

**From:** [DENISE LARSEN](#)  
**To:** [Tina Hugg](#)  
**Subject:** Red Barn access  
**Date:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 2:27:11 PM

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EXTERNAL

Hi, I think the La Honda Creek working group did not look at Red Barn access but rather anything but Ref Barn Access. Access from or near where there is already access or limited access(permits, ranger led only), is not what I thought they were charged with. Your original plans were great! Stick with it! I live a mile from Alice's Restaurant so understand traffic. There are ways to mitigate traffic concerns at Red Barn location. It will be a great educational area! Great place to connect to lower and upper LaHonda Creek areas. Keep up good work look at what is best for all. Thanks for  
Listening! Denise Larsen

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Wufoo](#)  
**To:** [Tina Hugg](#); [Melissa Borgesi](#)  
**Cc:** [web](#)  
**Subject:** La Honda Creek Communications [#289]  
**Date:** Monday, September 28, 2020 11:22:50 AM

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EXTERNAL

Name \* Greg Klein

Email \*

Zip Code \* 94062

Please let us know your comments about opening public access at La Honda Creek Preserve.

I'm excited to see bike access! Hopefully there will be a legal way to connect from Allen Road to Sears Ranch Road.

Would you like to receive email notifications regarding La Honda Creek Preserve?

- Yes

## Tina Hugg

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**From:** Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 4, 2020 9:24 PM  
**To:** Tina Hugg; Melissa Borgesi  
**Cc:** web  
**Subject:** La Honda Creek Communications [#288]

EXTERNAL

**Name \*** Karen Sullivan

**Email \***

**Zip Code \*** 95451

**Please let us know your comments about opening public access at La Honda Creek Preserve.**

Hello Planning Committee,

I am a former La Honda resident, born in the Bay Area and with ties still to that area. I am an avid hiker, jogger, trail runner and equestrian and feel strongly about open space on the Peninsula, especially the west side. I am glad workshops are being held regarding the development of this incredible open space and wanted to share some opinions on this. I strongly suggest that development of trails and activity is left as minimum as possible. As they say, "they aren't making land anymore", especially open space in the Bay Area. This area is home to a plethora of wildlife, native plants, insects and entire ecosystems. The introduction of the public will not have a benefit on keeping this area as it has been in the past and will be a disruption those ecosystems. I suggest visits by permit only and restricted to equestrians and hikers only, who have minimal impact on the land. You might want to look back at all the workshops that San Mateo did for their parks master plan in which they found that due to trail conflicts, safety and resource protection; they designated all county park trails hiker and equestrian only. As you will find as you research this, allowing mountain bikes on narrow trails only increases user conflict and adds to trail erosion and trail poaching. Please keep mountain bikes out of La Honda Open space. Speeding vehicles are NOT a safe mix with foot traffic (hikers and horses). Midpen and POST have had continuing problems with this over the past 3 decades and the problem is only getting worse. There are documented reports of collisions with hikers and equestrians as a direct result of speeding mountain bikers that have killed and injured other trail users. Popular parks (Wilder State Park, for example) have such heavy use that other trail users start avoiding visiting and recreating. I would be happy to share a report documenting the dangers of allowing mountain bikers on trails with foot traffic, based on 30 years of research and showing problems back in the 1990's, which was BEFORE bikes for faster and before E-bikes. E bikes can be hard to tell from standard mountain bikes; they are motorized and can go faster downhill AND uphill

Karen Sullivan

Would you    Yes  
like to  
receive  
email  
notifications  
regarding  
La Honda  
Creek  
Preserve?

**From:** [Wufoo](#)  
**To:** [Tina Hugg](#); [Melissa Borgesi](#)  
**Cc:** [web](#)  
**Subject:** La Honda Creek Communications [#290]  
**Date:** Thursday, October 1, 2020 9:01:52 AM

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EXTERNAL

Name \* Liz Chapman

Email \*

Zip Code \* 94020

Please let us know your comments about opening public access at La Honda Creek Preserve.

Hello, in early discussion of developing parking and access at the Red Barn just off 84 it was noted that the area is damp through the summer, a kind of wetland. That is especially noticeable now as the field between the barn and the highway is green while all else around it has dried to the usual golden brown. I don't think I've seen this taken into account in this past year's conversations? Along with possibly complicating construction there I believe it may have to be taken into account as precious habitat? Perhaps this has been explored and understood? I just want to be sure it hasn't been forgotten as it may be important.


Thank you,  
Liz Chapman

p.s. as I write today the October 21 meeting is not available on the public comment page's dropdown menu for submitting comments to be read into the record

Would you like to receive email notifications regarding La Honda Creek Preserve?  Yes

**From:** [Midpen Public Comment Form](#)  
**To:** [Clerk; web; Maria Soria](#)  
**Subject:** I want my comment to be <strong>read into the record</strong> during the board meeting. (250 word limit) - October 14 - Board of Directors Meeting -  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 6:30:41 PM

EXTERNAL

Meeting Date *	October 14 – Board of Directors Meeting
Is this a comment about a specific board item? *	Yes
Agenda Item Number *	1
Subject *	La Honda Parking & Trailhead
Please check one: *	In Favor
Name *	Linda Rutherford
City of Residence *	Montara CA
Email *	
Select a Choice *	I want my comment to be read into the record during the board meeting. (250 word limit)
Comments to be read into the record *	As a 70+ year old woman who enjoys the outdoors, I request the Board consider adding more paved road, parking, benches, and trail access points at La Honda. When I visited, I found that the park seemed to be designed just for athletic young people, and not for senior citizens. Easier access would be appreciated.



**From:** [Wufoo](#)  
**To:** [Tina Hugg](#); [Melissa Borgesi](#)  
**Cc:** [web](#)  
**Subject:** La Honda Creek Communications [#286]  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 4, 2020 10:44:16 AM

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EXTERNAL

Name \* Mike Vandeman

Email \*

Zip Code \* 94583

Please let us know your comments about opening public access at La Honda Creek Preserve.

There is absolutely no good reason to build the Ridge Trail! NO ONE needs to travel several hundred miles, just so they can say they circumnavigated the Bay Area. Trail-building and trail use both destroy wildlife habitat!

What were you thinking??? Mountain biking and trail-building destroy wildlife habitat! Mountain biking is environmentally, socially, and medically destructive! There is no good reason to allow bicycles on any unpaved trail!

Bicycles should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996: <https://mjvande.info/mtb10.htm> . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking....

A favorite myth of mountain bikers is that mountain biking is no more harmful to wildlife, people, and the environment than hiking, and that science supports that view. Of course, it's not true. To settle the matter once and for all, I read all of the research they cited, and wrote a review of the research on mountain biking impacts (see <https://mjvande.info/scb7.htm> ). I found that of the seven studies they cited, (1) all were written by mountain bikers, and (2) in every case, the authors misinterpreted their own data, in order to come to the conclusion that they favored. They also studiously avoided mentioning another scientific study (Wisdom et al) which did not favor mountain biking, and came to the opposite conclusions.

Mountain bikers also love to build new trails – legally or illegally. Of course, trail-building destroys wildlife habitat – not just in the trail bed, but in a wide swath to both sides of the trail! E.g. grizzlies can hear a human from one mile away, and smell us from 5 miles away. Thus, a 10-mile trail represents 100 square miles of destroyed or degraded habitat, that animals are inhibited from using. Mountain biking, trail building, and trail maintenance all increase the number of people in the park, thereby preventing the animals' full use of their habitat. See <https://mjvande.info/scb9.htm> for details.

Mountain biking accelerates erosion, creates V-shaped ruts, kills small animals and plants on and next to the trail, drives wildlife and other trail users out of the area, and, worst of all, teaches kids that the rough treatment of nature is okay (it's NOT!). What's good about THAT?

To see exactly what harm mountain biking does to the land, watch this 5-minute video:

<http://vimeo.com/48784297>.

In addition to all of this, it is extremely dangerous: [https://mjvande.info/mtb\\_dangerous.htm](https://mjvande.info/mtb_dangerous.htm) .

For more information: <https://mjvande.info/mtbfaq.htm> .

The common thread among those who want more recreation in our parks is total ignorance about and disinterest in the wildlife whose homes these parks are. Yes, if humans are the only beings that matter, it is simply a conflict among humans (but even then, allowing bikes on trails harms the MAJORITY of park users -- hikers and equestrians -- who can no longer safely and peacefully enjoy their parks).

The parks aren't gymnasiums or racetracks or even human playgrounds. They are WILDLIFE HABITAT, which is precisely why they are attractive to humans. Activities such as mountain biking, that destroy habitat, violate the charter of the parks.

Even kayaking and rafting, which give humans access to the entirety of a water body, prevent the wildlife that live there from making full use of their habitat, and should not be allowed. Of course those who think that only humans matter won't understand what I am talking about -- an indication of the sad state of our culture and educational system.

Would you like to receive email notifications regarding La Honda Creek Preserve?

- Yes



**From:** [Wufoo](#)  
**To:** [Tina Hugg](#); [Melissa Borgesi](#)  
**Cc:** [web](#)  
**Subject:** La Honda Creek Communications [#284]  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 9:47:26 PM

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EXTERNAL

Name \* Mike Vandeman

Email \*

Zip Code \* 94583

Please let us know your comments about opening public access at La Honda Creek Preserve.

What were you thinking??? Mountain biking and trail-building destroy wildlife habitat! Mountain biking is environmentally, socially, and medically destructive! There is no good reason to allow bicycles on any unpaved trail! And there is no good reason to continue building the Bay Trail and Ridge Trail. Haven't we ALREADY destroyed far too much wildlife habitat? Why do you think we are in the midst of the Sixth Extinction crisis????? It's mostly caused by habitat loss! DUH!

Bicycles should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996: <https://mivande.info/mtb10.htm> . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking....

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Mountain biking accelerates erosion, creates V-shaped ruts, kills small animals and plants on and next to the trail, drives wildlife and other trail users out of the area, and, worst of all, teaches kids that the rough treatment of nature is okay (it's NOT!). What's good about THAT?

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For more information: <https://mjvande.info/mtbfaq.htm> .

The common thread among those who want more recreation in our parks is total ignorance about and disinterest in the wildlife whose homes these parks are. Yes, if humans are the only beings that matter, it is simply a conflict among humans (but even then, allowing bikes on trails harms the MAJORITY of park users -- hikers and equestrians -- who can no longer safely and peacefully enjoy their parks).

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Would you like to receive email notifications regarding La Honda Creek Preserve?  Yes

## Tina Hugg

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**From:** Wufoo <no-reply@wufoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 4, 2020 4:45 PM  
**To:** Tina Hugg; Melissa Borgesi  
**Cc:** web  
**Subject:** La Honda Creek Communications [#287]

### EXTERNAL

**Name \*** Robert Gonzales

**Email \***

**Zip Code \*** 95051

**Please let us know your comments about opening public access at La Honda Creek Preserve.**

Would love to see more lands opened up to the public for general use. That should include bikes. Also it would be nice to create an area accessible by the handicapped.

Another key opportunity is a telescope observation area. Opened up for nite use away from city lights

**Would you like to receive email notifications regarding La Honda Creek Preserve?** Yes

**From:** [Wufoo](#)  
**To:** [Tina Hugg](#); [Melissa Borgesi](#)  
**Cc:** [web](#)  
**Subject:** La Honda Creek Communications [#285]  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 29, 2020 1:32:13 PM

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EXTERNAL

Name \* Tina Kraal

Email \*

Zip Code \* V7K1S5

Please let us know your comments about opening public access at La Honda Creek Preserve.

Ease stop any trail building and keep this closed to the public. We need wild places!

Thank you.

Tina kraal.

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**From:** [Wufoo](#)  
**To:** [Tina Hugg](#); [Melissa Borgesi](#)  
**Cc:** [web](#)  
**Subject:** La Honda Creek Communications [#283]  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 5:07:22 PM

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EXTERNAL

Name \* Vy Nguyen

Email \*

Zip Code \* 94062

Please let us know your comments about opening public access at La Honda Creek Preserve.

I have had the pleasure of hiking La Honda Creek under the limited permit access system. Living near several open space preserves and enjoying being able to visit these areas, I would like to commend the committee for considering expanding access to La Honda Creek. I believe that doing so provides additional opportunity for visitors to experience the natural beauty of the Peninsula, but I also believe the committee can ensure it stays that way for generations to come. The current free-access model at Edgewood is an example of how the popularity of a park can create problems for the environment, the life within the preserve, and the community surrounding it. I support increasing access, however I strongly feel that this access needs to be managed to mitigate the effects of visitors on soil erosion, invasive species introduction, trash, unauthorized dog walking, and vehicular traffic hazards on roadways. I lack insight into whether the permit system in its current state is scalable or sustainable for our local preserves and so have no opinion on whether to continue with it as is, but permit systems do work as proven for Muir Woods, Half Dome, and Whitney Portal. I urge the committee to evaluate a solution that accomplishes both providing increased access, and limits hiker and vehicle traffic to continue preserving La Honda Creek for the future.

Would you like to receive email notifications regarding La Honda Creek Preserve?  Yes

**From:** [Wufoo](#)  
**To:** [Tina Hugg](#); [Melissa Borgesi](#)  
**Cc:** [web](#)  
**Subject:** La Honda Creek Communications [#293]  
**Date:** Monday, October 19, 2020 7:57:56 PM

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EXTERNAL

Name \* Eli Weiss

Email \*

Zip Code \* 95008

Please let us know your comments about opening public access at La Honda Creek Preserve.

I strongly support increasing trail access for hiking and bicycles

Would you like to receive email notifications regarding La Honda Creek Preserve?

- Yes



**From:** [Midpen Public Comment Form](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#); [web](#); [Maria Soria](#)  
**Subject:** I am submitting a comment to be provided to the board of directors. (no limit) - October 21 - Board of Directors Meeting -  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 20, 2020 10:22:58 AM

EXTERNAL

Meeting Date *	October 21 – Board of Directors Meeting
Is this a comment about a specific board item? *	No
Subject *	Wildland Fire Resiliency Program – El Sereno
Please check one: *	Neutral
Name *	JJ Liston
City of Residence *	Los Gatos
Email *	[REDACTED]
Select a Choice *	I am submitting a comment to be provided to the board of directors. (no limit)

Comments to be provided to the board of directors \*

Hello

I am concerned with the vegetation management map that has been put together for El Sereno OSP located in unincorporated Santa Clara County. I live in this area, off Overlook Road, that borders ELOSP to the North and East. I am a trail runner and have spent extensive time doing in-field research of the WUI between ELOSP and our Overlook Community. My in-field research paints a much different picture of the fuel and fire hazard, as opposed to your study dated May 2020.

I realize that Mid Pen has many OSP's to tend to. I also know that my community on Overlook Road (unincorporated Santa Clara County) has a lot of work to do to improve our fuel loads on private property that lies between ELOSP and Overlook Road. Nonetheless, your plan for El Sereno is vastly under reported and underfunded. I have spent many many hours in this area as "boots on the ground", and I whole heartedly dispute your team findings.

I have done extensive analysis of the tax base and home value for my community of unincorporated Santa Clara County. We, the 1.3miles of Overlook Road, are the MOST VALUABLE private property in ALL of Mid Pen acreage. I have run my analysis further and include .5mile from your property boundary and 1mile too, each time once again, this area and in to Los gatos and Monte Sereno are the MOST EXPENSIVE piece of private property that borders Mid Pen.

I encourage you to seriously rethink your plan and commitment to fire mitigation and fire fuel reduction for the private property border of El Sereno OSP. Finally and further, with your recent acquisition of 182 acres from SJWW, it will be crucial and important that Mid Pen perform an in-field study and survery of the new land acquired and its fuel level load in the 100 ft plus that borders our valuable private property.

With your acknowledgement and effort, we can work together to improve the WUI of this area. I am

in the final stages of finishing my Vegetation Management and Fire Mitigation study for my community. I will be providing this report, with extensive in-field, GPS and GIS study, to all offices at the local, county, and state level. I am also preparing this for State Farm insurance and my county Firesafe program. I will be happy to share this valuable report with Mid Pen at the conclusion of my written analysis.

I want my email and opinion to be acknowledged as part of the community feedback for your final draft of your Wildland Study. I disagree with your assessment of the fire fuel load and necessary abatement for El Sereno OSP, as it borders private property along Overlook Road, unincorporated area of Santa Clara County.

With kind regards and much thanks  
Janssen Liston  
408/313-5137  
19131 Linda Vista Ave, Los Gatos, CA 95030

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File upload



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