

From: [Jg](#)
To: [Tina Hugg](#); [Liz Westbrook](#)
Subject: Written comments to LHC PAWG
Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2019 3:00:05 PM

Hello PAWG.

A quick note to elaborate more than two minutes allowed at your last meeting. As mentioned, I've been involved with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council for ~20 years, as a volunteer, and at various times, a staff member and Board Director. More importantly, I'm a 25 year District resident (Ward 5) and huge fan.

As a hiker and cyclist, one of the best ways to enjoy and celebrate Midpen's achievements is a long multi-preserve outing, through the connected network of trails and protected lands. I've long envisioned a great adventure of riding up to Skyline, turning right, and riding the Ridge Trail into San Francisco, mostly off-road. Only a couple significant gaps prevent this. Even greater would be a multi-day trip between San Jose and San Francisco, mostly on trails away from traffic. Only a handful of gaps prevent this. To speak more grandly, only a small number of trail gaps remain to connect Silicon Valley and the Golden Gate via the Ridge Trail (and beyond, to Novato!)

La Honda Creek OSP is one of those gaps. I've seen millions of dollars spent to create this preserve, and I've celebrated each acquisition. I have visited via Allen Rd, and it is wonderful, the views to the coast over the central part of the preserve stunning. Yet the trails into and across this heart of the preserve are not yet there.

Safe and appropriate staging areas are crucial, of course. So please, keep on with the good work you are doing. The amount of thought and detail I witnessed in only the first half of your 12/12/19 meeting was impressive. As you continue, please keep in mind the larger goals, enabling public access to the interior of our 2nd largest Preserve, and helping connect LHC to the preserves nearby. For a while, the Ridge Trail Council used the tag line "Connecting People, Parks and Open Spaces." Thanks for your work, support and partnership in doing exactly that.

appreciatively,
Joel Gartland

P.S. I visited yesterday, from Allen Road. If you have not been to upper LHC, I highly recommend it!