



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Midpen Open Space expands its grantmaking program

**Los Altos, Calif.** — The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District announced today that it is expanding its grantmaking program to \$250,000 annually, and adding more funding categories. Local organizations are invited to apply for grants at two levels—up to \$25,000 or up to \$50,000—in support of natural resource and outdoor education projects that further Midpen’s mission and take place in and around its public open space preserves.

“We are committed to connecting people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities to their public open space,” Midpen General Manager Ana María Ruiz said. “This is an exciting opportunity to build deeper connections and strengthen and diversify our community partnerships.”

Public agencies, nonprofits, K-12 schools, academic institutions and private organizations are eligible to apply for grant funding in three categories:

- 1. Applied Science** – Proposals that advance scientific understanding of natural processes and promote environmental stewardship.
- 2. Network and Partnership Support** – Proposals that cultivate, sustain and grow conservation networks.
- 3. Environmental Education, Interpretation and Access** – Proposals that educate and promote open space protection.

Since the grantmaking program’s creation in 2007, Midpen has awarded 15 small grants totalling approximately \$183,000 to local researchers. The updated program is intended to build a more collaborative, communitywide approach to environmental stewardship by building the capacity of local organizations.

“By broadening the grant focus areas and increasing the funding available, the grantmaking program will have an expanded range of eligible grantees and projects and therefore a larger impact in the community” Midpen Grant Specialist Melanie Askay said.

Grant applications will be accepted through March 25, 2019 at 5 pm. For more information visit [openspace.org/grants](http://openspace.org/grants)

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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 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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