



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Midpen Open Space protects coastal redwoods and watersheds with 190-acre purchase near La Honda

Los Altos, CA [June 17, 2019]— Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District’s board of directors approved the purchase of 190 acres above the town of La Honda for \$2.15 million at their regular public meeting June 12. The property includes redwood and mixed conifer forests, coastal grasslands and creeks in the upper San Gregorio watershed.

“By preserving this land, Midpen is protecting the Coastside’s rural character and scenic beauty,” Midpen General Manager Ana María Ruiz said. “This purchase is important because it also protects some of the few remaining old-growth redwoods on the coast, as well as the headwaters of San Gregorio Creek, which supplies water to people and farmers and provides critical spawning grounds for endangered Coho salmon and threatened steelhead trout.”

The property will be added to Midpen’s existing La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve and be managed for forest and water resource protection. The property may provide future public access opportunities, including the possibility of a Bay Area Ridge Trail connection between Midpen’s existing La Honda Creek and Russian Ridge Open Space Preserves.

Purchase of the property from a private family trust will become final in late June. The purchase, restoration and future public access planning are funded by Measure AA, a \$300 million bond passed by local voters in 2014, to support the top 25 priority projects in Midpen’s community-supported vision plan.

Midpen currently cares for more than 63,000 acres of public open space land, including approximately 10,000 acres on the San Mateo County coast, where our mission is 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.

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