



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Midpen Open Space awards its first community grants

**Los Altos, Calif. [July 30, 2019]** — The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has awarded its first community grants as part of a new program aimed at expanding partnerships.

“We are excited for this opportunity to build deeper connections and strengthen and diversify our community partnerships,” Midpen General Manager Ana María Ruiz said. “One of the most important and lasting ways to amplify Midpen’s mission to protect, steward, and manage public open space land is through authentic collaboration with partners.”

A total of \$250,000 in grants will help the following seven organizations fund projects that align with Midpen’s mission and take place in and around its public open space preserves:

- **Environmental Volunteers** – \$25,000  
Installing interpretive panels between Cooley Landing and Lucy Evans Nature Center, in collaboration with City of Palo Alto and City of East Palo Alto.
- **Groundswell Coastal Ecology** – \$49,025  
Providing students at Pescadero High School with environmental education about coastal resilience at Tunitas Creek Beach County Park.
- **San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory** – \$24,704  
Researching historic bird nests to understand how plant communities are changing, in collaboration with Santa Clara University.
- **San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory** – \$25,000  
Providing outreach and education programs to increase science literacy and appreciation for birds.
- **Thrive Alliance** – \$25,000  
Providing organizational support for monthly meetings to discuss conservation issues through the lens of equity and sustainability.
- **University of California at Santa Cruz** – \$49,375  
Investigating the extent to which native forbs are pollen limited, and whether pollen limitation is exacerbated by the invasion of French Broom.
- **Vida Verde Education Center** – \$50,000  
Supporting a summer leadership camp program for 30 high school students from under-resourced Bay Area schools.

The funded projects meet Midpen criteria of furthering our mission, expanding partnerships and directly benefiting science, conservation and local residents. The projects are expected to launch by September 2019 and will conclude by September 2022.

For more information visit [openspace.org/grantmaking-program](https://openspace.org/grantmaking-program).

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*The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a public agency created by voters in 1972. Its 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. Midpen has successfully protected more than 63,000 acres of open space throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.*

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