



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

**La Honda Creek Parking Feasibility Study
Public Access Working Group Meeting (PAWG or WG)**

MEETING SUMMARY

**August 22, 2019
6:30 PM – 9:30 PM**

**Administrative Office
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022**

ROLL CALL

Tina Hugg called the meeting of the La Honda Public Access Working Group to order at 6:32 p.m.
PAWG Members Present (✓) or Absent (✖):

Board Directors (Non-voting members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Curt Riffle, Ward 4 ✓ Larry Hassett, Ward 6
Working Group Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lou Bordi, Ward 6 Representative ✓ Ari Delay, La Honda Community Representative ✓ Art Heinrich, Ward 2 Representative ✓ Barbara Hooper, Ward 6 Representative ✓ Karl Lusebrink, La Honda Community Representative ✓ Kathleen Moazed, La Honda Community Representative ✓ Melany Moore, Ward 1 Representative ✓ Denise Phillips, Ward 7 Representative ✓ Andie Reed, Ward 5 Representative ✓ Sandy Sommer, Ward 4 Representative ✓ Willie Wool, Ward 3 Representative

District Staff Present:

- ✓ Ana Ruiz, General Manager
- ✓ Susanna Chan, Assistant General Manager
- ✓ Jane Mark, Planning Manager
- ✓ Luke Mulhall, Planning Administrative Assistant
- ✓ Korrine Skinner, Public Affairs Manager
- ✓ Melissa Borgesi, Planner I
- ✓ Tina Hugg, Senior Planner

MIG Consultants: Lou Hexter, Ana Padilla

WORKING GROUP BUSINESS

General Manager Ana Ruiz welcomed everyone to the initial meeting of the La Honda Public Access Working Group (PAWG or WG) Meeting. Ms. Ruiz introduced Midpen staff and MIG consultants Lou Hexter and Ana Padilla, as the Working Group facilitation team. She also recognized District Board Directors Curt Riffle and Larry Hassett who will be serving as non-voting members of the Working Group and will be providing periodic updates

to the full Board of Directors. Ms. Ruiz thanked everyone for volunteering their time and energy to the project and stated the purpose of the kickoff meeting is to acquaint everyone with their colleagues and with the process ahead of them. The goal of the Working Group is to identify recommendations for public access in the central part of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, as part of the La Honda Creek Preserve Parking and Trailhead Access Feasibility Study. Ms. Ruiz reminded everyone the Working Group is subject to the Brown Act, meaning all meetings are noticed and open to the public, the discussions and decision-making process must be transparent, and there are opportunities for public comment at each Working Group meeting.

Director Curt Riffle and Director Larry Hassett introduced themselves and offered their perspectives on the importance of the Working Group process in helping the District develop the best possible opportunities for public access to the La Honda Creek Preserve.

Mr. Hexter presented a brief overview of the meeting agenda, followed by Ms. Hugg, who reviewed the Working Group’s purpose and charge. She noted that the PAWG will be providing input to the Midpen Planning and Natural Resources (PNR) Committee who will be reporting any recommendations to the full Board for their review and consideration. The Board will make final policy decisions informed by input from both the WG and PNR to determine which option(s) will move forward into the environmental review phase. There was a question about whether the PAWG will be coming up with physical designs for public access, and the response was that the Group’s recommendations will be more for preferred location and siting of access rather than detailed designs.

Working Group members introduced themselves, describing their background, their reasons for becoming involved in the project, and what their hopes are for this process. Mr. Hexter took notes of key themes on a wall graphic (attached). Members described a desire to achieve access that: makes sense, is safe, is inviting to both visitors and locals, offers education regarding the area and its ecosystems, promotes stewardship, and provides a scenic, aesthetic, and has an intentional design to benefit the local, regional, and visiting communities.

The Working Group then reviewed the PAWG Workplan and Schedule, including the proposed topics for each session, which are intended to provide guidance.

The Working Group members expressed appreciation for the two scheduled site visits. Working Group members Kathleen Moazed and Barbara Hooper commented on the importance of PAWG members experiencing highway conditions in the summer rather than waiting until the first scheduled site visit in October. They suggested PAWG members visit the Highway 84 corridor near the Red Barn pullout prior to the September 12 PAWG meeting. The purpose of this homework would be to observe traffic conditions and driver behaviors to gain an understanding of some of the challenges related to these issues. Staff agreed to prepare a communication regarding the homework, including a map of the area, and distribute it to the PAWG so observations could begin the following weekend.

Kathleen Moazed offered a motion to adopt the workplan and schedule, with the amendment of including as a homework assignment to visit the Highway 84 corridor to observe traffic conditions on a weekend before the September 12 meeting. The motion was seconded by Denise Phillips. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

<p>Adopting the Workplan and Schedule</p>	<p>Ayes – (11) Lou Bordi, Ari Delay, Art Heinrich, Barbara Hooper, Karl Lusebrink, Kathleen Moazed, Melany Moore, Willie Wool, Sandy Sommer, Andie Reed, Denise Phillips Noes – (0) Abstentions -- (0) Absent -- (0) Non-Voting - Larry Hassett, Curt Riffle</p>
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Mr. Hexter then reviewed the ground rules and expectations for WG member participation. A member inquired when meeting materials would be sent prior to the meetings. Staff indicated that the intention is that meeting materials will be sent a week in advance. Additional clarification regarding PAWG member communications outside official meetings was provided. In order to adhere to the Brown Act, there is to be no discussion between

and/or among PAWG members regarding matters pertaining to this project, and discussions with members of the public must be strictly informational; i.e., no opinions or official positions on topics may be shared with other PAWG members outside of the publicly noticed meetings. WG deliberations need to remain transparent to the public so that they can provide comment.

Members asked a variety of questions regarding the procedures, including a description of and time commitment for the Chair and Vice Chair duties. Midpen staff estimated an additional two hours for preparation before the meeting, then potentially one to two hours after the meeting to debrief with the project team.

There was a longer discussion regarding the public comment period, since this section was written follow Midpen’s typical process for its public meetings. One WG member proposed having public comments at the beginning of the WG meetings to allow members of the public, who have traveled a long distance, to speak to the WG if they need to leave before the end of the meeting. Another suggested that the WG Chair or Vice-Chair could call for public comments at any time. To make sure there are other ways to provide input, the group was also informed the public may provide written comments by mail or email; further guidance can be found on the project website.

After the discussion, Denise Phillips motioned to adopt the Ground Rules and Operating Procedures, with an amendment to include two public comment periods, one at the beginning of the meeting and another to be held at the discretion of the WG Chair. The motion was seconded by Willie Wool. By unanimous vote the Working Group approved the Ground Rules and Procedures, as amended.

<p>Adoption of the WG Ground Rules and Operating Procedure</p>	<p>Ayes – (11) Lou Bordi, Ari Delay, Art Heinrich, Barbara Hooper, Karl Lusebrink, Kathleen Moazed, Melany Moore, Willie Wool, Sandy Sommer, Andie Reed, Denise Phillips Noes – (0) Abstentions -- (0) Absent -- (0) Non-Voting - Larry Hassett, Curt Riffle</p>
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Melissa Borgesi, planner with Midpen, offered a description of the binders provided to each of the PAWG members, which contain a variety of materials to assist members prepare for Working Group meetings. Additional materials are available online or as hard copies by request.

Between each of the PAWG meetings, members will be asked to complete additional work or preparation in order to make each session as productive as possible. The homework due September 12 is to get familiar with the binder and, as described earlier, to visit Highway 84 in the vicinity of the Red Barn and the community of La Honda to observe traffic flow, violations, and modes of transportation. A debrief of these observations will be added as a discussion topic on the September 12 agenda. In the future, if a WG member has information to share, it should be transmitted to Midpen staff, who will then distribute it to the rest of the WG members and post it on the website.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hexter adjourned the meeting of the La Honda Public Access Working Group at 9:01 p.m.



 Tina Hugg, PLA, ASLA
 Senior Planner