


**From:** [Midpen Public Comment Form](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Woodworth](#); [Tina Hugg](#); [Melissa Borgesi](#); [web](#)  
**Subject:** I want my comment to be <strong>read into the record</strong> during the board meeting. (250 word limit) - July 28 - Planning and Natural Resources Committee Meeting -  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:45:14 AM

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**EXTERNAL**

Meeting Date *	July 28 – Planning and Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Is this a comment about a specific board item? *	Yes
Agenda Item Number *	3
Subject *	Opening Access to La Honda Creek Preserve
Please check one: *	In Favor
Name *	Alex Sabo (on behalf of Bay Area Ridge Trail Council)
City of Residence *	Oakland
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 \***

The Bay Area Ridge Trail supports creating a multi-use regional trail connection and new staging area in the central and upper areas of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. Inclusive public access to natural spaces is more important than ever, and this preserve contains 5 planned miles of multi-use Ridge Trail that would allow visitors to enjoy the sweeping views of the hills and coast. The Ridge Trail in San Mateo County is already 70% complete, and closing this long awaited 5-mile gap would bring it to almost 80% complete.

The Ridge Trail greatly appreciates the staff's hard work and thorough community input process and supports whichever feasible staging area location will allow for the multi-use Ridge Trail to be built and connect to El Corte de Madera and eventually Russian Ridge and beyond.

Opening and connecting the upper and central areas of the La Honda Creek OSP will make a future fully-connected Ridge Trail possible, and allow Bay Area residents to enjoy and connect with nature in their own backyard.

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## Tina Hugg

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**From:** Midpen Public Comment Form [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 5:19 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Woodworth; Tina Hugg; Melissa Borges; web  
**Subject:** I want my comment to be <strong>read into the record</strong> during the board meeting. (250 word limit) - July 28 - Planning and Natural Resources Committee Meeting -

EXTERNAL

**Meeting** July 28 – Planning and Natural Resources Committee Meeting

**Date \***

**Is this a  
comment  
about a  
specific  
board  
item? \*** No

**Subject \*** Public access to La Honda Creek OSP

**Please  
check  
one: \*** In Favor

**Name \*** Daniel Antonaccio

**City of** Campbell, CA

**Residence**

\*

**Email \*** [REDACTED]

**Select a** I want my comment to be **read into the record** during the board meeting. (250 word limit)

**Choice \***

**Comments to be read into the record \***

Public access to open space is incredibly valuable and Midpen preserves encompass some of the most beautiful and ecologically important public lands in the Bay Area. As a resident of the South Bay, I was overjoyed when Bear Creek Redwoods opened just a 15 minute drive from my apartment. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began I've become even

more grateful for the Midpen preserves – nothing is more restorative and stress-relieving for me than hiking.

The fact that Midpen preserves remained open during the early phases of the pandemic, when California State Parks and other public lands closed, had a huge positive effect on my personal well-being. I'm so glad that Midpen was able to keep its preserves open in a responsible, public health conscious way. I'm quite sure that access to public open space has been a great boon to the physical and mental health of the Bay Area during the pandemic and will continue to be.


Midpen preserves have been especially popular this spring and summer, especially on the weekends, often leading to full parking lots. I imagine that any additional public access to La Honda Creek OSP would alleviate some of the congestion at other preserves, especially in the Skyline area. While hiking is a relatively low-risk activity COVID-wise, the more spread out we are, the better. I am strongly in favor of opening more of La Honda Creek OSP to the public.

Thank you for working to protect and preserve open space in the Bay Area!

**From:** [Midpen Public Comment Form](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Woodworth](#); [Tina Hugg](#); [Melissa Borgesi](#); [web](#)  
**Subject:** I am submitting a comment to be provided to the board of directors. (no limit) - July 28 - Planning and Natural Resources Committee Meeting -  
**Date:** Monday, July 27, 2020 6:39:54 PM

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**EXTERNAL**

Meeting Date *	July 28 – Planning and Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Is this a comment about a specific board item? *	Yes
Agenda Item Number *	3
Subject *	La Honda PAWG recommendations
Please check one: *	Neutral
Name *	Elizabeth Chapman
City of Residence *	La Honda
Email *	
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 \***

Thank you for your very careful consideration of the steps forward on this front. I think you have a real puzzle to solve.

Of the options I've read about in the working group's report and thought about as a local resident, I'd lend my support first expanding to the existing Sears Ranch Rd parking area if you are to do only one thing. I'd be dismayed by a plan to develop parking deeper into the area from the existing Sears Ranch parking area \*unless\* you provide a hiking/cycling trail well away from road for those parking at the current Sears Ranch Rd lot. A new, separated trail might make the interior parking option entirely feasible, assuming the opened road has a low speed limit and even traffic calming measures. I think it's well worth expanding access from the Event Center area, as access from 84 is relatively safe there.

I don't much like the idea of additional parking on Sears Ranch Rd near the school; I don't see that it solves any of your puzzle.

I think the LH07 option is better than any development around the Red Barn for safe access from 84, but it's not all that much better.

I urge you to abandon plans for parking around the Red Barn given the traffic on 84. I urge you to understand that access there is asking for trouble--signing it up for it, even. And traffic in the area has gotten still worse since the committee began this work.

Thank you again for taking this carefully and deliberately.

- Liz Chapman

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**From:** [Wufoo](#)  
**To:** [Tina Hugg](#); [Melissa Borgesi](#)  
**Cc:** [web](#)  
**Subject:** La Honda Creek Communications [#282]  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:45:18 AM

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EXTERNAL

Name \* Liz Westbrook

Email \*

Zip Code \* 94612

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

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council supports creating a multi-use regional trail connection and new staging area in the central and upper areas of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. Inclusive public access to natural spaces is more important than ever, and this preserve contains 5 planned miles of multi-use Ridge Trail that would allow visitors to enjoy the sweeping views of the hills and coast. The Ridge Trail in San Mateo County is already 70% complete, and closing this long awaited 5-mile gap would bring it to almost 80% complete.

The Ridge Trail greatly appreciates the staff's hard work and thorough community-input process and supports whichever feasible staging area location will allow for the multi-use Ridge Trail to be built and connect to El Corte de Madera and eventually Russian Ridge and beyond.

Opening and connecting the upper end central areas of the La Honda Creek OSP will make a future fully-connected Ridge Trail possible, and allow Bay Area residents to enjoy and connect with nature in their own backyard.

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

## Tina Hugg

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**From:** Wufoo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:22 AM  
**To:** Tina Hugg; Melissa Borgesi  
**Cc:** web  
**Subject:** La Honda Creek Communications [#281]

EXTERNAL

Name \* Matthew Blain

Email \* [REDACTED]

Zip Code \* 94103

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

The preserve is an important piece in the middle of other preserves and the region.

Please ensure the trails are open so that they can be connected to the west (El Corte de Madera) and the east (towards sothern skyline) and the south (the coast).

This is partially important for regional routes such as the ridge trail . And for bicyclists, many of whom can ride in without on site parking.

Thank you for your work to increase public access to our public lands.

## Tina Hugg

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**From:** Midpen Public Comment Form [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 10:46 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Woodworth; Tina Hugg; Melissa Borgesi; web  
**Subject:** I am submitting a comment to be provided to the board of directors. (no limit) - July 28 - Planning and Natural Resources Committee Meeting -

### EXTERNAL

**Meeting Date \*** July 28 – Planning and Natural Resources Committee Meeting

**Is this a comment about a specific board item? \*** Yes

**Agenda Item Number \*** 3

**Subject \*** La Honda Creek Public Access Working Group Recommendations

**Please check one: \*** In Favor

**Name \*** Maryann Chwalek

**City of Residence \*** La Honda

**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 \***

Just reviewed the working group documents, which are long and complex. However, just to share my thoughts re: public access:

1. Strongly in favor of developing any trails to all areas of the preserve, even if the only lot(s) is/are at Sears Ranch road. Many hikers would hike to the north of the preserve and back from this lot, which is currently underutilized.
2. Where feasible, support more public access at the various identified areas at or near the Sears Ranch parking lot, as well as the Driscoll Ranch area.
3. Where feasible, support permit or docent-led-only access at LH gate 7, west of the Red Barn area. Concern about potential for weekenders to park all along Rt. 84 there to access without permit? The same would hold true if there was a permit/docent-led parking lot near the Red Barn.
4. Very concerned about traffic along Route 84.
5. In favor of developing trail connection(s) to El Corte Madera Creek Preserve, adding a way to access the North La Honda preserve besides the Allen Rd. permit lot.

Appreciate all the time and energy that went into this study, from all the members of the Working Group.

Thank you! Maryann Chwalek

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## Tina Hugg

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**From:** Wufoo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 7:04 PM  
**To:** Tina Hugg; Melissa Borgesi  
**Cc:** web  
**Subject:** La Honda Creek Communications [#279]

EXTERNAL

**Name \*** Sean McKenna

**Email \*** [REDACTED]

**Zip Code \*** 94024

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

I'd like to see more multi-use trails with a possibility of extending the Bay Area Ridge Trail through this property. In addition, connecting this to El Corte de Madera Creek would create a safe useful route for cyclists.

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

## Tina Hugg

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**From:** Wufoo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 8:13 PM  
**To:** Tina Hugg; Melissa Borgesi  
**Cc:** web  
**Subject:** La Honda Creek Communications [#280]

EXTERNAL

**Name \*** Stephen Wilson

**Email \*** [REDACTED]

**Zip Code \*** 94018

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

My family would love to see mountain bike trails included at La Honda Creek Preserve. These are low maintenance once they are built and a great way to enjoy the Preserve on a bicycle. Additionally, a disc-golf course would be a nice touch. This is also a low to no maintenance concept if designed well, and little cost after the initial purchase and installation of frisbee baskets. A relaxing and fun sport that people of any age can enjoy. Thanks for your consideration!

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