



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Midpen purchases building to meet long-term office space needs**

**Los Altos, CA**—The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District closed escrow on a larger office building February 1 for \$31.5 million using general fund reserves. The 39,000-square-foot building is located near Midpen’s current Los Altos office that was purchased in 1990.

“Since voters created the district in 1972, Midpen’s focus has grown from primarily acquiring land for preservation to a more balanced delivery of its mission that also includes restoration and stewardship of natural resources, opening land for public enjoyment and education, and supporting sustainable agriculture on the San Mateo County coast,” General Manager Ana Ruiz said. “Accordingly, the resources needed to keep these commitments to the public have increased. To ensure that these lands remain forever protected, we have to position the agency to be successful in perpetuity.”

Over the past three decades, the organization has nearly doubled the amount of open space land it has preserved to 63,000 acres, increased publicly accessible trails fivefold to approximately 245 miles, expanded its public programs and environmental restoration work, and added grazing to 12,000 acres of grassland. Midpen has been leasing additional office space since 2013 to house the staff necessary to accommodate this growth.

“As a forward-thinking and fiscally prudent public agency, Midpen has been planning for its long-term office space needs by setting aside general fund reserves over time for this purpose,” Board President Pete Siemens said. “After exploring alternatives, purchasing and remodeling a larger office building and selling the current building emerged as the most cost-efficient and environmentally sound, long-term solution.”

The public is invited to an informational open house at Midpen’s current office to learn more about the newly purchased building and participate in a study session with Midpen’s Board of Directors to review preliminary plans for necessary building code upgrades and space reconfigurations.

#### **Informational Open House and Board Study Session**

**Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 6 p.m.**

**330 Distel Circle, Los Altos CA**

Measure AA bond funds are restricted for open space land and agricultural preservation, restoration and public access, and were not used to purchase the building. The cost of the building will be offset by selling the current office valued at more than \$10 million, no longer needing to lease additional space, and renting out some space in the newly purchased building not needed in the near term.

Other office space alternatives that were explored included rebuilding on the current office site and leasing or purchasing additional satellite offices. For more information visit [www.openspace.org/office](http://www.openspace.org/office)