



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-12-58
Meeting 12-18
June 13, 2012

AGENDA ITEM 4

AGENDA ITEM

Approval of a Use and Management Plan Amendment for Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve for the Mary Davey Memorial and Approval of a Categorical Exemption in Accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Determine that the recommended actions are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as set out in this report.
2. Adopt the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee's recommendation to approve a Use and Management Plan Amendment for Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve for the Mary Davey Memorial, which includes a memorial bench, engraved granite boulder, improvements and dedication of a short, informal, hiking-only trail leading to the new bench site, as well as trail renaming, and a dedication event.

SUMMARY

For nearly 40 years, Mary Davey dedicated her time and energy to spearhead, support, and oversee the many successes of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, including having an active role in its formation in 1972 and serving as the Director for Ward 2 from 1994 through 2010. Since her passing on October 2, 2010, the District's Legislative, Funding and Public Affairs Committee (LFPAC) has met numerous times to design a lasting memorial for Director Davey to commemorate her work and legacy of land conservation on the Peninsula. For this memorial, LFPAC recommends constructing and installing a custom, rustic bench and an engraved boulder, improving and dedicating a short, informal trail leading to the new memorial bench site, renaming a segment of the Chamise Trail to the Mary Davey Loop Trail, and holding a dedication event in spring 2013.

DISCUSSION

At its January 11, 2011 meeting, LFPAC initiated planning of the Mary Davey Memorial that will recognize her lasting contributions to the District and to regional land conservation efforts. Initial concepts that were discussed included a District trail and/or bench within Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve (Preserve). After numerous site visits, the Duvenek Windmill Pasture Area of the Preserve was selected as the preferred location for the memorial site because

of its location, historical significance, and important connection with Director Davey's conservation career.

On July 14, 2011, LFPAC and members of the Davey family toured the Duvenek Windmill Pasture Area to identify the precise location for the Mary Davey Memorial. LFPAC directed staff to prepare a design plan that placed the memorial bench above the Chamise Trail overlooking the Duvenek Windmill Pasture Area (please see Attachments A and B) and to rename a loop segment of the Chamise Trail in honor of Director Davey. On September 1, 2011, LFPAC reconfirmed the desire to rename the Chamise Loop to the Mary Davey Loop Trail, and directed staff to obtain a large, 8-foot wooden log, preferably from within the District, to construct the Mary Davey bench.

In February 2012, staff returned to LFPAC with examples of rustic log benches (see Attachment C) and draft commemorative language. At this meeting, LFPAC selected the preferred bench style and directed staff to obtain and locate a large boulder that would be placed near the bench and upon which a commemorative dedication would be inscribed. At the following meeting in April 2012, staff presented examples of different memorial boulders and LFPAC selected a granite boulder due to its durability.

On April 17, 2012, LFPAC recommended forwarding a Use and Management Plan Amendment to the full Board of Directors for consideration and approval that includes the following items related to the proposed Mary Davey Memorial:

1. Installation of a new, custom-built, wooden bench above the currently-named Chamise Trail, overlooking the Duvenek Windmill Pasture Area at Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve.
2. Installation of an engraved, granite, memorial boulder adjacent to the memorial bench.
3. Approval of the following commemorative language to be inscribed on the boulder, which has been previously reviewed and approved by the Davey family and LFPAC:

In Celebration of
Mary Davey
May 29, 1930 – October 2, 2010
“Wonderful people!”

Mary's enthusiasm and joy, her exuberance and passionate determination
created a legacy of verdant hills, mountains, and meadows for generations to come.
MROSD Director, Ward 2, 1994 – 2010

4. Improvements to and designation of an informal, one-way trail leading to the new memorial bench and boulder location, to be open to hiking only.
5. Renaming of the Chamise Loop to the Mary Davey Loop Trail.
6. Approval of a Dedication Event to be held in the spring of 2013 and which would be planned with the Davey family

CEQA COMPLIANCE

Project Description

The project consists of a Use and Management Plan Amendment for Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve to allow for the manufacture and placement of a memorial bench and engraved boulder, improvements and formal designation of an informal trail leading to the new bench site, renaming the Chamise Loop Trail the Mary Davey Loop Trail, and holding a dedication event.

CEQA Determination

The District concludes that the action authorized will not have a significant effect on the environment. It is categorically exempt from CEQA under section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines as follows:

Section 15301 exempts minor alterations of existing public facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use, including bicycle and pedestrian trails.

FISCAL IMPACTS

The FY12-13 Annual Budget adopted by the Board on March 28, 2012 (R-12-39) includes \$10,000 to implement the Mary Davey Memorial project. These funds are sufficient to complete the project as recommended.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

As stated earlier in this report, LFPAC met numerous times between January 2011 and April 2012 to review and approve the recommendations as set out in this report.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. Also, the Davey family has been mailed written notices of this proposed Use and Management Plan Amendment. No additional notice is required.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval by the Board of Directors, staff will proceed with ordering the necessary materials for the bench and engraved rock, will coordinate with a contractor and/or District field staff to complete the site preparation and installation of the bench, engraved rock, and trail improvements, and will collaborate with the Davey family to plan a dedication event.

Attachments:

- A. Site Map
- B. Site Photographs
- C. Memorial Bench and Boulder Examples

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Attachment A: Mary Davey Memorial, Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

-  Existing Trails
-  Proposed New Spur Trail
-  Proposed Trail Name Change to Mary Davey Loop Trail (Currently Chamise Trail)
-  Proposed Memorial Bench and Engraved Boulder Location

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District



June, 2012



While the District strives to use the best available digital data, this data does not represent a legal survey and is merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.

ATTACHMENT B

Looking northeast at the proposed bench location



Location of memorial bench and boulder

Looking southwest toward the Chamise Trail in the foreground and Hidden Villa and Monte Bello Open Space Preserve in the background



Attachment B: Memorial Site Photos
Panoramic Views Surrounding Memorial Site

Location of improved trail alignment

ATTACHMENT C

Preferred Bench Design Examples



Preferred Engraved Boulder Example

