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**Comments: \***

Dear Board Members!

I just read the following letter that was written by JC Wang and sent to you. I AGREE 100% with JC Wang and hope you will do all you can to follow his suggestions on how to make the road to Mt Umunhum safer for those of us who LOVE to drive up to Mt. Umahum, but are now senior citizens and could use a place to stop and rest for a few minutes on our drive up to the top. I am 84 years old and grew up in Colorado driving on steep curving roads, but I think JC Wang is correct to suggest that a place to stop

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for a few minutes would help to make the road to Mt. Umahum safer for senior citizens and perhaps safer those who have not had any experience driving on steep curving roads.

The following is JC Wang's letter with his very sensible suggestions:

Dear Board member(s),

I'm a 20+ yrs resident at Almaden and a frequent visitor to the Mt Umunhum. First of all, I want to thank you all for great efforts in planning and managing this great asset in Si Valley. The purpose of this email is to communicate needs to add a few short-time parking spaces on the portion of Mt Umunhum Rd along the pacific ocean side for various considerations. Please find background and proposed solution to address such needs.

#### BACKGROUND

The road between the first public parking lot (i.e. the one available before the time when Mt Umunhum was opened to the public) and the Tower public parking lot (i.e the main lot below the tower) involves many winding sections on very steep hills. Many sections in the road are "blind-drive", which can be also evidenced in posted "Blind Drive" signs. The driving for visitors thus is stressful and sometime causes dizziness to drivers. This situation is worsen as there is no parking allowed in between the two lots, thus one has to keep driving, regardless physically and/or mentally exhausted or not, till reaching the Tower parking lot for a break and/or driving relief. The driving is a stretch and presents driving safety issue, particularly to elders.

#### PROPOSED SOLUTION

Adding short-time parking spaces in at least two sites, preferably, on mid-point between the two parking lots.

Site one: at a location about 50-100 yards before entering the autogate next to a park station (i.e. the chain-link fenced station having surveillance camera/street light etc).

Site two: at a location about 150 yards before Mt Umunhum Rd and Loma almaden Rd junction.

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The short-time parking spaces can be limited to 15-20 min parking. This allows drivers/visitors to stretch legs/body, get an ocean breath from the Pacific and a stress-relief driving break. Optionally, the spaces can be metered parking to help controlling the parking time and usages.

I look forward to your support on this matter and thank you so much for the consideration.

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Best,

JC

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Mr. Wang and Ms. Cate,

Thank you for your continued support of the Mount Umunhum Summit at Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve. The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) understands the challenges of getting to and from the Summit area and is constantly looking for ways to improve the public experience. It is our understanding that you have suggested adding pullout parking spaces along Mount Umunhum Road between the Bald Mountain parking area and Summit parking area to allow drivers to stop and rest for up to 20 minutes. You specifically suggested two pullout locations – “Site one: at a location about 50-100 yards before entering the autogate next to a park station (i.e. the chain-link fenced station having surveillance camera/street light) and site two: at a location about 150 yards before Mt Umunhum Rd and Loma Almaden Rd junction.” See Exhibit 1 for our interpretation of your suggested pullout locations.

After a careful review, we have determined that the two suggested pullout parking areas are actually on located on private property owned by a private entity. In these locations, the District holds a Public Access Easement that allows the public to drive on Mount Umunhum Road as a means to get to the summit. The terms of the Easement agreement prohibits roadside parking:

*The general public shall not be permitted to park any motor vehicles within the Easements (unless under an emergency situation).*

Even though there are currently several informal emergency pullouts along the road, the terms of the easement prohibits the District from constructing formal parking stalls for public use at this time.

The District also scanned the remainder of the road where the District owns fee title and determined that there are no readily feasible solutions for roadside pullouts given the lines of sight, steep side slopes, road curvature, and lack of available shoulder. Fortunately, the District does offer two formal parking areas on Mount Umunhum Road where travelers can stop, rest, and use the available restrooms as they travel up to the summit. The Jacques Ridge Parking Area is located at the corner of Mount Umunhum Road and Hicks Road, approximately 5.4 miles below the summit (19 minutes according to Google maps). The Bald Mountain Parking Area is located further up the road approximately 3.7 miles below the summit (14 minutes according to Google maps).

Once at the summit, visitors can also rest at the Summit Parking area prior to making the descent.

The District will continue to monitor the safety and traffic flow at Mount Umunhum Road, and make improvements as appropriate and consistent with Santa Clara County Roads guidelines. Moreover, as new opportunities arise in the future with potential future property acquisitions or other land negotiations, the District will consider evaluating the feasibility of installing pullouts at that time. Thank you again for your interest and support of the Mount Umunhum Summit area.

Regards,

Pete Siemens  
MROSD Board President

Path: C:\Users\zalexander\Desktop\WtUmRd Pullouts V2.mxd  
Created By: zalexander



### Mount Umunhum Road Pullouts

- MROSD Preserves
- Private Property
- Other Protected Lands
- Proposed Roadside Parking
- Mount Umunhum Road
- Parking Lot
- Roadside Parking
- Equestrian Parking

Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District  
(MROSD)  
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While the District strives to use the best available digital data, these data do not represent a legal survey and are merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.