



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESERVE CLOSURES UPDATE: **Midpen Open Space closing preserves in San Mateo County on Saturdays and Sundays**

Los Altos, CA — At the direction of the San Mateo County public health officer, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is **closing preserves in San Mateo County on Saturdays and Sundays**, effective April 11. The following Midpen preserves are affected:

- Coal Creek Preserve
- El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve
- La Honda Creek Preserve
- Los Trancos Preserve
- Pulgas Ridge Preserve
- Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve
- Ravenswood Preserve
- Russian Ridge Preserve
- Skyline Ridge Preserve
- Teague Hill Preserve
- Thornewood Preserve

In addition, **Long Ridge and Windy Hill Preserves both remain completely closed daily** until further notice at the request of local authorities.

Midpen staff continue to monitor preserve use and closely follow county health directives, and will change preserve operations as needed to comply. In addition, staff is increasing signage and communications urging the public to avoid crowding, stay close to home and maintain at least 6 feet of distance from people not in their household.

“Public health officials agree that outdoor activity is essential, and we ask that if you have a backyard or safe neighborhood that you stay close to home and look for nature there,” Ruiz said. “We also recognize not everyone in our community has these opportunities, which is why we’re working hard to keep the preserves open as much as possible. To do that safely, we need everyone’s help to avoid overcrowding. If the parking lot is full, the preserve trails are full.”

Midpen’s nearly 65,000 acres of public open space preserves span three counties. In San Mateo County, public health officials have restricted travel for outdoor recreation to within 5 miles from home. Santa Cruz County public health officials have closed all parks and beaches through at least April 15, and warns violation is a misdemeanor punishable by citation or arrest with fines of \$1,000 possible.

Midpen strives to continue serving residents by offering access to public open space for outdoor walking and hiking; essential activities listed in county public health orders. For up-to-date information on Midpen preserves, please visit openspace.org/coronavirus.

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The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District’s mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land of regional significance in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education. On the San Mateo County coast, our mission also includes preserving agricultural land of regional significance and rural character and encouraging viable agricultural use of land resources. Midpen has successfully protected nearly 65,000 acres of public open space land in the Santa Cruz Mountains region since 1972.