



## FACT SHEET: BURTON/ROBINSON PROPERTY

**Size:** 40 acres

**Location:** The Burton/Robinson Property is an in-holding within Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (District) 18,000+ acre Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve (Preserve) in unincorporated Santa Clara County. The property is in a part of the Preserve known as the Loma Prieta Area. It is approximately one quarter mile north of Loma Prieta Road, and one mile northwest of the summit of Loma Prieta Mountain. Access to the property is by way of a non-exclusive easement over an existing fire break off of Loma Prieta Road.

**Funding:** The District's Board of Directors will consider the purchase of the Burton/Robinson Property in March 2015, including price and terms. Funding for this proposed purchase is included in the Real Property Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15. Purchase of this property will support the District's overall mission and the District's Measure AA Project #25 to develop public access and enhance natural resource management in the Preserve.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

**Land Use:** The property is occupied by one of the owners, and includes two vacant structures, two mobile homes, various outbuildings, several horse paddocks with shelters, the remains of a burned mobile home trailer, and associated infrastructure. Developed uses are concentrated within a terraced 4.5 acre area on the ridgeline of the property, adjacent to the unpaved fire break road that provides access to the property from Loma Prieta Road. The remainder of the property is steep and undeveloped.

**Landscape:** The landscape of the property consists of oak woodland and mixed chaparral, on a high ridgeline between two steep canyons. With a high point of approximately 3,200 feet elevation, the property has excellent views of the Santa Clara valley, the Diablo Range to the east, the Monterey Bay to the southwest, and the western Santa Cruz Mountains. It is in the immediate vicinity of Loma Prieta Mountain and has views across to Mt. Umunhum and Mt. Thayer.

**Flora and Fauna:** Stands of oak woodland, including tanbark oak and canyon live oak, are dispersed along the edge of the developed areas and distributed through the shrub lands of manzanita, chamise, and other plants associated with mixed chaparral. The property provides varied habitat for animal species associated with the upper elevations of the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, including larger mammals such as deer, coyotes, bobcats, and mountain lions. A wide variety of bird species occupy and migrate through the general area.

**Hydrology:** Situated within the Guadalupe River Watershed, the western portion drains into an upper tributary of Alamitos Creek and the eastern portion drains into a tributary of Barret Creek. Downstream, both creeks join near the intersection of Hicks Road and Alamitos Road and flow into the Almaden Reservoir.

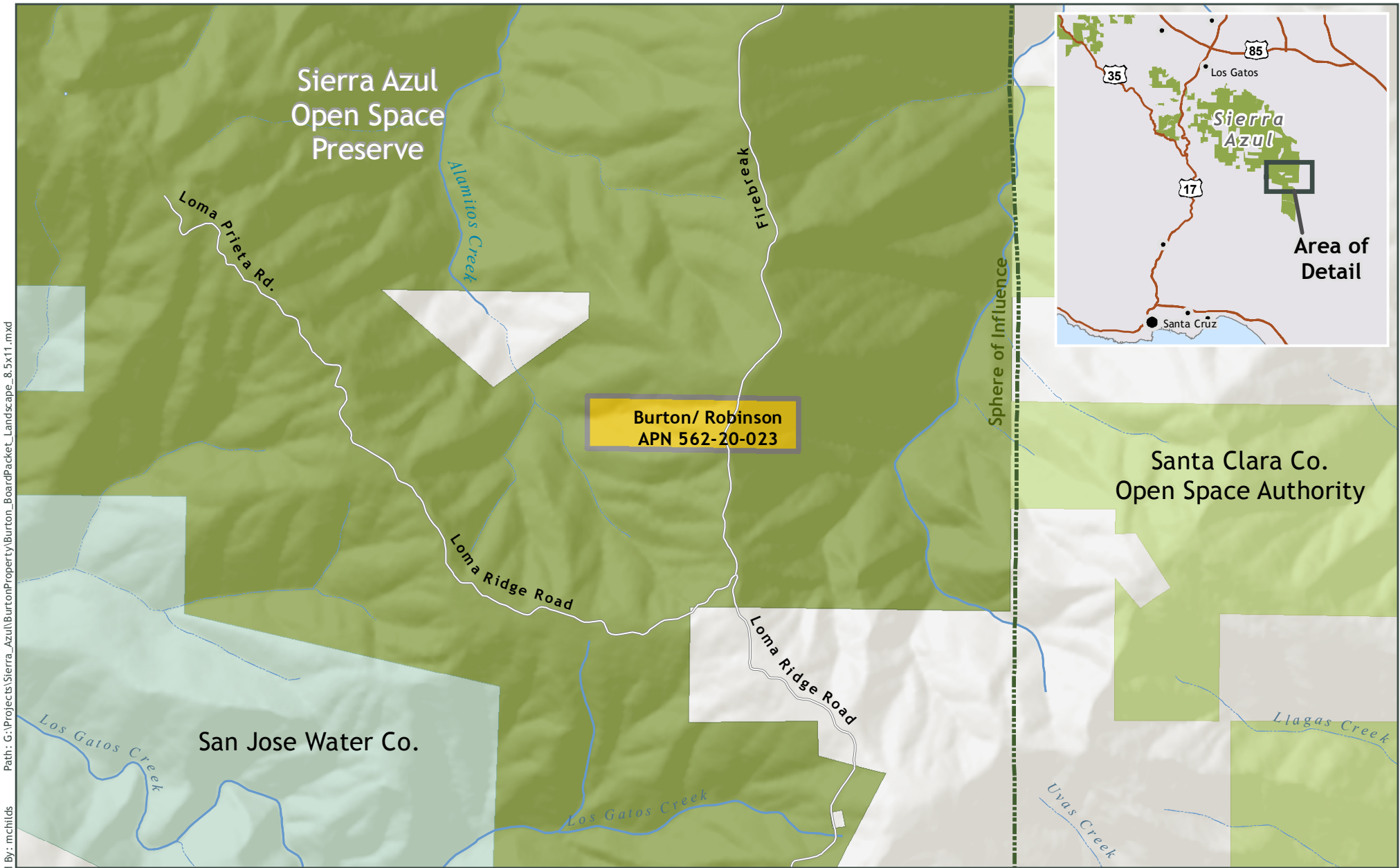
## NEXT STEPS

**Environmental Review:** Environmental review for the purchase of the property and incorporation into the Preserve is underway in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**Board Action:** The District's Board of Directors will consider the purchase of the property at a public meeting in March 2015. Included for consideration at that time will be the property's Preliminary Use and Management Plan, which is expected to propose removal of all structures and any remaining materials for public safety, as well as minor scarification, re-contouring, and erosion control measures of exposed areas to promote re-vegetation of native plant species. The District will manage the property as a closed area pending further planning as described below.

**Planning:** If purchased, the property will be incorporated into the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve. Subsequent planning for the property will be coordinated with the District's planning efforts for the Preserve. The planning effort will analyze opportunities for natural resource management and compatible public trail use as outlined in Measure AA Priority Project #25. Subsequent planning will include consultation with appropriate agencies and organizations. The planning process will include public workshops to gather input and review draft and final plans. Further environmental review will be prepared as needed.

**Public Participation:** Interested parties are encouraged to contact Lupe Hernandez, Real Property Administrative Assistant, at the District office (650) 691-1200 to request that their names be added to the public notification list for these proposed property purchases.



### Burton/ Robinson Property

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  MROSD Preserves                          |  Highlighted Property |
|  Other Protected Open Space or Park Lands |  Private Property     |
|  Watershed Land                           |  Developed Land       |

Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District  
(MROSD)



February, 2015

