



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

**La Honda Creek Parking Feasibility Study
Public Access Working Group Meeting
Administrative Office
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022**

**Sept 12, 2019
6:30 PM – 9:30 PM**

MEETING SUMMARY

ROLL CALL

Lou Hexter called the meeting of the La Honda Public Access Working Group (PAWG) to order at 6:33 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
- ✓ Korrine Skinner, Public Affairs Manager
- ✓ Melissa Borgesi, Planner I
- ✓ Tina Hugg, Senior Planner

MIG Consultants: Lou Hexter, Ana Padilla

WELCOME

MIG facilitator Lou Hexter presented a brief overview of the meeting agenda, followed by a review of project goals and objectives.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

WORKING GROUP BUSINESS

Mr. Hexter and staff reviewed the PAWG Chair and Vice-Chair responsibilities including the expectation that the Chair and Vice-Chair will coordinate with the project team through various briefings and debriefings.

Four Working Group members indicated an interest in serving as Chair: Sandy Sommers, Denise Phillips, Barbara Hooper, and Ari Delay.

Chair (Most votes), Vice-Chair (2nd most votes)	Barbara Hooper (5) Denise Philips (3) Sandy Sommer (2) Ari Delay (1) Abstentions (0) Absent (0) Non -Voting - Curt Riffle, Larry Hassett
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Barbara Hooper was voted as Chair with five votes, and Denise Phillips was voted as Vice-Chair with three votes.

Ms. Sommer moved and Mr. Delay seconded a motion to approve the August 22, 2019, PAWG Meeting Summary.

Approving the August 22, 2019, PAWG Meeting Summary	Ayes (11) - Lou Bordi, Ari Delay, Art Heinrich, Barbara Hooper, Karl Lusebrink, Kathleen Moazed, Melany Moore, Andie Reed, Sandy Sommer, Denise Phillips, Willie Wool Noes (0) Abstentions (0) Absent (0) Non -Voting (2) - Curt Riffle, Larry Hassett
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The PAWG unanimously approved the motion.

General Manager Ana Ruiz presented background information on the District’s mission, Strategic Plan, Vision Plan, and Measure AA. She pointed out the District’s goals for the next 40 years and the list of the 54 priority areas the District would like to improve. The Measure AA Expenditure Plan provides funding for the top 25 priority areas, including the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.

Planning Manager Jane Mark provided background information on the planning and environmental review process, noting the La Honda Creek Master Plan process was one of the District’s first long-term planning efforts. The Master Plan process included an exploration of various sites and visions for parking and trailheads to understand how the Preserve would be used by locals, visitors, equestrians and dog walkers. Ms. Mark described the various portions of the Preserve, including Conservation Management Units (CMUs), which are designated areas that restrict public access in order to conserve and protect sensitive habitats.

Following Ms. Ruiz and Ms. Mark's presentations, the Working Group asked questions and shared general observations and comments. Mr. Bordi spoke about the prior Red Barn meetings and mentioned the La Honda community's passionate response to the Red Barn project. He characterized the main concerns as road safety and preserving the natural state and viewshed of the Red Barn. Ms. Sommers commented that she felt the Master Plan was well done because access points to the preserve were spread out to distribute use. Ms. Moazed commented that the community is incredibly passionate about the Red Barn site, and Mr. Lusebrink suggested that the community supported the Master Plan but had concerns about the last Red Barn conceptual design presented at the June 12, 2018 public meeting.

Senior Planner Tina Hugg presented information on current site conditions, which will be considerations in the upcoming work to find potential public access points. Ms. Hugg stated the goal for the project, per the Master Plan, is to provide access to the central portion of the Preserve without encroaching in the CMU areas.

Ms. Moazed asked how far the Allen Road access point is to the central part of the preserve. Staff explained that it will depend on the actual trail alignment, but it is about 10 miles.

The District presented a set of site assessment criteria used to assess the feasibility of a potential parking area and trailhead location, and specifically for this project, provides access to the center area of the preserve. Staff described the criteria, explaining that sites may not be able to meet all criteria to the degree that PAWG members would prefer. This set of criteria will be referenced during upcoming site tours.

Ms. Moazed asked what activities will be accommodated at the access points the PAWG will be analyzing. Midpen staff explained that potential uses will be considerations for the PAWG, along with the District's goal to provide access to the center of the Preserve. As a follow up, it was asked if the site analysis can consider the expansion of existing parking lots. Staff explained that if the PAWG agrees on this recommendation and it could create access to the center of the preserve, this option can be studied further.

Tina Hugg provided information from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) regarding traffic incident reports along State Route 84 (SR84) from Skyline Road to Sears Ranch Road. Ms. Moazed requested the numerical or statistical data that is represented in the maps. The PAWG also requested similar data from CALFIRE, and Mr. Delay volunteered to help with obtaining this data for the incident reports.

Chair Hooper opened the floor for agenda items for the next meeting. Mr. Delay proposed the group look at other access points during the first tour, and staff explained that access points suggested by the PAWG would be visited during the second site tour. Mr. Bordi reiterated the Preserve needs more access and inquired if the District has prioritized safety and included it as a criterion.

Ms. Ruiz stated that while on the site tour that the PAWG can consider a variety of ideas, e.g., "What is safe now? Are there other areas that could be safer? What is necessary for a new site?" Additionally, there are other iterations of previously presented ideas that may also work.

Ms. Wool asked whether California Highway Patrol (CHP) could provide injury and fatality reports.

Chair Hooper thanked the District for the opportunity to share information with the community and bring their perspectives to the PAWG. She wished to submit three documents for distribution to the PAWG, including letters with references to alternative access points, details about the community petitions, and traffic documents from CALFIRE, CHP, and Caltrans.

Director Riffle asked the District if they could access an engineer's opinion in recommending parking and safety improvements.

Ms. Sommer shared her opinion that it will be necessary to tame the highway and change the paradigm from traveling from point A to B, because currently the road is not meant to be a leisurely drive.

Mr. Lusebrink asked what kind of assessment is necessary with the Red Barn. The District stated that Caltrans usually will not provide input without project plans to review, but the PAWG can potentially consider other projects as case studies. Mr. Hexter suggested that perhaps there could be a presentation of the type of traffic safety tools that might be available on the roadway.

Mr. Delay stated that the group knows that focus is in the center in the Preserve but hopes the PAWG can go in with an open mind and should not focus solely on the Red Barn site.

Next, Mr. Hexter opened the discussion regarding the previous homework, which was to observe traffic conditions along the SR84 corridor, especially in front of the Red Barn.

The PAWG members described their observations with several noting the following:

- The traffic was calmer and tamer than expected.
- Illegal maneuvers, such as U-turns and illegal passing, were noted.
- The drivers were generally well behaved and civilized.
- Motorcyclists were generally the worst behaved.
- The lack of passing lanes and pullouts make it difficult for drivers to pass slower vehicles.
- Drivers seem to approach the drive with different mindsets: leisurely drive to take in scenery or a means for getting from Point A to Point B. Causing different types of driving behavior.
- Expressed concern regarding the safety of cyclists.

NEXT MEETING HOMEWORK

The October 19 site tour will begin at 9:00 am from La Honda Elementary School.

PAWG members requested permits for Driscoll and Allen Roads. Staff reported PAWG members may now get a permit for Driscoll Road, and Allen Road is already open via permit. Chair Hooper requested the records of permits at each access location to date. Ms. Ruiz added that access at the Allen Road location is limited to a specified number of vehicles by an agreement with property owners along this private road.

Ms. Sommer reminded the group that she is unable to attend the tour but previously spent time in the Preserve.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No speakers present.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hooper adjourned the meeting of the La Honda Public Access Working Group at 9:20 pm.



Tina Hugg, PLA, ASLA
Senior Planner