



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-24-141  
Meeting 24-30  
November 20, 2024

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### AGENDA ITEM

Renaming one section of the Ridge Trail as Badger's Byway and extending the Fog Drift Vista Trail name on another section, all within Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Rename a 1.2-mile segment of the Ridge Trail to "Badger's Byway" to highlight the presence of American Badger in Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve.
2. Rename a 0.2-mile segment of the Ridge Trail to "Fog Drift Vista" to provide continuity with the existing 0.5-mile Fog Drift Vista Trail.

#### SUMMARY

The General Manager recommends renaming two segments of the Ridge Trail within Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve (Russian Ridge), one to implement prior direction received from the Board of Directors (Board) and the second to provide continuity of trail names. In accordance with Board direction, a 1.2-mile section of the Ridge Trail would be renamed as "Badger's Byway" to acknowledge and highlight the presence of American Badgers (badgers) in the Skyline Area. A 0.2-mile segment of road-width trail (approximately 8-12 feet wide) that extends between the junction of Fog Drift Vista Trail and the preserve boundary on Rapley Ranch Road, currently named as Ridge Trail, would be renamed to "Fog Drift Vista Trail". By renaming this short segment of trail, the entire road width segment would have a continuous name, thereby simplifying visitor wayfinding. Both trail names have been approved previously by the Board and are consistent with the naming criteria specified in Board Policy 5.01, *Site Naming, Gift, and Special Recognition*.

#### DISCUSSION

On December 12, 2023, the Planning and Natural Resources (PNR) Committee forwarded a motion to the Board to have staff explore ways to highlight the presence and importance of badgers in the Skyline Area. Staff recommended various actions for Board approval, including renaming of a Ridge Trail section to Badger's Byway, which is the subject of this report.

To rename a section of the Ridge Trail to Badger's Byway, staff consulted with representatives from Visitor Services and Natural Resources Departments to identify a segment in which renaming would avoid problems for Ranger patrol and be located within badger habitat. The proposed segment is 1.2 miles and located between the junction of the Ridge Trail/Hawk Ridge Trail and the junction of Fog Drift Vista Trail/Ridge Trail (see Attachment 1 – Location Map). This section was selected because the entire length is the same trail width of approximately 3-5

feet while other segments of the Ridge Trail transition to road-width of approximately 8-12 feet. Some visitors find this type of change confusing if the width of the trail changes and the name does not. To solve this problem, staff recommend renaming the approximately 3-5 foot-width section of the current Ridge Trail as “Badger’s Byway”.

Additionally, the 0.2 mile of trail located between the junction of Ridge Trail/Fog Drift Vista Trail and the Preserve Boundary on Rapley Ranch Road would be more cohesive if renamed to be an extension of the Fog Drift Vista Trail. Renaming this section will establish continuity of trail naming along the 8-12 foot-width trail from the top of the Fog Vista Trail vista point to the Preserve Boundary.

Ridge Trail is part of the larger Bay Area Ridge Trail, which is intended to be a 550-mile continuous multi-use trail traveling along the ridgelines through various park and open spaces and encircling the larger Bay Area. All segments of the Bay Area Ridge Trail are shown on District and regional trail maps and are designated with Bay Area Ridge Trail medallions. Each trail segment has a unique name, except the segment within Russian Ridge. This segment is the only part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail within District lands that is called “Ridge Trail”. After consulting with staff from the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the District received approval to change the trail name while maintaining the Bay Area Ridge Trail designation.

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

Actions related to this trail previously came before the full Board of Directors at the following public meetings:

- **December 12, 2023:** The Planning and Natural Resources Committee forwarded a recommendation to the Board to name a legacy road “Fog Drift Vista” Trail, incorporate it into the formal trail network of Russian Ridge, and designate it as multi-use. In addition, PNR forwarded a motion to have staff explore ways to highlight the presence and importance of badgers in the Skyline Area. ([R-23-141](#)).
- **January 24, 2024:** The Board approved naming a legacy road “Fog Drift Vista” Trail and its designation as multi-use. The Board also approved actions for highlighting the presence and importance of American Badgers in the Skyline Area, including designating part of the Ridge Trail as “Badger’s Byway” ([R-24-14](#), [meeting minutes](#)).

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no notable fiscal impact associated with the recommendation. Updates to signage will be covered under existing operating budgets for signage replacements.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

## CEQA COMPLIANCE

The selection of a trail name is not a Project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Installation of trail signs is exempt from CEQA in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land.

## NEXT STEPS

Following Board approval, a 1.2-mile section of Ridge Trail will be updated and renamed to “Badger’s Byway”, highlighting the significance of badgers in the Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. Additionally, a 0.2-mile segment of the Ridge Trail will be renamed “Fog Drift Vista Trail” to facilitate ease of wayfinding for the public. To reflect these changes, signage and the internal mapping system will be updated accordingly.

### Attachments

1. Location Map

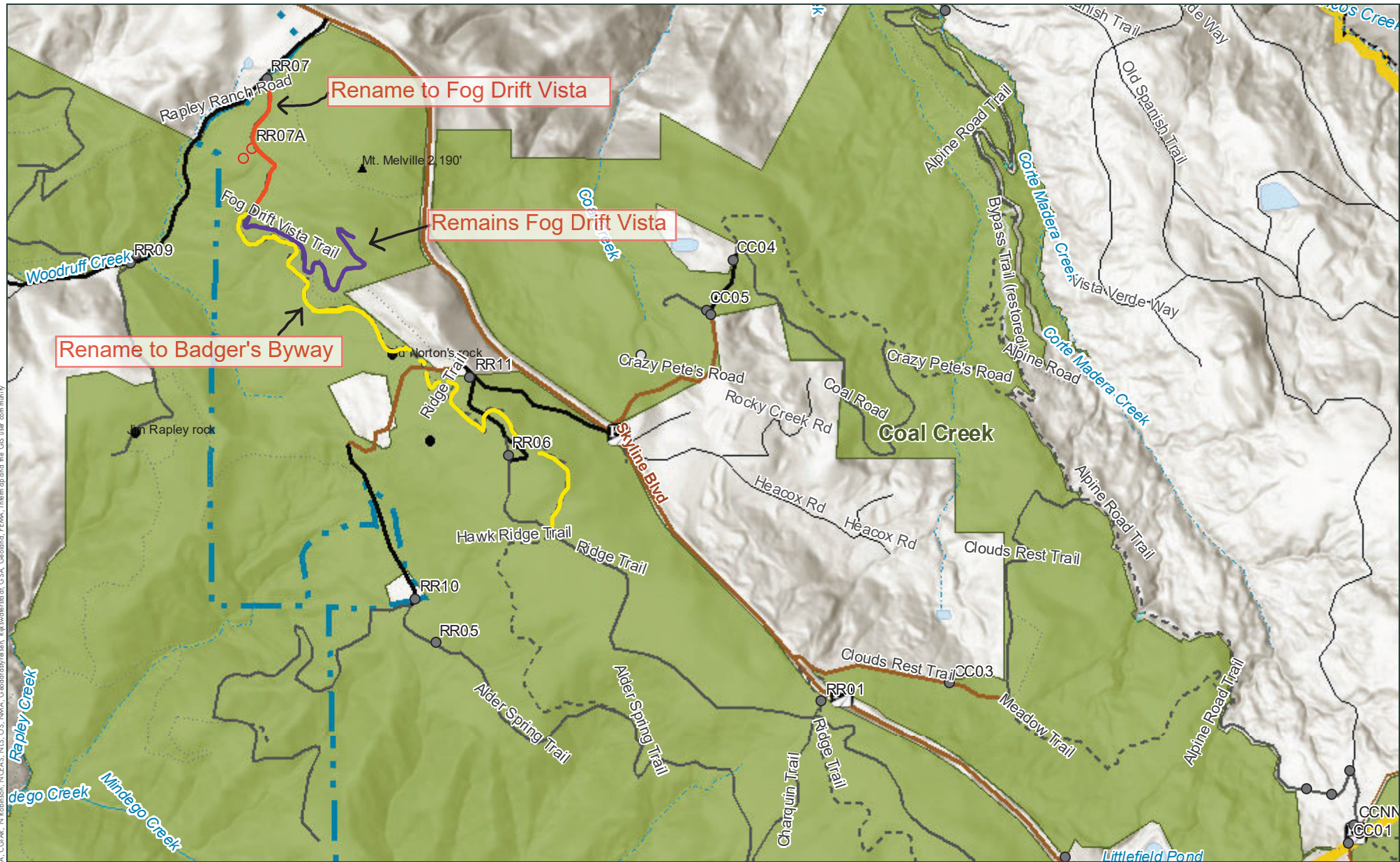
### Responsible Department Head:

Jane Mark, AICP, Planning Department

### Prepared by / Contact person / Graphics prepared by:

Mattea Ottoboni, Planner II, Planning Department

Alyssa Cano, Planning Intern, Planning Department



Data Source(s): Source: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N. Robinson, NCEAS, NIS, OS, NMA, Geodatosydrain, Rikwaterstat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community

## Midpen Atlas

- |             |                         |                           |                                      |                                |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Gate</b> | <b>Parking Location</b> | ..... Hiking-only trail   | --- Trail                            | <b>Road Centerline (minor)</b> |
| ○ Other     | 🚗 Roadside              | <b>Trail (classes)</b>    | ..... Abandoned / Unmaintained Road  | — Road                         |
| ● Present   | <b>Landmark</b>         | — Other                   | ..... Abandoned / Unmaintained Trail | ■ Preserve Boundary (fill)     |
| ○ Removed   | ● Other Landmark        | — Paved Road              | <b>Road Centerline (major)</b>       |                                |
|             | ▲ Peak                  | — Unpaved All-Season Road | — Arterial                           |                                |
|             |                         | — Unpaved Seasonal Road   | — Highway                            |                                |

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(MROSD)  
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