funds in the original portfolio.
7	MAA15-006	Fifths Property Purchase	Added mid-year. Opportunity to acquire new property became available after FY24 budget adoption.	Complete (Added mid-year)	N/A
8	None	Districtwide Purchase Options and Low-Value Land Fund	As low-value purchase opportunities become available move to complete land purchases under the General Manager's authority.	Complete	N/A
9	VP06-002	El Mirador Land Conservation	In partnership with POST, develop conservation options to work with private property owners to protect 150-year old second-growth redwood forest.	In Progress	Complicated transaction requiring consent from three co-owners.
10	VP20-003	Quint Trail Easement	Secure a trail easement through private property.	In Progress	Need a willing seller. Reached out to property owner several times with no progress.
11	VP23-005	Vielbaum Property Purchase	Added mid-year. Acquisition opportunity arose after FY24 budget adoption.	Complete (Added mid-year)	N/A

YEAR-END REVIEW OF FY24 ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

#	Project #	Project Name	FY24 Adopted Project Scope	FY24 Adopted Scope Status	FY24 Status Reason
12	VP24-002	Valley Water Exchange Agreement at Rancho de Guadalupe Area of Sierra Azul Preserve	Execute an agreement with Valley Water allowing use of Midpen site for construction staging in exchange for building a parking area for public use. Continue working with Native American stakeholders to ensure protection of nearby cultural site.	In Progress	Valley Water dam project was delayed, which delayed the exchange.
13	VP25-001	Sierra Azul Loma Prieta Land Conservation	Continue to pursue land opportunities.	In Progress	Need willing sellers.
14	VP39-001	Lower San Gregorio Creek Watershed Land Conservation	Complete exchange of water rights including protection and enhancement of riparian corridor, and transfer of domestic water rights to support farming operation. Hire consultant to begin monitoring the riparian easement.	Deferred	Unable to reach deal terms on larger deal.
Natural Resource Protection and Restoration					
15	35012	Driscoll Ranch New Agricultural Well	Secure permits and prepare bid package.	In Progress	Permit application has completed, submitted, and reviewed by San Mateo County Planning, but is still under review by the County Environmental Health Department.
16	35016	Toto Ranch New Agricultural Well(s)	Conduct well assessment. If a deeper well is feasible, complete CEQA review, secure permits and prepare bid package.	In Progress	Awaiting test results of recently installed domestic well at Toto Ranch to inform agricultural well recommendations.
17	35033	Miramontes Ridge - Madonna Creek Dam Repair	Complete CEQA review. Repair and stabilize downstream face of dam. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from FEMA and staff.	In Progress	Construction efforts to repair the downstream face of the dam were delayed to allow for submission to and acceptance of the project by FEMA for eligible federal funds.
18	61017	Fuel Reduction Implementation	Continue fuel reduction work outlined in the Vegetation Management Plan to reduce fuels that contribute to wildfire risks. May need to split into additional projects.	Complete	N/A
19	61023	Los Gatos Creek Watershed - Wildland Fire Resiliency	Implement second year of the fuel treatments/habitat restoration plan at Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve. Implement first year of the fuel treatment/habitat restoration plan in the Cathedral Oaks area of Sierra Azul Preserve.	Complete	N/A
20	61024	Lobitos Creek Fencing	Solicit bids, award contract and complete construction.	Complete	N/A
21	61030	Toto Ranch Agricultural Plan	Utilize the consultant's findings to prepare the agricultural plan and prepare a draft lease agreement. Initiate CEQA review.	Deferred	No proposals were received in response to a RFP for consultant services to prepare the Ag Plan. Staff were required to pivot and prepare the Ag Plan in-house with peer review. However, start of the Ag Plan by staff has been delayed due to the need to direct capacity toward the management of Bear Creek Stables.

YEAR-END REVIEW OF FY24 ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

#	Project #	Project Name	FY24 Adopted Project Scope	FY24 Adopted Scope Status	FY24 Status Reason
22	61031	Wildland Fire Capacity	Plan for and start work along Alpine Road in Skyline Ridge and Russian Ridge preserves. Complete work along Alpine Road in Windy Hill. Start work on ecosystem fire resiliency for Kings Mountain manzanita at El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve.	In Progress	Federal funding had yet to be released for work along Alpine Road. Staff identified alternative treatment locations and is coordinating with grant funders to approve and extend the term of the grant until federal funds are released.
23	61045	Miramontes Ridge - Johnston Ranch Ponds	Complete CEQA review. Repair pond berm. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from FEMA and staff.	In Progress	The pond's berm was evaluated and determined to be stable and ineligible as a FEMA-funded project. The project scope now includes pond enhancements to improve flood resiliency and habitat while exploring opportunities for supporting agricultural operations.
24	61046	Miramontes Ridge - Madonna Creek Stables	Complete CEQA review. Repair or replace culvert and repair approximately 1500' of channel. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from FEMA and staff.	Complete	N/A
25	61050	Purisima Creek Redwoods - Purisima Ponds	Rebuild pond berm. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from FEMA and staff.	In Progress	FEMA and permitting requirements necessitated an extended timeline to repair the berm. The spillway was improved to temporarily lower flood risk. Project now requires additional design, engineering and permitting to repair the pond using FEMA funds.
26	80034-44	Programmatic State and Federal Environmental Permitting	Apply for updated U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Permit to match terms in final U.S. Army Corps and CA Department of Fish and Wildlife permits and to include updated provisions from Midpen's Prescribed Fire Program.	In Progress	US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) had staff turnover and final updated federal permit was not yet received. Moreover, CDFW required a new permit type that will provide higher level of state coverage, requiring additional time to process.
27	80054	Badger/Burrowing Owl Habitat Assessment	Continue engagement with regional partners to determine additional study needs and to inform the identification of enhancement implementation actions. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from staff.	Complete	N/A
28	80058	Districtwide Aquatic Habitat Assessment and eDNA Collection	Conduct San Francisco garter snake resurvey at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve and produce a final report.	Complete	N/A
29	80065	IPM Implementation of Valley Water Grant	Year seven of project implementation.	In Progress	Areas of yellow star thistle were untreated due to limits on survey data.
30	80069	Mountain Lion Conservation Research	Receive year three status report, conduct effectiveness monitoring, wildlife camera analysis, and ongoing research. Begin data analysis phase.	Complete	N/A

YEAR-END REVIEW OF FY24 ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

#	Project #	Project Name	FY24 Adopted Project Scope	FY24 Adopted Scope Status	FY24 Status Reason
31	80070	Carbon Storage Study - Pilot Project, San Gregorio watershed	Design for a carbon resilience and/or sequestration project (TBD). The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from staff.	Complete	N/A
32	80072	Irish Ridge Restoration	Begin CEQA and permitting. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from staff.	Complete	N/A
33	80073	Oversight of Lehigh Quarry Activities	Continue to work with partners, stakeholders, county and Lehigh to maximize protection of Midpen interests. Monitor Ridgeline Easement and report results to Santa Clara County.	Complete	N/A
34	80074	Science Advisory Panel	Pending Board approval and staff capacity, determine new Science Advisory Panel process and scope of research topics.	Deferred	Deferred by the Board to prioritize a science symposium in FY27.
35	80081	Pescadero Watershed Sediment Reduction Implementation	Continue conceptual designs. Coordinate with E&C (for ADA improvements) and VS (for work downstream of Alpine Pond) on scheduling and compliance with the recovery permit. Investigate streamlined permitting with resource agencies for highest priority sites, including the Alpine Pond Project (dam reconstruction and pond reconfiguration). Engage with neighbors where road agreements or easements exist.	Complete	N/A
36	80082	San Gregorio Water Quality Improvement Plan	Begin conceptual designs for several of the highest priority sites. Sites are anticipated to be eligible for programmatic (streamlined) permitting. Coordinate with Foothills Field Office (FFO) on scheduling.	Complete	N/A
37	80083	Santa Cruz Kangaroo Rat Habitat and Population Management Project	Develop a HPMP, initiate CEQA and prepare permit applications.	In Progress	Results of the population study were delayed due to limited success during the live trapping effort for the population study. Final results of the population study will inform the development of the habitat and population management plan.
38	80084	Remediation of Planting Sites	Determine locations and priority, including feasibility of remediation of restoration sites contaminated with soil pathogens.	Deferred	Staff vacancy.
39	80090	CEQA Review for IPM Program	Conduct internal review and stakeholder meetings on program updates.	Complete	N/A
40	80092	Long Ridge Forest Health Treatment	Secure grant funding for Douglas fir removal.	In Progress	A restoration plan is needed prior to seeking funding.
41	80093	Prescribed Fire Plan Implementation	Identify areas for prescribed fire. Draft up to two burn plans and implement at least one burn. Monitor and implement corrective actions, as needed. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from staff.	In Progress	Permitting issues with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Permit assumes San Francisco garter snake is present districtwide leading to unsuitable permit conditions.

YEAR-END REVIEW OF FY24 ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

#	Project #	Project Name	FY24 Adopted Project Scope	FY24 Adopted Scope Status	FY24 Status Reason
42	80094	Restoration Prioritization and Implementation of Mitigation Policy	Compile list, type, size and timing of priority restoration projects and sites.	Deferred	Due to staff vacancies and higher than anticipated staff time needed for Programmatic Permitting, this project was deferred.
43	80095	San Gregorio Creek Fish Habitat Enhancement	Hire San Mateo Resource Conservation District to lead project implementation, including CEQA and permitting. Begin construction summer 2024.	Complete	N/A - Note: construction scheduled for FY25
44	MAA01-006	Madonna Creek Habitat Enhancement, Water Supply and Bridge Replacement	Develop concept designs for habitat improvements and bridge replacement. If recommended, prepare for an alternative water supply to support agricultural operations.	Deferred	Restoring fish passage was determined to not be desirable because of poor upstream habitat quality. Regulatory agencies recommend maintaining the existing California red-legged frog pond rather than addressing fish passage. Improving agricultural water supply is no longer needed because of reduced water consumption from Madonna Ranch farming operations. Flooding in 2023 damaged the berm of an instream pond and delayed the project scope.
45	MAA02-004	Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Area Restoration	Continue site enhancements, monitoring and progress toward Phase 2. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from staff.	Deferred	Project deferred to prioritize staff time to secure FEMA storm damage funding for other projects.
46	MAA03-002	Purisima Upland Site Cleanup and Soil Remediation	Finalize design, CEQA, and permitting. Begin the request for bids process for remediation project. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from staff.	In Progress	Efforts on the RFB postponed because coordination with Water Board and other regulatory agencies for required permit clearance was still in progress.
47	MAA03-007	Purisima-to-the-Sea Habitat Enhancement and Water Supply Improvement Plan	Execute contract to implement stockwater infrastructure improvements. Begin permitting and design phase of pond reconstruction.	In Progress	Water supply improvements were delayed to FY25 to complete botanical surveys and other improvements to existing stock water sources in FY24 that were needed to finalize designs but were delayed due to protected species relocation and limited contractor availability.
48	MAA05-010	Restoration Forestry Demonstration Project	Complete forest plan and road/sediment design. Begin procuring contractor services for fuels, roads, and forestry services.	Complete	N/A
49	MAA05-011	Lone Madrone Ranch Fence Installation	Conduct competitive bid process, select contractor, and award construction fence contract. Fencing scheduled to be completed in FY24.	Complete	N/A
50	MAA07-008	Lower Turtle Pond Repair	Secure permits and begin implementing repairs to Lower Turtle Pond.	Complete	N/A
51	MAA13-002	Cloverdale Reservoir Monitoring Improvements	Execute Phase 1 of consultant contract to install flow meters on diversion outlet and hydraulic valves in Reservoirs 2 and 3.	Complete	N/A

YEAR-END REVIEW OF FY24 ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

#	Project #	Project Name	FY24 Adopted Project Scope	FY24 Adopted Scope Status	FY24 Status Reason
52	MAA20-001	Wildlife Corridor: Highway 17 Crossing	Complete CEQA/NEPA. Work with Valley Transportation Agency as project delivery partner to prepare design plans and permit applications. Continue work on Mitigation Credit Agreement.	In Progress	Delay to finalize the CEQA/NEPA document and respond to comments, as well as to obtain Board selection of a preferred project alternative.
53	MAA21-007	Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan: Invasive Weed Treatment and Restoration	Implement year five of targeted weed treatments at Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve to restore native habitats along roads and trails. Project is expected to require five years of treatment before habitats are restored to maintenance levels.	Complete	N/A
54	MAA21-010	Bear Creek Redwoods Landfill Characterization and Remediation	Implement remedial design and cleanup.	Complete	N/A
55	Supporting Project	Conservation Management Unit Designation	Working with the Planning Department, identify criteria, timeline and process to determine new CMUs and Use and Management Planning process to designate new CMUs.	Complete	N/A
56	VP22-001	Alma Bridge Road Newt Passage	Added mid-year. (reopened)	In Progress (Added mid-year)	One Phase I optional task (cost modeling and efficacy monitoring program design) was not completed in FY23 (as it was optional). It was decided in FY24 that completing this task during Phase II would yield better overall project design. Phase II work began in FY24 under VP22-002 and all FY24 scope was completed. VP22-001 was reopened to complete the Phase I optional task concurrent with and to better inform Phase II (VP22-002) work.
57	VP22-002	Alma Bridge Road Wildlife Passage	In partnership with Santa Clara County, select preferred alternative(s) and begin CEQA, design and permitting.	Complete	N/A
Public Access, Interpretation and Education					
58	31901	ADA Barrier Removal	Complete year five of barrier removals. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from staff.	In Progress	Progress was delayed because priority was given to diverting staff resources to support FEMA storm damage repair projects.
59	31903	Hwy 35 Multi-Use Trail Crossing and Parking (Phase 1 Feasibility Study, Phase 2 Concept Design, Phase 3 Final Design)	Pending Board approval of a preferred alternative, initiate the preliminary conceptual design and environmental review.	Complete	N/A
60	35015	Rancho San Antonio Road Repair	Added mid-year.	In Progress (Added mid-year)	Project timing accelerated and added to FY24 for economy of scale given other site improvements planned for this corridor. Scope also expanded to fold in Project 61027 - RSA ADA Path to Deer Hollow Farm. Experienced delays in hiring the design consultant due to a change in the consultant project team lead.

YEAR-END REVIEW OF FY24 ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

#	Project #	Project Name	FY24 Adopted Project Scope	FY24 Adopted Scope Status	FY24 Status Reason
61	35031	Guadalupe Creek Crossing Replacement	Assess site conditions and prepare design documents. Initiate environmental review.	Complete	N/A
62	35032	Bear Creek Redwoods - Parking Lot Culvert	Complete CEQA review. Replace 60" 500' culvert under parking lot and repair parking lot. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from FEMA and staff.	In Progress	Repair project was deemed ineligible for FEMA funding. Re-tooled as a general fund capital project and is now in design and permitting.
63	35035	Purisima Creek Road Vehicle Access	Begin technical assessments and conceptual design for road and bridge repairs. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from FEMA and staff.	Complete	N/A
64	61025	FFO Trail Bridge Replacements	Finalize design, secure permits and initiate bridge replacement work. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from staff.	In Progress	Scoping out design took longer than anticipated as the site requires a culvert rather than bridge due to geological conditions, causing a delay in initiating construction work.
65	61027	Rancho San Antonio ADA Path to Deer Hollow Farm	Conduct public outreach. Hold Planning & Natural Resources Committee meeting to review proposed trail improvements and initiate CEQA review.	Cancelled	Cancelled in order to fold this scope of work into the capital road repair project.
66	61044	Monte Bello Black Mountain Trail Extension	Initiate technical studies.	Complete	N/A
67	61047	Sierra Azul - Limekiln Trail Slide	Complete CEQA review. Repair or replace culvert and repair trail. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from FEMA and staff.	Complete	N/A
68	61048	Bear Creek Redwoods - Alma Trail Slide	Complete CEQA review. Replace culvert and repair trail. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from FEMA and staff.	Complete	N/A
69	61049	El Corte de Madera - Spring Board Trail Culvert and Bridge	Repair and/or replace a damaged bridge and failed culverts. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from FEMA and staff.	In Progress	Crew resources were unavailable in order to focus their efforts on the La Honda Creek Phase II Trail Connections project. Moreover, this project is getting reevaluating to scope a larger hazard mitigation project that may be eligible for outside funding.
70	61052	District-wide Culvert Repair Permanent Work	Replace and/or repair culverts. Complete CEQA documentation. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from FEMA and staff.	Complete	N/A
71	61053	District-wide Trail Repair Permanent Work	Complete CEQA documentation. Repair and/or replace bridges, trails and inlets/outlets. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from FEMA and staff.	Complete	N/A

YEAR-END REVIEW OF FY24 ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

#	Project #	Project Name	FY24 Adopted Project Scope	FY24 Adopted Scope Status	FY24 Status Reason
72	MAA03-009	Purisima-to-the-Sea Parking	Hire a design consultant and begin conceptual designs (designs will inform CEQA review that is planned under the Purisima-to-the-Sea Comprehensive Use and Management Plan).	Complete	N/A
73	MAA03-010	Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail	Initiate trail design and engineering and conduct focused biological and cultural resource surveys on preferred trail alignment.	Complete	N/A
74	MAA03-012	Purisima Preserve Comprehensive Use and Management Plan	Conduct additional technical studies as needed and develop draft CUMP. Conduct public outreach and review with Planning & Natural Resources Committee to finalize the draft CUMP. Forward the CUMP to the Board to approve as the CEQA Project Description. Contract with CEQA consultant and initiate environmental review.	In Progress	Project delays due to additional Board-requested analysis to expedite Project MAA03-013 - Hwy 35 Multi-Use Trail Crossing and Parking project and staff resources to support the development of long-term use and management decisions for Bear Creek Stables.
75	MAA03-013	Highway 35 Multi-Use Trail Crossing and Parking Implementation	Added mid-year.	In Progress (Added mid-year)	Completion of 35% design paused awaiting the transportation demand management (TDM) recommendations from the TDM consultant. CEQA project description coordination was delayed due to redirecting staff resources to support the development of long-term use and management decisions for Bear Creek Stables.
76	MAA05-007	La Honda Creek Phase 2 Trail Connections	Secure permits.	Complete	N/A
77	MAA05-008	La Honda Creek White Barn Structural Rehabilitation	Complete the structure rehabilitation work.	Complete	N/A
78	MAA05-009	La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin Removal and Site Restoration	Complete demolition work. Complete interpretive mitigation for the cabin, including submission of California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 Form.	Complete	N/A
79	MAA05-012	Paulin Culvert/Bridge Improvements	Complete design development and CEQA review. Secure permits.	In Progress	Regulatory permits will take 18 to 24 months to secure, extending into FY25.
80	MAA06-002	Hawthorns Area Plan	Complete technical studies, develop resource and land management objectives to inform the program elements and conceptual site planning. Continue public engagement.	Complete	N/A
81	MAA10-001	Alpine Road Regional Trail, Coal Creek	Crew to construct a reroute of the bypass trail (Phase 3). Contractor to complete lower retaining wall construction. Close out all regulatory permits. Enter into negotiations with San Mateo County in accordance with MOU for transfer of right-of-way and other property rights.	In Progress	Regulatory permit closeout and MOU property transfer with San Mateo County are still ongoing.
82	MAA11-003	Rancho San Antonio Multimodal Access - Implementation (MAA Eligible)	Complete implementation of MAA-eligible Tier 1 strategies.	Complete	N/A

YEAR-END REVIEW OF FY24 ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

#	Project #	Project Name	FY24 Adopted Project Scope	FY24 Adopted Scope Status	FY24 Status Reason
83	MAA11-004	Rancho San Antonio Deer Hollow Farm Restroom	Complete construction documents. Complete CEQA review.	In Progress	Delays encountered during local agency permitting process.
84	MAA16-001	Long Ridge Trail Connection to Eagle Rock and Devils Canyon	Continue scoping and programming for the site.	Deferred	The project was deferred in order to line up with the Planning department's future Long Ridge Parking Feasibility Study to consolidate environmental review, public outreach, etc.
85	MAA17-005	Upper Stevens Creek Trail Connection	Pending partnership agreement and agreed-upon project scope with Santa Clara County Parks, initiate technical studies, existing conditions and opportunities and constraints analysis. Initiate trail scouting.	Deferred	Deferred due to County Parks' limited staff capacity.
86	MAA20-002	Bay Area Ridge Trail: Highway 17 Crossing	Complete Caltrans PA&ED phase, including CEQA/NEPA review for Board consideration. Work with VTA as project delivery partner to initiate Caltrans PS&E in coordination with Caltrans, including issuance of RFP for design consultant. Continue partnership agreement discussions and negotiations with partner agencies and organizations.	In Progress	Delay to finalize the CEQA/NEPA document and respond to comments, as well as to obtain Board selection of a preferred trail crossing alternative.
87	MAA20-004	Spooky Knoll Trail and Other New Hwy 17 Trail Connections	Secure permits to build new trail connections.	Complete	N/A
88	MAA21-004	Bear Creek Stables Project	Complete construction documents. Obtain local building permits.	Deferred	Deferred due to Board direction to form an ad hoc committee to explore other viable options for the stables.
89	MAA21-006	Bear Creek Redwoods - Alma College Cultural Landscape Rehabilitation	Purchase and install year 2 of native nursery plants, seed, plant protections and fencing.	In Progress	Year 1 installations were delayed by 1 year to allow for additional site preparation; therefore, Year 1 installations occurred in FY24 and Year 2 installations will occur instead in FY25.
90	MAA21-011	Phase 2 Trail Improvements, Bear Creek Redwoods	Complete construction work. Close out regulatory and local permits. Close out grant. Conduct regulatory monitoring. Current scope assumes use of existing roads versus extensive new trail construction; if scope changes, schedule and budget will need to change.	In Progress	Regulatory and local permit closeout ongoing. Grant closeout extended to 2028. Construction of the northeast trailhead delayed due to technical requirements from Caltrans and Santa Clara County Roads and Airports to first update their existing maintenance agreement that affects this site.
91	Supporting Project	Cloverdale Interim Public Access	Complete improvements to Wilbur's Watch, including new signage and signboards, gate access and patrol. Implement Phase 1 of the Interim Access Plan: host two community field days, followed by Phase 2: Docent Naturalist-led hikes. Schedule training for existing Docent Naturalists and for new "Community Docents" specific to Cloverdale. Continue planning for limited permit access to follow in FY25.	Complete	N/A
92	Supporting Project	Middle Stevens Creek Trail Connection	Continue supporting partners with securing land rights for a feasible Middle Stevens Creek Trail Connection.	Deferred	On hold until a viable opportunity for a trail route is identified by partner agencies.

YEAR-END REVIEW OF FY24 ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

#	Project #	Project Name	FY24 Adopted Project Scope	FY24 Adopted Scope Status	FY24 Status Reason
93	Supporting Project	Purisima Preserve Multimodal Access - Implementation	Scope priority recommendations; begin implementing strategies that can be done with in-house support; evaluate other actions with consultant support.	Complete	N/A
94	Supporting Project	Regional Trails and Active Transportation/Access to Open Space Planning and Coordination	Continue participation in regional trails planning and active transportation planning efforts that include Bay-to-Sea Trail, Bay Area Ridge Trail priorities, SFPUC South Skyline Ridge Trail Extension, Stevens Creek Trail, Caltrans D4 Pedestrian Plan, Unincorporated San Mateo County Active Transportation Plan, etc.	Complete	N/A
95	Supporting Project	Trail Information System	Continue data collection and public-facing material development.	Complete	N/A
96	Supporting Project	Trail Junction Numbering System	Implement at El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve. Solicit public feedback and develop recommendations for further expansion across other preserves.	In Progress	Multiple site visits were required to audit/ground truth trail directional signs. Weather delayed site visits and shifted out remaining planning work. Staff capacity was also impacted due to shifting priorities for more urgent projects. Sign order placed in June, installation to occur in early FY25.
97	VP05-002	La Honda Creek Parking and Trailhead Access - Phase 1 Feasibility Study and CEQA Review	Present technical and feasibility analysis, findings, and PNR recommendations to the Board for review, input, and confirmation on direction for next steps. Select preferred site plan alternatives to advance into environmental review and design development. Continue public and stakeholder engagement. Hire environmental planning consultant and initiate environmental review.	Complete	N/A
98	VP11-001	Rancho San Antonio Multimodal Access - Implementation (Non-MAA Funded)	Continue implementation of Tier 1 strategies. Evaluate pilot program effectiveness and consider long-term implementation if feasible.	Complete	N/A
99	VP14-001	California Riding & Hiking Trails	Work with State to facilitate quitclaim of CRHT easements at Russian Ridge Preserve and for connection between La Honda Creek Preserve and County Parks and bring acceptance of CRHT easements to the Board for approval.	In Progress	Delay due to lack of State Parks staff capacity to complete the easement transfer.
100	VP21-005	Bear Creek Redwoods North Parking Area	Complete technical studies. Complete public outreach and stakeholder engagement on conceptual site plan alternatives. Revise the conceptual design with Board and public input. Confirm the need for additional CEQA review.	In Progress	Biological surveys to be conducted in FY26 to better align with construction schedule. Cultural resources assessment report to be completed in FY25. Additional studies are planned that were not previously scoped, including a geotechnical infiltration study and a fault evaluation study by an engineering geologist. Will confirm if additional CEQA review is required in Q1 of FY25.

YEAR-END REVIEW OF FY24 ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

#	Project #	Project Name	FY24 Adopted Project Scope	FY24 Adopted Scope Status	FY24 Status Reason
Assets and Organizational Support					
101	10001	Records Management	Complete an inventory of electronic documents and input records into the Electronic Document Management System. (Note: prior completed work focused on paper documents.)	Deferred	Records scanning was deferred to FY25 due to staffing changes and insufficient bandwidth by multiple departments to review scanned documents due to other project priorities.
102	10002	San Mateo County Master Permit	Complete the county master permit approval process.	Complete	N/A
103	10003	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program Actions	Work with a DEI Consultant to conduct internal organizational assessment and create DEI Action Plan based on findings. Provide cultural awareness and competency trainings for staff. Engage with external partners and stakeholders to develop strategies and leverage partnerships to address how Midpen may better serve its constituents with a focus on equity and inclusion.	In Progress	The assessment software contract took longer than anticipated and was not finalized until February after a four month internal evaluation and approval process due to a very high level of proposals received.
104	10004	FOSM Update	Review report and finalize. Present report findings and recommendations to the Board. Prepare implementation measures for development of FY25 CIAP.	Complete	N/A
105	20132	Coastal Field Office	Secure property to establish a coastal field office for field staff to support coastal land holdings.	In Progress	Midpen had the opportunity to acquire a potential office site but was outbid and continues to search for additional sites.
106	31914	Skyline Field Office Renovation	Assess future SFO staffing and programming needs; use FOSM recommendation to guide the assessment. Present program recommendations to the Board for concurrence. Solicit proposals to initiate design of repairs and new site elements.	Complete	N/A
107	35004	Sierra Azul Ranger Residence	Complete design documents, submit permit applications, solicit bids, award contract and complete construction. Receive building occupancy permit.	In Progress	Permitting issues with Santa Clara County delayed the beginning of construction.
108	35010	Structure Disposition	Conduct research and assess conditions of an additional two to three structures and develop disposition recommendations for Board consideration. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from staff.	Complete	N/A
109	35029	AO Layout Modifications	Added mid-year.	Complete (Added mid-year)	N/A
110	35034	Prospect Road Culvert Replacement	Design culvert replacement, retaining wall, and project mitigation plan. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from staff.	Complete	N/A

YEAR-END REVIEW OF FY24 ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

#	Project #	Project Name	FY24 Adopted Project Scope	FY24 Adopted Scope Status	FY24 Status Reason
111	35036	Resource Management Permit for the Former Event Center Site	Hire consultant to provide evaluation, recommendations and cost estimates for upgrades and repairs (will likely include building repairs and potential barn demolition). Conduct environmental review. Initiate permit application process.	In Progress	Delay in resource management permit approval due to County staff turnover. Permit was approved at the end of FY24 in June.
112	35039	Allen Road Washout Repair	Added mid-year.	In Progress (Added mid-year)	Regulatory permits will take 18 to 24 months to secure. This project was added mid-year for economy of scale to run under the Paulin Crossing contract.
113	51705	Cybersecurity Audit	Continue cybersecurity audit.	Complete	N/A
114	51710	Districtwide Firewall Upgrade	Scope, research, solicit proposals and select vendor.	Complete	N/A
115	51711	Preserve Use Permit System	Scope, research and select permit management system.	Complete	N/A
116	61020	Thornewood Residence Evaluation	Use property inspection report to implement repair plan.	Complete	N/A
117	61026	Quam Residence Road Repair	Complete CEQA review. Start and complete driveway repairs and drainage improvements, including additional damage caused by a landslide during the winter 2022-23 storms. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from FEMA and staff.	Cancelled	The bids received for the road repair scope of work exceeded the Board authorized project budget. The board directed the demolition the property structures instead of completing the road repairs.
118	61051	Skyline Ridge - Skyline Ridge Road at Big Dipper Inholding	Complete CEQA review. Repair or replace culvert and restore driveway road access. The scope of work and budget is subject to change following additional assessment from FEMA and staff.	In Progress	Construction is pending completion of design and FEMA approval.
119	65407	Radio System Assessment and Upgrade	Continue engineering consultant efforts. If the vendor provides an acceptable proposal for the scope of work, a budget adjustment will be made for equipment and installation costs, as well as for other services associated with the project.	Complete	N/A
120	31202-11-100000	New Administrative Office (AO) Facility	Complete construction of rental suite reconfiguration and interpretive elements.	Complete	N/A
121	None	District Office Server Refresh	Purchase and set up new server infrastructure, including new hardware and software. Migrate current virtual server infrastructure to new system.	Complete	N/A
122	None	Ranger Laptop Refresh	Continue configuring and issuing of all ranger laptops.	Complete	N/A

YEAR-END REVIEW OF FY24 ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

#	Project #	Project Name	FY24 Adopted Project Scope	FY24 Adopted Scope Status	FY24 Status Reason
123	None	Vehicle and Machinery/Equipment Purchases	Purchase two vehicles (one patrol, one maintenance) that were to be procured in FY23 but will not arrive in time due to supply chain issues. Replace four maintenance vehicles, six patrol vehicles, and one administrative vehicle. Requesting an additional patrol truck (for the additional Ranger position) . Request replacement of one large tractor and one smaller tractor loader, and purchase of one air burner.	In Progress	Due to manufacturing supply issues, most vehicles and equipment ordered did not arrive in Fiscal Year 24.
124	Supporting Project	Basic Policies for the Coastside Protection Area	Obtain Committee and Board approval of project scope and engagement strategy. Conduct outreach and engagement. Draft basic policies for the Coastside Protection Area based on Board, public, and stakeholder input.	Complete	N/A
125	Supporting Project	Fleet Management	Scope and research fleet management systems.	Complete	N/A
126	Supporting Project	Fleet Transition Plan	Manage the production of a fleet transition plan to inform future fleet management decisions, including replacements and purchases.	In Progress	Project was delayed as staff time was redirected to support management of Bear Creek Stables.
127	Supporting Project	GIS Strategic Plan	Procure a consultant through a Request for Proposals and Qualifications process to develop the GIS Strategic Plan by gathering information, conducting department interviews, and synthesizing information within a final report.	Complete	N/A
128	Supporting Project	GM Signature Authority Legislation	Pursue sponsored legislation through first year of two-year legislative session.	Deferred	Project delayed given the need for extended coordination with East Bay Regional Park District. Pursuing again in 2025-26 state legislative session.
129	Supporting Project	Good Neighbor Policy Update	Present recommendations to the Board for approval. Post updated policy online and publish revised Good Neighbor Policy brochure.	In Progress	Board requested more time for policy review before approval, will return in FY 25. Note: this policy was completed and approved by the Board on July 2024.
130	Supporting Project	Historic Resources Procedural Guide/Library	Complete populating database with existing historic resources data. Ongoing updates to historic resources procedural guide, library, and database will continue as future historic resource management projects and activities occur at Midpen.	Complete	N/A
131	Supporting Project	SharePoint - Document Management System	Complete all necessary file migrations.	Complete	N/A

YEAR-END REVIEW OF FY24 ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

#	Project #	Project Name	FY24 Adopted Project Scope	FY24 Adopted Scope Status	FY24 Status Reason
132	VP06-003	Hawthorns Historic Complex Partnership	Utilize findings from the Hawthorns Historic Complex structural assessment to engage the Town of Portola Valley and potential partner(s) on potential long-term partnerships for use and disposition options of the various structures. Initiate public and stakeholder engagement. Present options to the Board for concurrence and initiate public and stakeholder engagement.	Complete	N/A
133	VP06-004	Hawthorns Structures Stabilization/Repairs	Added mid-year.	Complete (Added mid-year)	N/A