



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan



Our mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt in perpetuity; protect and restore the natural environment; and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

FINAL
August 2012

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (La Honda Creek OSP, Preserve) is recognized for its rolling grassland topography, stunning panoramic views, and ranching history. The Preserve was established in 1984 with the purchase of a 255-acre property. Since then, after more than 20 additional land purchases, it has grown to 5,759 acres. This expanse of protected open space land serves both ecological and societal needs. For example, it preserves unique and diverse vegetation communities and wildlife habitat, protects watersheds and viewsheds, and enriches local area residents' appreciation for nature by offering opportunities for low-intensity recreation and environmental education free of charge. The Preserve also contributes natural goods that can be of benefit to the local economy, including fish, water, and grazing forage. Moreover, the Preserve provides vital ecosystem services, including water filtration, air purification, carbon sequestration, and climate regulation, thereby naturally protecting water and air quality in perpetuity. All of these benefits contribute to the high quality of life on the San Francisco Bay Peninsula.

La Honda Creek OSP offers numerous opportunities to implement large-scale habitat enhancement projects, rangeland management practices, and public access improvements. This Master Plan represents the first long-term comprehensive planning effort for the Preserve. A key goal of the master planning process is to involve the community in a detailed discussion about the future use and management of the Preserve. The master planning process has engaged numerous participants, including: neighbors and community residents; recreational advocacy groups; environmental organizations; local, state, and federal agency representatives responsible for natural resource management; and District staff and Board of Directors. Public outreach activities have included newsletters, public workshops, focus group meetings, and tours of the Preserve. The collaborative nature of the planning process has resulted in a 30-year, comprehensive Master Plan that balances the protection and care of natural and cultural resources with greater opportunities for public access, interpretation, and education while retaining the Preserve's ranchland character.

MASTER PLAN ELEMENTS

The Master Plan elements are divided by subject and briefly described below. For detailed information regarding the scheduled phasing and level of priority of each implementation project, please refer to the Implementation Table. Implementation of all Master Plan elements is subject to Environmental Protection Guidelines, which are listed in Appendix C.

Natural Resource Management

The Preserve is rich with natural resources, including a myriad of flora and fauna. Vegetation ranges from redwood forest on the highest ridges to annual grasslands and riparian draws in the lower elevations, with rare plant species occurring throughout. The diverse vegetation provides exceptional opportunities to improve existing wildlife habitat, particularly for protected animals that are legally listed as threatened or endangered. Moreover, the expansive coastal grasslands are ideal

locations to continue livestock grazing as a conservation management tool. The Preserve also contains numerous ponds that provide valuable aquatic habitat for the threatened California red-legged frog. Three major creeks, La Honda, Harrington, and Bogess, drain the Preserve and each harbors steelhead and resident rainbow trout. There are many natural springs in the Preserve, some of which have been developed for ranch and residential uses. Key natural resource management projects include:

- Conducting natural resource inventories
- Protecting and managing unique and sensitive areas and listed species
- Restoring and managing riparian zones and aquatic habitat
- Pursuing cooperative watershed protection projects
- Developing and implementing a pond management plan
- Implementing water infrastructure improvements
- Continuing and expanding the livestock grazing operation
- Managing forests
- Monitoring and preventing Sudden Oak Death
- Controlling invasive plants
- Identifying and protecting wildlife corridors

Cultural Resource Management

The Preserve contains a variety of cultural and historical resources, including remnants of late 19th- and early 20th-century homesteads, ranching, logging, and recreational uses. It may also contain undocumented archaeological resources. The Preserve therefore provides valuable opportunities to protect local cultural landmarks that are unique to the history of La Honda and rural San Mateo County. Key cultural resource management projects include:

- Conducting cultural resource inventories
- Preparing a site plan for the Red Barn
- Evaluating the Red Barn for nomination on historic registers
- Evaluating the historical significance and structural integrity of the White Barn and Redwood Cabin
- Developing maintenance plans for historic structures
- Conducting archeological surveys and research

Public Access, Recreation, and Environmental Education

The Preserve offers many opportunities to enhance public recreation and open new areas to public use. Moreover, the Preserve's unique natural and cultural resources provide ample material to support interpretation and outdoor education. The District will follow a phased approach to carefully introduce new uses and open approximately 26 miles of roads and trails in the Preserve; these actions will first

require review and approval by the appropriate resource agencies (please refer to the Implementation Table for more information). Key future projects include:

- Opening new areas of the Preserve to hiking and equestrian use
- Opening select trails to bicycles and dogs on leash
- Establishing two interim parking areas to expedite public access
- Constructing three new permanent parking lots
- Building easy access trails
- Designating regional trail connections, including a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail
- Expanding visitor awareness and understanding of cultural and natural features and land management practices through interpretive signage, docent-led tours, educational field trips, and community events
- Providing trail facilities, including horse troughs and picnic areas

Maintenance and Operations

As a responsible land steward, the District is committed to managing its resources and facilities in order to preserve ecosystem health and provide for well maintained public access facilities. Operational activities include road and trail maintenance, fire and fuels management, environmental hazards remediation, land administration, and management of rental structures. These topics are discussed in detail below.

Road and Trail Maintenance

The existing roads and trails in the Preserve are associated with past and current ranching operations, former logging activities, the erection of the Monte-Vista Jefferson electrical transmission line, and the once active La Honda oil field. In general, Preserve roads and trails have inadequate or dilapidated drainage structures that need to be replaced. Many stretches of road were constructed by “in-sloping”, creating a road design that collects surface water along the inside edge of the road before releasing it via an underground culvert placed perpendicular to the road. This design, if not properly constructed, can concentrate water on the road surface, which often contributes to gulying and erosion. The Preserve’s road and trail network has been inventoried and erosion control treatments have been identified with the goal of reducing road-related sedimentation. Key maintenance projects include:

- Executing high priority road and trail treatments to correct drainage issues and address erosion concerns
- Developing and implementing a Road Maintenance Plan and Road Restoration Plan
- Implementing Best Management Practices to control erosion during all road and trail construction and maintenance projects

Fire Response and Fuels Management

Although the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is the primary agency responsible for wildland fire suppression, the District complements their efforts by proactively managing wildland fuels to reduce fire hazards in the Preserve. The District's current fire management practices include: maintaining defensible space around key structures; maintaining fuel breaks; training and equipping staff for fire response; maintaining Preserve roads for emergency vehicle access; managing numerous ponds and other water sources that can support fire suppression; continuing grazing in the southern area of the Preserve, and reintroducing grazing into the northern area to, in part, reduce fuel loads; enforcing "no fire" and "no smoking" regulations; and requiring fire protection precautions during maintenance and construction work. Key wildfire hazard reduction projects include:

- Constructing new fuel breaks
- Reducing fuel loads, especially in high risk ignition locations
- Restoring grasslands and reducing brush encroachment
- Improving emergency vehicle access
- Developing additional water sources for fire suppression
- Developing a Wildfire Response Plan

Environmental Hazards

Hazardous materials can be associated with a variety of sources, ranging from chemical spills during transport and leaking underground storage tanks, to prior use of pesticides. Investigations conducted during the purchase of the former Driscoll Ranch property identified several areas of potential environmental concern on the property. In coordination with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), the District has completed hazard abatement work in these areas. No activities will occur in former hazardous sites.

Land Classification

La Honda Creek OSP is comprised of numerous parcels that were purchased separately over a span of 23 years. Each parcel is characterized by its own individual land use definition, restrictions, and allowances. Given that all parcels within a Preserve are managed and maintained in a similar manner and are subject to the same governing policies of the District, it behooves the District to review and update the land use controls in place throughout the Preserve to ensure internal consistency and ease of long-term management. Key future projects include:

- Amending Williamson Act contracts to allow for recreational uses
- Filing for non-renewal of Williamson Act contracts
- Assessing parcels for open space dedication

Rental Structures

With the purchase of new parcels, the District often inherits a variety of structures, including houses. Well-maintained houses with good access are often retained as

tenant structures. The seven tenant structures within the Preserve are currently in various states of repair. Key projects include:

- Upgrading and maintaining rental structures and facilities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Capital costs to complete all Master Plan projects over a 30 year period are estimated to be between \$9.1 and \$11.6 Million (in 2012 dollars). This range of costs is based on the conceptual nature of the Master Plan. Costs may increase as more detailed estimates are developed with each design and implementation phase. The capital cost estimates reflect the District's desire to design and build projects in a manner that reduces long-term maintenance needs. The higher capital costs of high-quality design and construction are often recouped through reduced long-term operations and maintenance costs. The District intends to consider future operational and maintenance costs prior to the implementation of each Master Plan element to ensure that adequate resources can be committed to the project over its lifetime.

The District's primary revenue source is a share of the annual total property tax collected within its jurisdiction with the exception of the Coastside Protection Area (San Mateo coastside). Other revenue sources may include federal and state grants, interest and rental income, donations, land gifts, and note issues. (The District does not collect general use or parking fees at any of its preserves.) When Master Plan project costs are considered in the context of total District operations, it is assumed that new funding sources, including grants and potentially a funding measure, will need to be secured before most elements of the Plan can be implemented. Additional sources of revenue will be especially critical to ensure steady progress in implementing the Master Plan should the District be faced with reduced or depleting net revenues.

PHASING PLAN

The Master Plan will be implemented in four phases over the next 30 years. Implementation will be based on available funding, staffing, District-wide priorities, and anticipated long-term recreational demand. The Phasing Plan provides a general direction for implementation, but flexibility will be needed to accommodate future unknown conditions. For example, climate change may affect the management of the Preserve and impact the District's ability to implement some projects. Master Plan projects will also inevitably compete for funds with projects located on the District's other 25 Preserves; the prioritization of other projects could change the schedule for Master Plan implementation.

Phase I projects are proposed for initiation within 5 years of Master Plan approval and are estimated to cost between \$2.1 and \$2.7 Million.

Phase II projects are proposed for initiation during years 6-10 and are estimated to cost between \$3.5 and \$4.4 Million.

Phase III projects are proposed for initiation during years 11-20 and are estimated to cost between \$2.3 Million and \$2.8 Million.

Phase IV projects are proposed for initiation during years 21-30 and are estimated to cost between \$1.2 Million and \$1.7 Million.

The duration of projects from start to finish range from less than one year (e.g., installation of new picnic benches) to multiple years spanning the entire life of the Master Plan (e.g., periodic fuel break vegetation clearance).

NEXT STEPS

Many subsequent steps will follow the completion and approval of the Master Plan, including detailed planning and design, implementation, and operations.

Completion of the Phase I projects that address critical resource management issues must occur before the District can open new areas to public recreation. Ongoing natural resource management and monitoring, along with periodic Master Plan reviews and updates, will ensure that La Honda Creek OSP achieves the goals of protecting unique ecological, historical, and cultural resources while blending recreational and ranching uses for the benefit of the land, wildlife, and surrounding community.

I. INTRODUCTION

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

The purpose of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) is to purchase and permanently protect a regional greenbelt of open space lands, preserve and restore wildlife habitat, watersheds, viewsheds, and fragile ecosystems, and provide opportunities for low-intensity recreation and environmental education. The District has protected over 60,000 acres of land and currently manages 26 open space preserves and over 225 miles of low-intensity recreational trails, including segments of four regional trails. District lands extend from San Carlos to the unincorporated Santa Clara County area located south of Los Gatos and represent a wide spectrum of habitat communities, including bayside tidal wetlands, grasslands, oak woodlands, riparian corridors, coyote brush scrubland, and evergreen forests. For more information on the District, please refer to Appendix A.

Mission Statement

The District's mission statement outlines the critical functions of the agency and prioritizes how the land is managed, with preservation of open space as the highest priority, followed by land restoration, and finally the provision for low-intensity public recreation. It reads:

"To acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space in perpetuity; protect and restore the natural environment; and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education."

Additionally, the District has adopted an area-specific mission statement for its Coastside Protection Area. This statement recognizes and highlights the District's important role in preserving and supporting viable agricultural use by actively protecting undeveloped coastal land and sustaining the rural agricultural heritage of the San Mateo County coast. It reads:

"To acquire and preserve in perpetuity open space land and agricultural land of regional significance, protect and restore the natural environment, preserve rural character, encourage viable agricultural use of land resources, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education."

These mission statements serve as the policy framework with which all Master Plan goals, objectives, and implementation actions must remain consistent.

Master Plan Overview

Master Plan Purpose

This Master Plan represents the first long-term comprehensive planning effort for La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (La Honda Creek OSP, Preserve). The Master Plan sets forth a vision for preserving, managing, and enjoying this beautiful Coastside Preserve that is consistent with the mission and directive of the District.

The plan seeks to protect the plants and animals that inhabit the area as well as the unique cultural and historic features that remain on the land while providing ecologically sensitive access for the people who would like to experience the landscape.



The coastline as seen from La Honda Creek OSP

The master planning process not only evaluated the Preserve as a unit, but also considered how the decisions for this Preserve complement surrounding properties. This comprehensive approach has resulted in Preserve-wide goals to help the District reinforce the Preserve’s rural identity and agricultural history, prioritize critical actions to protect and enhance its unique natural and cultural resources, and define the level and extent of allowable uses that are compatible with the land. The Master Plan balances the responsibility of protecting the Preserve’s natural and cultural resources with the desire to continue and expand agricultural uses as well as allow for greater public enjoyment of the land.

The master planning process serves the following four main purposes:

To create a long-term vision to guide decisions and management

A key purpose of the master planning process is to provide a forum for the discussion of long-term goals regarding use and management of the Preserve. Such a discussion both addresses current needs and reaches out 30 years into the future to plan for long-term objectives. The master planning process thus allows for the collaborative creation of a Preserve vision that describes how the Preserve would ideally look and function over the next generation.

To catalog and prioritize future site improvement needs

The management of a large and diverse preserve like La Honda Creek OSP requires the input of many different individuals and organizations with widely varying interests. The master planning process provides a forum to identify and discuss a wide variety of topics ranging from maintenance to historic interpretation. By compiling and synthesizing the input into one central document, the District is able

to utilize the Master Plan as a tool to guide future decisions and develop future site improvement work plans. The process of setting priorities helps focus energy and resources on the most important projects, and outlines a logical sequence of future steps towards realization of the overall vision.

To involve the public and raise awareness of the Preserve as a valuable resource

Another key goal of the master planning process is to engage the community in a detailed discussion of the Preserve by involving the public in identifying future use and management opportunities and recording what is collectively known about the property. Raising awareness with the public and local community carries a number of benefits, including:

- Increasing and promoting positive, legitimate Preserve use
- Increasing the pool of volunteer resources
- Increasing overall awareness of the Preserve and public lands
- Inspiring public discussion of general Preserve issues and how to approach them
- Inspiring donations or uncovering other funding opportunities through networking
- Building a stronger community by bringing diverse stakeholders together over a common theme

To uncover and address issues

In the course of engaging the public and assessing their values, current issues regarding land management and use are uncovered. The Master Plan provides an opportunity to discuss these issues in detail and affords a means of identifying projects and other actions to address these issues in the most sensitive and informed way. It creates opportunities for face-to-face discussions with stakeholder groups, and at the same time allows for meaningful incorporation of the opinions of the broader community.

How will the Master Plan be used?

Once adopted, the Master Plan will supersede all previous use and management planning decisions. The Master Plan is intended to serve a number of key functions, including:

- As a handbook that presents an adopted vision for the Preserve
- As an implementation plan that prioritizes future improvements and Preserve projects
- As a set of criteria for projects
- As a Preserve-specific resource management strategy
- As a planning framework to pursue funding
- As a tool to raise public awareness

How long is the Master Plan valid?

The Master Plan represents a 30-year vision for the Preserve. The objective is to substantially realize this vision within that time period. In a more pragmatic sense, the Master Plan will remain valid as long as its policies remain consistent with the needs and values of the District and the public. As priorities shift, certain aspects of the Master Plan may come to the forefront, and other aspects may become less important. The Master Plan is dynamic and can be updated as the District purchases new properties to add to the Preserve or as new resource issues emerge.

Master Plan Process

In order to facilitate fully informed public meetings on the Master Plan, District staff began collecting and organizing a wide variety of resource data for the Preserve a year prior to initiating the public review process. As part of Preserve-wide resource inventories to understand existing conditions, staff collected and mapped information on vegetation communities, rare plants, wildlife habitat, geology, and hydrology. Resource and conditions assessments were also conducted during the data gathering phase, including a comprehensive assessment of the existing roads and trails to identify drainage and erosion issues, and a preliminary historical significance assessment of key structures (Design, Community, and Environment 2007).

Throughout the public participation process for the Master Plan, the District engaged the public during workshops, stakeholder meetings, and through telephone interviews, seeking interest in and ideas for the Preserve in order to arrive at a plan that directly benefits the community at large. As a result of extensive and active community participation, the Master Plan is more likely to be well-received and supported by Preserve users, neighbors, community leaders, non-profit organizations, and outside agencies. This support is critical to the success of a long-range, thirty-year plan. Moreover, carefully planned Master Plan projects are better poised to become eligible for grant funding if they receive strong public support.

Public Outreach and Involvement

Public outreach activities have included newsletters, public workshops, focus group meetings, stakeholder interviews, and tours of the Preserve. Table 1 lists the various public outreach components in chronological order. Appendix B contains all newsletters and summaries of workshops, focus group meetings, and stakeholder interviews.

The first public communication on the Master Plan was a newsletter sent in October 2004. The newsletter was sent to neighbors, stakeholders from various agencies and non-profit organizations, and constituents with an interest in the planning process for this Preserve. A description of the Preserve, the master planning process, and a tentative project schedule were included in the newsletter. The first two public workshops were also announced.

In November 2004, the District held the first Master Plan project workshop, which was attended by approximately 45 people. Presentations by District staff and

consultants gave an overview of the District and its mission, the planning process, the public participation program, and the Preserve. Following these presentations, attendees participated in a break-out activity to collect additional information about the Preserve. Attendees were also asked to provide input regarding their vision for the future use and management of the land.

Table 1: Public Outreach Activities

Newsletter No. 1 – Project Kick-off	October 2004
Public Workshop No. 1 – Visioning, Preserve Goals	November 3, 2004
Public Land Tours of Upper La Honda Creek OSP	November 20, 2004
Nine stakeholder phone interviews with representatives from local organizations, agencies, trail user groups, and non-profits	2004-2006
Public Workshop No. 2 – Alternatives Development	December 6, 2004
Public mailing to give an update on the planning process	February 2005
Public mailing regarding impending Driscoll Ranch purchase	May 2005
Public land tours of the newly purchased Driscoll Ranch	October 13-14, 2006
Newsletter No. 2	October 2006
Public Workshop No. 3 – Driscoll Ranch Introduction, Challenges and Opportunities	November 16, 2006
Equestrians Focus Group Meeting	November 2, 2006
Bicyclists Focus Group Meeting	February 8, 2007
Neighbors Focus Group Meeting	February 21, 2007
Newsletter No. 3	November 2007
Draft Plan Open House	December 4, 2007
1 st Public Hearing – Receive Initial Public Comment	May 19, 2009
2 nd Public Hearing – Receive Additional Comments	June 16, 2009
3 rd Public Hearing – Tentative Master Plan Approval	November 12, 2009
Mitigated Negative Declaration (CEQA doc) circulated	July 2012
4 th Public Hearing: Master Plan Final Approval	August 2012

The second public workshop was held the following month with approximately 50 people in attendance. As part of the presentation, District staff and consultants explained the key findings and recommendations that would set the framework for the Master Plan, as well as some initial issues that the Master Plan would need to resolve. Following the presentation, participants broke into seven small groups to discuss constraints and alternatives and draw specific, consensus-based decisions on a large-scale Preserve map.

Stakeholder phone interviews were also initiated during this time period. Nine different stakeholders with diverse backgrounds, interests, and familiarity with the District and the Preserve were contacted via phone to answer a list of questions regarding their previous knowledge of the land and the agency. The nine stakeholders were also encouraged to voice issues related to the resources and public access that should be considered during the master planning process.

The District also offered public land tours of the Preserve, including the former Driscoll Ranch area, that were led by District staff and docents. The tours provided

the public with an opportunity to view and experience the Preserve first hand to become better informed and thereby able to give more direct input and feedback on its future use and management.

In 2005, the District mailed two separate letters to keep the public informed about the master planning process and explain the need to delay the next workshop due to the pending Driscoll Ranch purchase. This purchase more than doubled the acreage of the Preserve, making Driscoll Ranch a critical addition to the Master Plan.

In October 2006, a second project newsletter was mailed to announce the third public workshop held on November 16, 2006. The newsletter also contained a summary of the two previous workshops, an overview of the project, and a revised schedule of next steps.

The third public workshop provided an opportunity to formally introduce the new Driscoll Ranch area of the Preserve. District staff presented the various challenges and opportunities for resource protection and public access at the newly purchased property. Approximately 50 people attended the meeting. During the latter half of the workshop, participants broke into 5 groups to review and discuss options on how to incorporate Driscoll Ranch into the Master Plan. Using maps of the Preserve to guide the discussion, participants were asked to answer questions regarding trail use (dogs, hiking, biking, and equestrian access), parking areas, grazing issues, and protection of sensitive resources.

Between November 2006 and February 2007, District staff held three different focus group meetings, one each with equestrians, mountain bicyclists, and adjacent Preserve neighbors. All three focus groups discussed each stakeholder's priorities and needs that would allow them to enjoy the Preserve.

In November 2007, a third project newsletter was mailed and emailed to announce the Draft Plan Open House held on December 4, 2007. The newsletter contained a list of key resource management and public access recommendations, illustrative maps, and a revised project schedule.

The public was invited to attend the Draft Plan Open House to preview, learn about, and study the preliminary Draft Plan recommendations in preparation for an upcoming public hearing. The Open House was organized as an informal event with five stations, each focusing on a specific topic. Each station was facilitated by District staff, who presented the details of and reasoning behind the recommendations, answered questions, and collected public input.

Following the Draft Plan Open House, alternative public access recommendations were prepared for consideration. The Public Access Alternatives were discussed at two public hearings in Spring 2009. At a third public hearing in November 2009, the Board of Directors tentatively (pending environmental review) approved an "expanded" bicycle use option, which would permit bicycles on the Ridge Trail corridor once a through connection is made, on an existing ranch road connecting

the Town of La Honda to the Ridge Trail corridor, and on one loop trail off the existing ranch road.

Following the tentative approval of the Master Plan in 2009, work on the project was deferred for three years due to budget and staffing constraints associated with higher priority projects. In Spring 2012, the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Master Plan was completed. The Public Review period for the IS/MND extended from July 2 through August 1, 2012.



District staff conducting fish passage surveys in Harrington Creek

Preserve Overview

The 5,759-acre La Honda Creek OSP, considered by many as a gateway to the San Mateo coast, features forests of redwood and Douglas fir to the north, open rolling grasslands to the south, and spectacular panoramic views of the coast and ridgelines throughout. The Preserve is located in the northern Santa Cruz Mountains within unincorporated San Mateo County near the communities of Woodside and La Honda. The Preserve is bounded by Highway 35 (Skyline Boulevard) to the north and by Highway 84 (La Honda Road) to the east and south. La Honda Creek OSP is comprised of historic farmsteads, former ranches, and timberland of approximately 2,078 acres in the upper reaches (the former Dyer and Weeks Ranches) and 3,682 acres in the southern area (the former Driscoll Ranch). The former Driscoll Ranch area is subject to a 50-year grazing lease that began in 2002. Figure 1 shows the regional location of the Preserve. Figure 2 provides a topographic overview of the Preserve, including landmarks. Figure 3 features an aerial photograph of the same region.

Preserve Areas

The Master Plan partitions the Preserve into three geographical areas, given its large acreage, to help describe the locations of key issues and project priorities. These geographical areas are shown schematically in Figure 4 and are further described below:

- Northern La Honda Creek – the area north of the prominent rock outcrop vista point, bounded by Highway 35 to the north, La Honda Creek and the

Skylonda neighborhood to the east, and the Djerassi Resident Artist Program property to the west. This general area includes:

Redwood Cabin
Allen Road driveway entrance
White Barn
Former Dyer Ranch

- Central La Honda Creek – the area between the prominent rock outcrop vista point on the north and Gate LH08 on the south, bounded by the Djerassi Resident Artist Program property to the west and La Honda Creek and Highway 84 to the east. This general area includes:

Former Weeks/McDonald Ranch
Red Barn

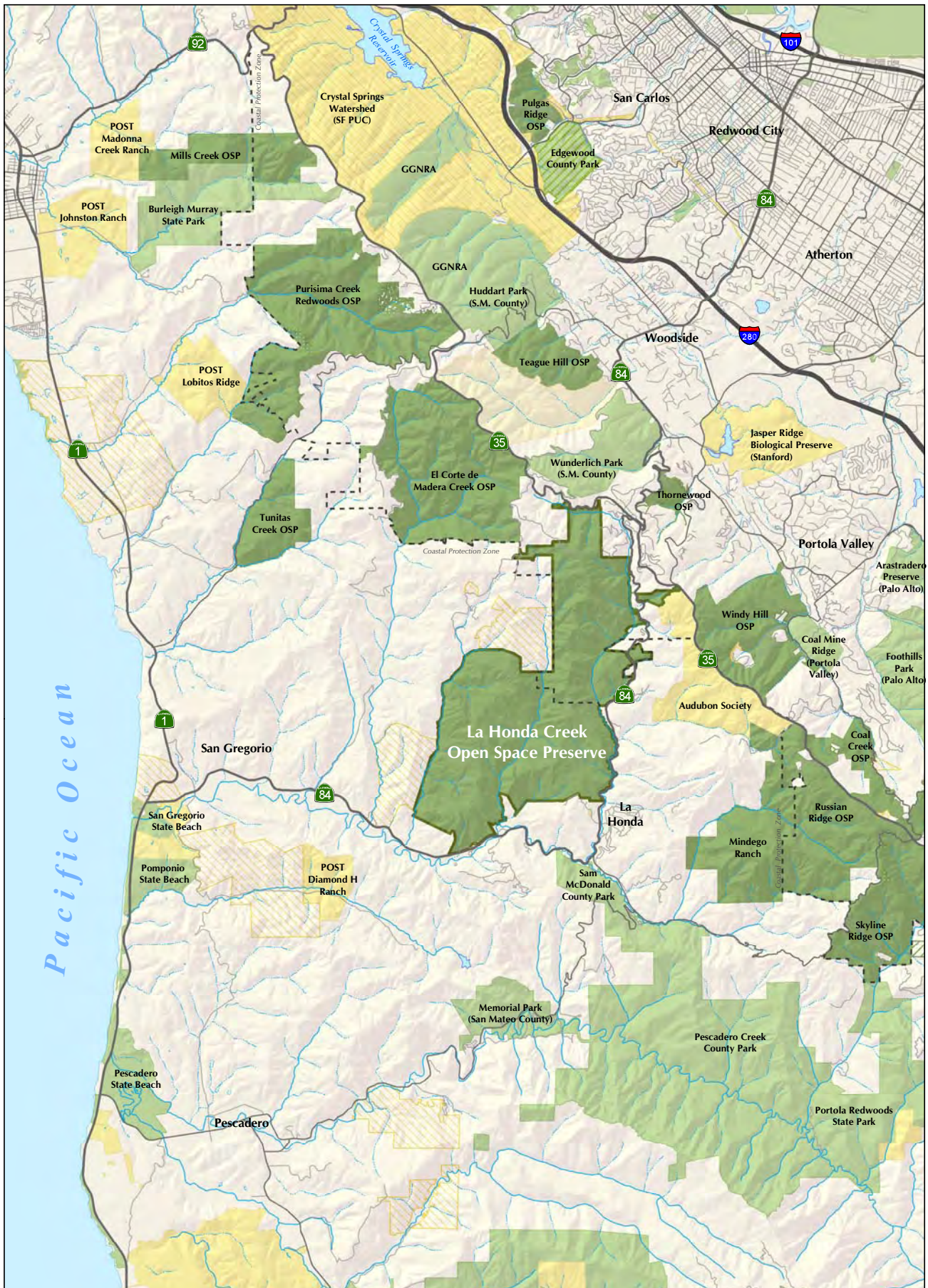
- Southern La Honda Creek – purchased in 2006, this area encompasses the entire former Driscoll Ranch property. It is bounded by Highway 84 to the east and south, Bogess Creek to the west, and the Djerassi Artists Program property to the north. Southern La Honda Creek includes the following subareas:

Former Driscoll Ranch
Former Sears Ranch
Former Wool Ranch
Former Folger Ranch

Preserve Vision Statement

The vision statement for La Honda Creek OSP is consistent with the District's overall mission statement and the mission for the Coastside Protection Area. It also responds to the desires and issues raised by members of the public, including environmental organizations seeking the protection of the natural resources, trail user groups asking for expanded access and additional trails, and local communities hoping to connect directly to the Preserve to expand their local recreational opportunities. The vision presents a long-term picture for the landscape, management, and use of the Preserve, and serves to guide all aspects of the Master Plan. The goals, objectives, and actions listed hereafter are all tools to realize this vision, which states:

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve is rich with unique ecological, historical, and cultural resources. The Preserve will continue to serve as a picturesque backdrop of the Coastal foothills and will serve as an example of how the District harmoniously blends recreational and ranching uses for the benefit of the land, wildlife, and surrounding community, both present and future. The stewardship of this public Open Space Preserve shall be the highest priority, followed by the practice of ecological agriculture and ranching, and finally improved trail connectivity and access. Focus will be placed on protecting and enhancing the Preserve's diverse plant, wildlife, and native habitats; protecting and interpreting the historical and cultural features that are reminiscent of past uses; continuing ranching activities and preserving scenic rangeland landscapes characteristic of rural San Mateo County; lending to the viability of agriculture on the Coast; expanding the available access and interior trail connections within the Preserve; and building connections to surrounding open space lands and Coastside communities.



La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

Map Projection: UTM Zone 10N, NAD 1927
 Data Sources: USGS, County of San Mateo, and MROSD.
 Map Printed September, 2008

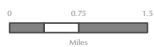


Figure 1: Regional Base Map

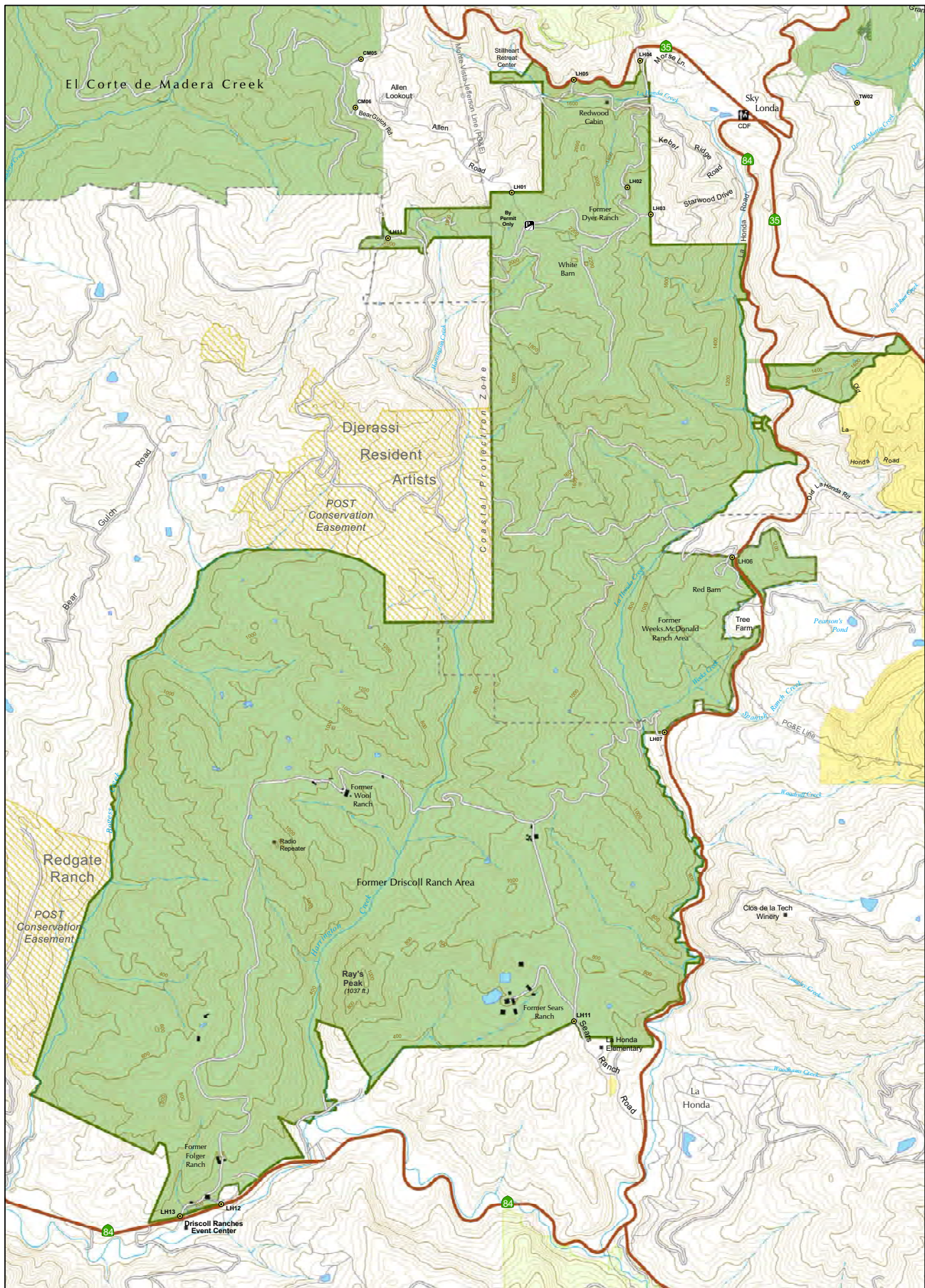
Land Use

- La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve
- Other MROSD Open Space Preserve
- Other Public Open Space
- Land Trust or Academic Lands
- Watershed Lands
- Land Trust Conservation Easement

Roads

- Interstate Highways
- State Highways
- Major Roads
- Minor Roads

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**La Honda Creek
Open Space Preserve**

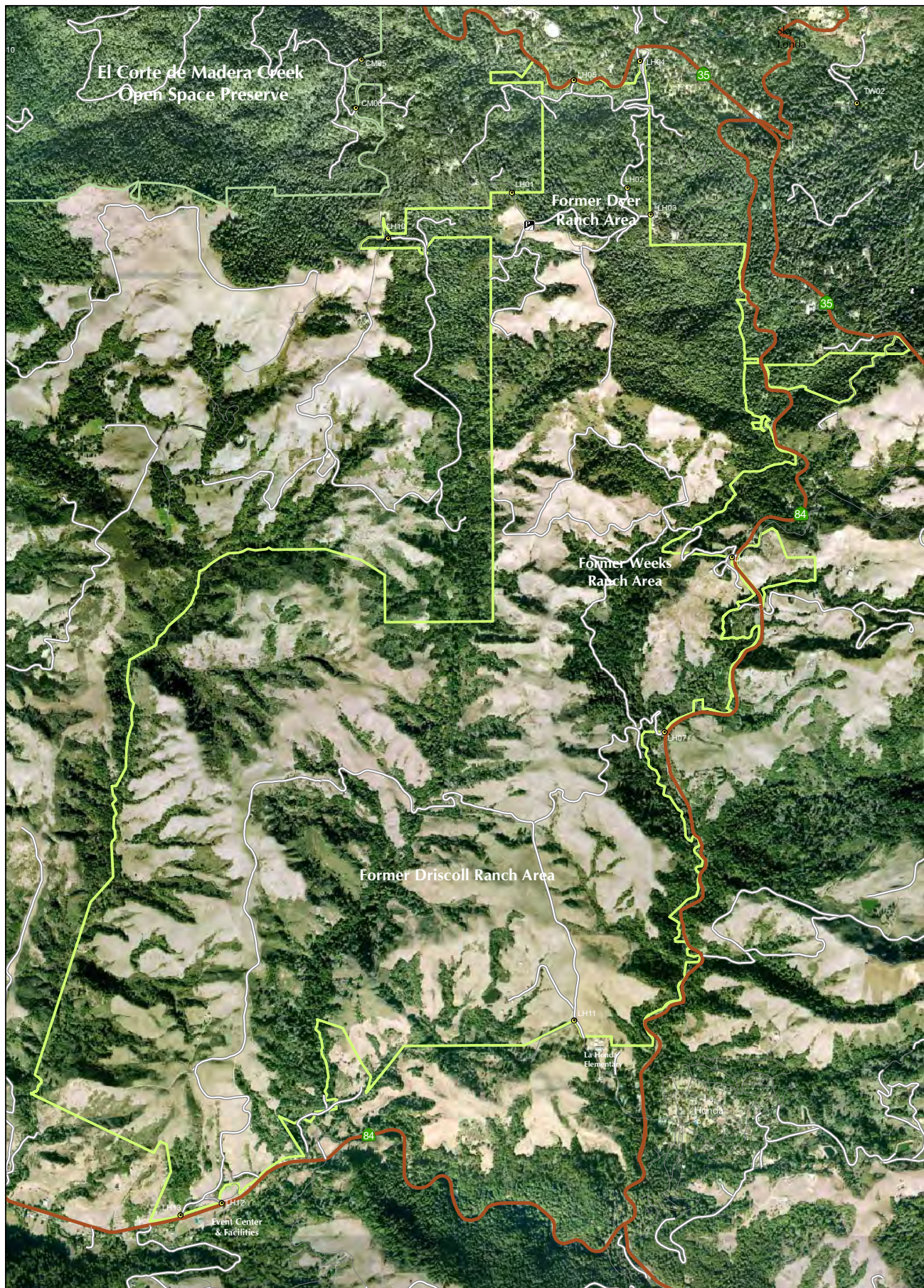
Map Projection: UTM Zone 10N, NAD 1927
 Data Sources: USGS, County of San Mateo, and MROSD
 Map Printed September, 2008

0 0.25 0.5
 Miles

Figure 2: Topographic Base Map

Land Use	Roads	Contour Intervals
MROSD Open Space Preserve	Unpaved Ranch / Patrol Road	200 Feet
Other Public Open Space	Existing Paved Road	40 feet
Land Trust	Highway	
Land Trust Conservation Easement		

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**La Honda Creek
Open Space Preserve**

Map Projection: UTM Zone 10N, NAD 1927
 Data Sources: USGS, County of
 San Mateo, and MIROSD.
 Map Printed September, 2008

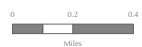







Figure 3: Aerial Base Map

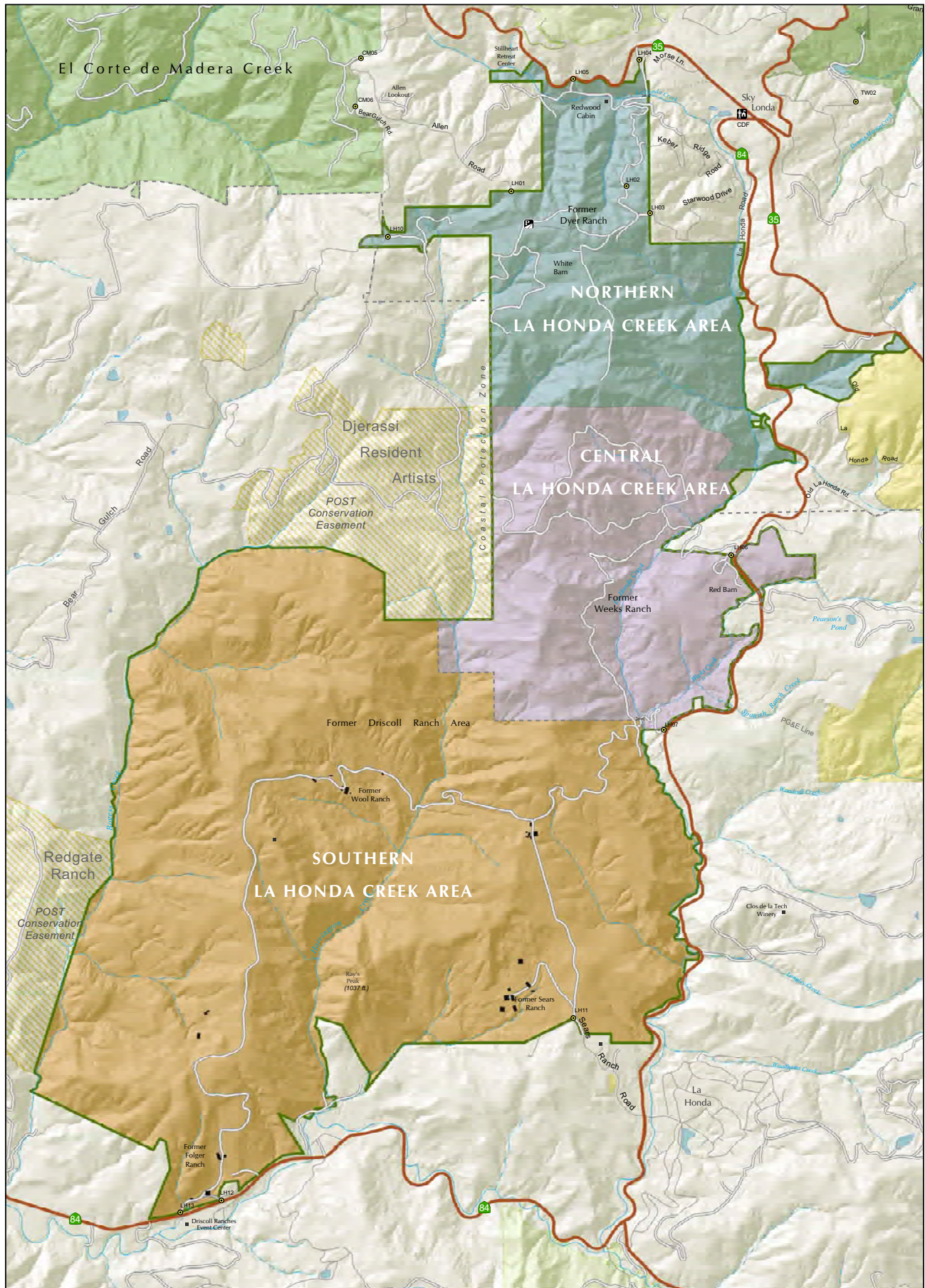
Access

-  Exterior gate
-  Roadside Permit Parking Area

Roads

-  Unpaved Ranch / Patrol Road
-  Existing Paved Road
-  Highway

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**La Honda Creek
Open Space Preserve**

Map Projection: UTM Zone 10N, NAD 1927
Data Sources: USGS, County of San Mateo, and MROSD
Map Printed November 2007



Figure 4: Preserve Areas

- Northern La Honda Creek Area includes former Dyer Ranch and Redwood Cabin
- Central La Honda Creek Area includes former Weeks Ranch and Red Barn
- Southern La Honda Creek Area includes former Driscoll Ranch

- Roads**
- Unpaved Ranch / Patrol Road
 - Existing Paved Road
 - Highway

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Themes, Challenges, and Opportunities

The following information highlights key themes for the Preserve, which were explored during the first set of public workshops and focus group meetings, and further researched by staff and consultants. The Master Plan goals, objectives, and implementation actions were developed with these specific themes in mind. Each theme is followed by the various challenges and opportunities that affect how the District responds to each theme. The challenges and opportunities were identified from the robust resource and site conditions inventory developed for the Preserve (Design Community and Environment 2007).

Natural Resource Management	
Theme #1: Active management of natural areas is needed.	
<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eliminating non-native, invasive plant species that threaten biodiversity ▪ Preventing the introduction/ release of non-native wildlife (e.g. bullfrogs, red-eared sliders, feral cats) ▪ Limiting brush encroachment into grasslands ▪ Preventing erosion and sedimentation into aquatic areas ▪ Avoiding user impacts to sensitive areas <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protecting rare or unique plants and wildlife, including: California red-legged frog, western pond turtle, steelhead trout, King’s Mountain manzanita, and western leatherwood ▪ Preserving grassland and native plant diversity ▪ Implementing Best Management Practices ▪ Designating sensitive habitat protection zones 	 <p>Native wildflowers near the edge of grassland and scrubland habitat in southern La Honda Creek OSP</p>

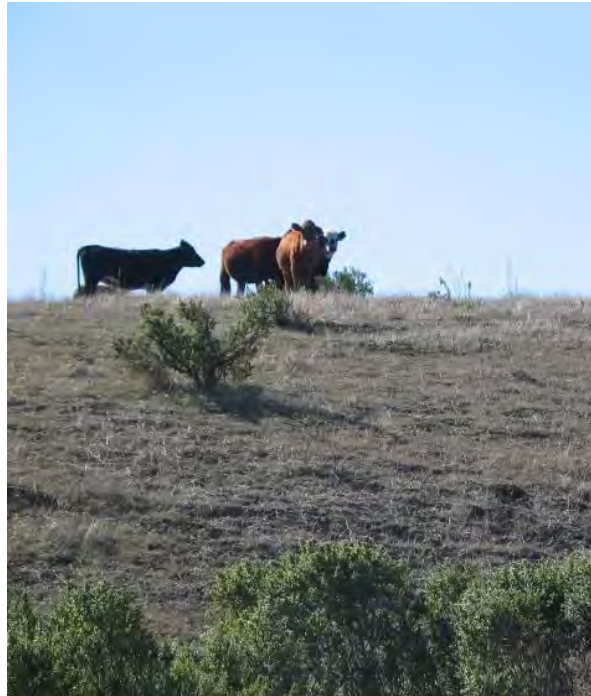
Theme #2: Ranching activities are a key Preserve component.

Challenges

- Expanding or reintroducing grazing in areas north of the former Driscoll Ranch

Opportunities

- Utilizing grazing as an important resource and fire management tool
- Retaining the desired ranching landscape aesthetic
- Maintaining past uses of the property to reflect the importance of ranching to the rural character of San Mateo County



Cattle grazing in the former Driscoll Ranch area

Cultural Resource Management

Theme #3: The Preserve has a rich cultural history.

Challenges

- Highlighting historical features that are currently anonymous or hidden
- Maintaining or rehabilitating historical features
- Establishing a policy regarding the role and use of the Red Barn

Opportunities

- Informing the public about the local native cultures that were present on the land for many centuries
- Featuring the numerous remnants of past ranching land uses
- Drawing upon the Red Barn's status as a well



View of the Red Barn from Highway 84

Public Access, Recreation, and Environmental Education

Theme #4: The Preserve offers multiple ways to enhance public enjoyment and appreciation of the land.

Challenges

- Balancing public access with the protection of natural and cultural resources
- Balancing the needs of various user groups
- Integrating public access with an active grazing operation

Opportunities

- Featuring the Preserve’s picturesque views of rolling grasslands, heritage trees, and the historic Red Barn, and expansive 360-degree views of surrounding landscapes



The Driscoll Ranch area in the foreground and northern La Honda Creek OSP in the background

Theme #5: The Preserve offers very few recreational amenities and open trails.

Challenges

- Improving public access opportunities throughout the Preserve
- Increasing parking capacity for vehicles and horse trailers

Opportunities

- Constructing additional trails, loops, interior trail connections, and narrow trails, with a variety of mileages
- Considering dog and bicycle access
- Featuring the Preserve’s diverse and noteworthy natural and cultural areas as part of trail corridors



Permit parking area off Allen Road

Theme #6: Connecting to surrounding open space lands, regional trails, and neighboring communities is of key importance.

Challenges

- Establishing connections to County parks and other public lands that are located both north and south of the Preserve

Opportunities

- Establishing formal access between the Town of La Honda and the Preserve
- Closing a critical gap in the Bay Area Ridge Trail
-



Northern La Honda Creek OSP as seen from the former Driscoll Ranch area

Theme #7: The Preserve offers tremendous interpretation potential.

Challenges

- Protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources

Opportunities

- Interpreting local history, previous landowners, and past land uses by utilizing, in part, existing structures and remnant artifacts
- Utilizing the Preserve as an educational and interpretive asset for the local community, including the La Honda Elementary School



Native American mortar rock located in the Preserve

Maintenance and Operations

Theme #8: Address the presence of existing and potential hazards.

Challenges

- Reducing fire hazards
- Addressing onsite contamination issues; former site of oil drilling
- Removing dilapidated structures that can become a nuisance; upgrading structures that should remain

Opportunities

- Restoring disturbed sites



Vacant, remnant trailers in the former Driscoll Ranch area

II. PRESERVE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This chapter presents the Preserve Goals and Objectives organized by subject area. Goals describe an expected or desired outcome of the Master Plan that reflects the larger vision for La Honda Creek OSP. Objectives describe specific targets that are quantitatively or qualitatively measurable and necessary to accomplish in order to achieve the broader Goals.

Table 2: Master Plan Goals and Objectives

Natural Resource Management	
Goal NR-1:	Preserve surrounding open space lands
Obj NR-1.1:	Continue to purchase properties and conservation easements to expand and protect the Preserve’s natural resources, aesthetic values, and connectivity
Goal NR-2:	Expand the District’s natural resource information
Obj NR-2.1:	Organize and increase the District’s knowledge of the Preserve’s natural resources and populate GIS databases with new and up to date information
Goal NR-3:	Protect unique and sensitive resources
Obj NR-3.1:	Manage key areas that require special protection due to high quality habitat, presence of sensitive species, and/or susceptibility to negative resource impacts as conservation areas where use is limited
Goal NR-4:	Protect and enhance watershed resources and aquatic habitat
Obj NR-4.1:	Protect water quality and improve stream habitat
Obj NR-4.2:	Protect the quality of existing pond habitat
Obj NR-4.3:	Develop new and restore former stock ponds to increase available aquatic habitat
Obj NR-4.4:	Identify and maintain existing springs and water infrastructure
Goal NR-5:	Protect and enhance native grassland vegetation
Obj NR-5.1:	Continue and expand the grazing program as a conservation tool to help manage grasslands
Obj NR-5.2:	Utilize a variety of management techniques to prevent brush encroachment into grassland habitat
Obj NR-5.3:	Protect populations of rare plants
Obj NR-5.4:	Protect and, where appropriate, enhance forest habitat
Obj NR-5.5:	Eradicate or control key non-native, invasive species
Goal NR-6:	Protect native wildlife populations
Obj NR-6.1:	Protect and enhance populations of listed wildlife species
Obj NR-6.2:	Identify and protect key wildlife corridors

Cultural Resource Management	
Goal CR-1:	Protect significant cultural, historical, and archaeological resources
Obj CR-1.1:	Organize and increase the District’s knowledge of the Preserve’s cultural resources and populate GIS databases with new and up to date information
Obj CR-1.2:	Implement cultural resource protection measures
Obj CR-1.3:	Protect historically significant structures
Obj CR-1.4:	Protect key cultural landscape features

Public Access, Recreation, and Environmental Education	
Goal PA-1:	Enhance the recreational opportunities in the Preserve
Obj PA-1.1:	Open additional areas within the Preserve to the public for low intensity recreation and enjoyment
Obj PA-1.2:	Where appropriate, allow bicycle use
Obj PA-1.3:	Where appropriate, allow dogs on leash
Obj PA-1.4:	Follow appropriate steps to responsibly open new areas to public use
Goal PA-2:	Expand and improve the available parking
Obj PA-2.1:	Improve the Allen Road permit parking lot layout
Obj PA-2.2:	Provide additional parking elsewhere in the Preserve where feasible
Goal PA-3:	Enhance the Preserve trail system
Obj PA-3.1:	Provide loop trails and trail connections to parking areas, key destination sites, and newly opened areas of the Preserve
Goal PA-4:	Expand opportunities for people with diverse physical abilities to enjoy passive recreational and educational activities
Obj PA-4.1:	Provide trails with a wide variety of mileages, elevation changes, and levels of difficulty that reflect a diverse population
Goal PA-5:	Promote regional trail connections
Obj PA-5.1:	Provide connections to other public open space lands where feasible
Obj PA-5.2:	Designate a Bay Area Ridge Trail corridor through the Preserve
Goal PA-6:	Educate the public about Preserve resources
Obj PA-6.1:	Interpret the natural and cultural resources of La Honda Creek OSP to expand public understanding of the Preserve’s local and regional role and how past land uses have shaped the current condition of the landscape
Goal PA-7:	Enhance the trail experience
Obj PA-7.1:	Provide trail-related amenities
Obj PA-7.2:	Remove obstructions to important viewsheds

Maintenance and Operations

Goal MO-1: Reduce and control sources of erosion and sedimentation

- Obj MO-1.1: Follow Best Management Practices during road and trail maintenance and construction
- Obj MO-1.2: Maintain and manage roads and trails to address road-related erosion
- Obj MO-1.3: Evaluate and address erosion caused by cattle and the grazing operation

Goal MO-2: Reduce fire risk

- Obj MO-2.1: Implement practices to manage wildland fuels and reduce fire hazards
- Obj MO-2.2: Protect and manage natural resources by modifying vegetation/fuel
- Obj MO-2.3: Facilitate wildland fire response and suppression
- Obj MO-2.4: Prepare a Wildland Fire Response Plan

Goal MO-3: Address environmental hazards

- Obj MO-3.1: Implement regulatory agency requirements to address environmental hazards

Goal MO-4: Update the land classification for individual Preserve parcels

- Obj MO-4.1: Amend Williamson Act contracts to allow compatible uses
- Obj MO-4.2: File for non-renewal of Williamson Act contracts
- Obj MO-4.3: Assess parcels for Board dedication

Goal MO-5: Maintain District rental facilities in working and safe condition

- Obj MO-5.1: Make necessary structural and mechanical system upgrades to rental structures

III. MASTER PLAN ELEMENTS

Of the many themes and topics that were discussed and reviewed throughout the master planning process, the following elements have been selected for inclusion in the Master Plan based on input from the public, focus groups, agency and organization stakeholders, District staff, and the project's Ad Hoc Committee. Given the Preserve's size and the 30-year Master Plan timeframe, the elements remain relatively conceptual in nature, with the exception of the Phase I projects, which are to be initiated during the first five years following Master Plan adoption. The *Implementation Plan* that follows this chapter provides a concise and comprehensive list of all the Master Plan elements described below. Implementation of all Master Plan elements is subject to Environmental Protection Guidelines, which are provided in Appendix C.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Figures 5, 6, and 7 provide an overview of the Preserve's existing natural resources. Figure 8 features key site specific resource management actions.

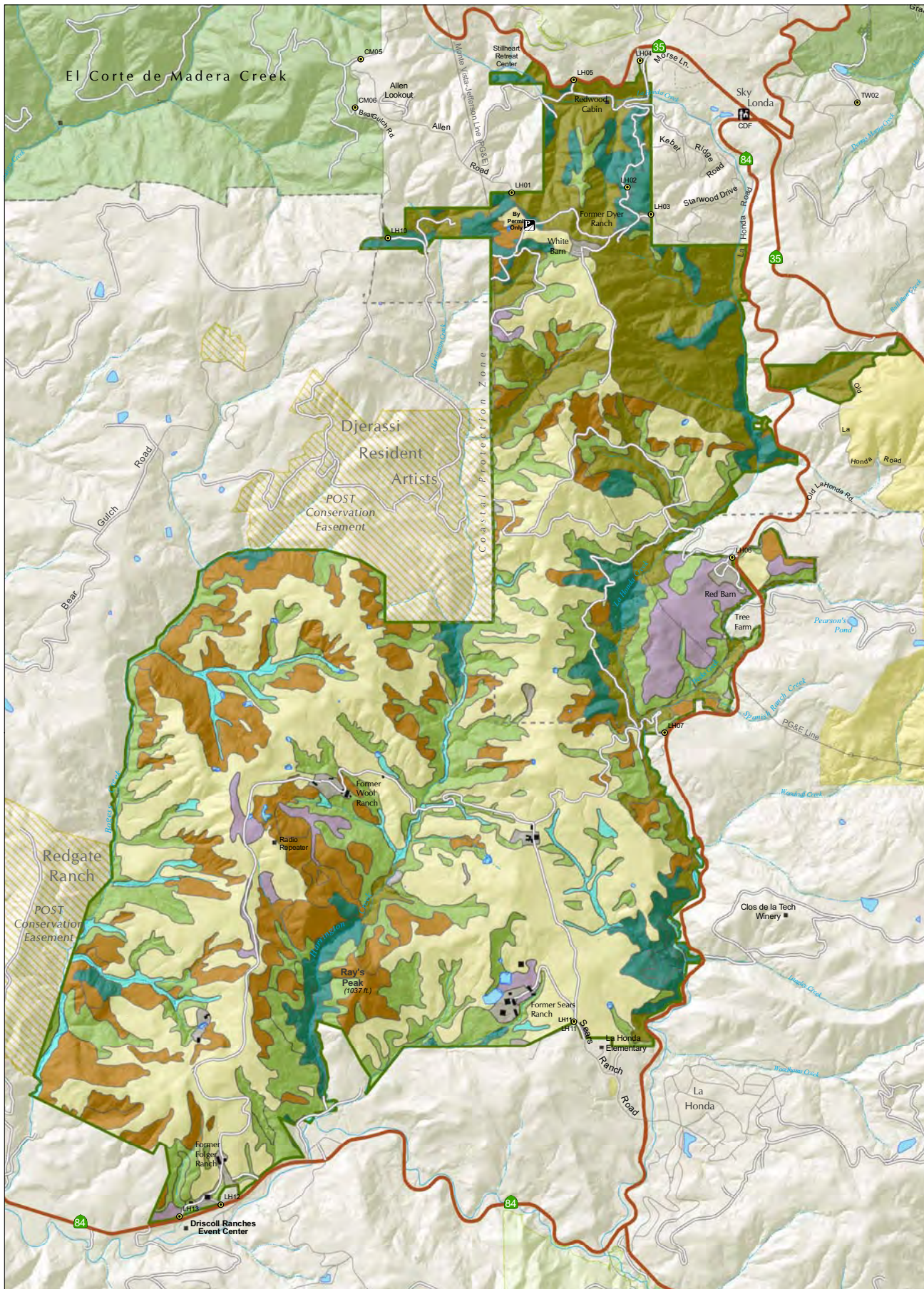
Preservation of Surrounding Open Space Lands

The District will continue to actively purchase and secure new properties, easements, and other land interests, focusing on strategic corridors within District boundaries to complete a protected open space greenbelt and create linkages with federal, state, county, and city parklands, and watershed lands. As one example, the District will explore the feasibility of securing and using California Riding and Hiking Trail easements to complete important regional trail connections. By expanding its total land acreage and securing important linkages, the District is protecting scenic view sheds, vegetation communities, and watershed quality while enhancing the opportunities for habitat and trail connectivity. The District's Financing Authority will continue to serve as the primary source of funding for new lands. Land purchases will also be pursued through available grant funding, bargain sales, and gifts.

Natural Resource Inventories and Databases

Proper management of the District's natural resources requires sound knowledge of the existing natural conditions. By continuously updating the District's natural resources GIS database and other data files for La Honda Creek OSP, the District can refer to pertinent and up to date Preserve information to guide future implementation actions and monitor any changes to the resources, including native plant and wildlife populations. The Preserve's resource inventory will be populated using data collected from periodic biological site surveys of native and nonnative species, such as in-stream fish sampling.

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**La Honda Creek
Open Space Preserve**

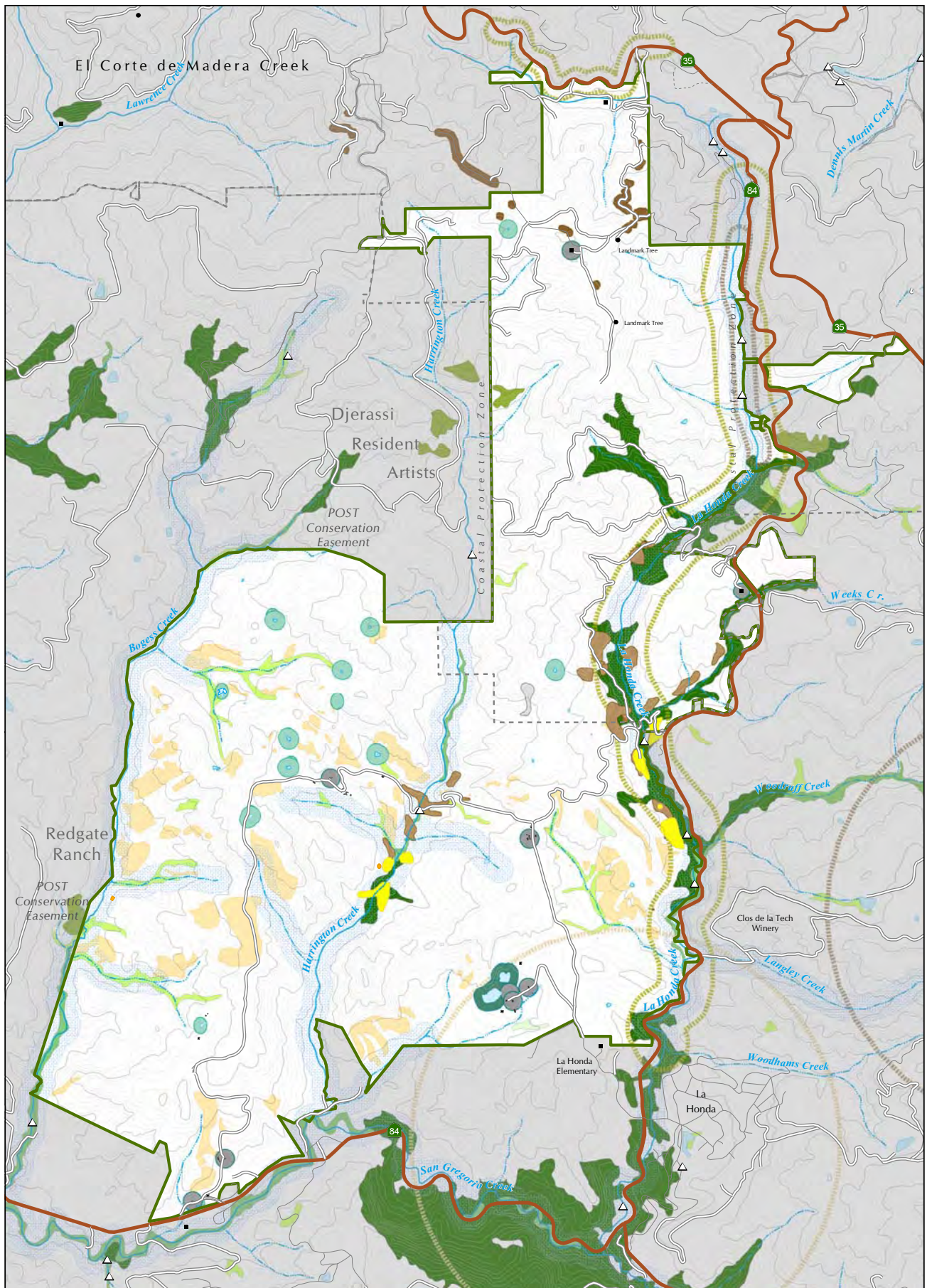
Map Projection: UTM Zone 10N, NAD 1927
 Data Sources: USGS, CA Dept. of Fish & Game,
 County of San Mateo, and MROSD.
 Map Printed September 2008



Figure 5: Major Habitat Types & Vegetation Communities

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| California Annual Grassland | Riparian or Wetland | Roads |
| Coyote Brush Scrub | Small Ephemeral Ponds | |
| Douglas Fir | Weedy Ruderal | Unpaved Ranch / Patrol Road |
| Mixed Broadleaf | Sparsely Vegetated, Planted, or Urban | Existing Paved Road |
| Redwood Forest | | Highway |

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**La Honda Creek
Open Space Preserve**

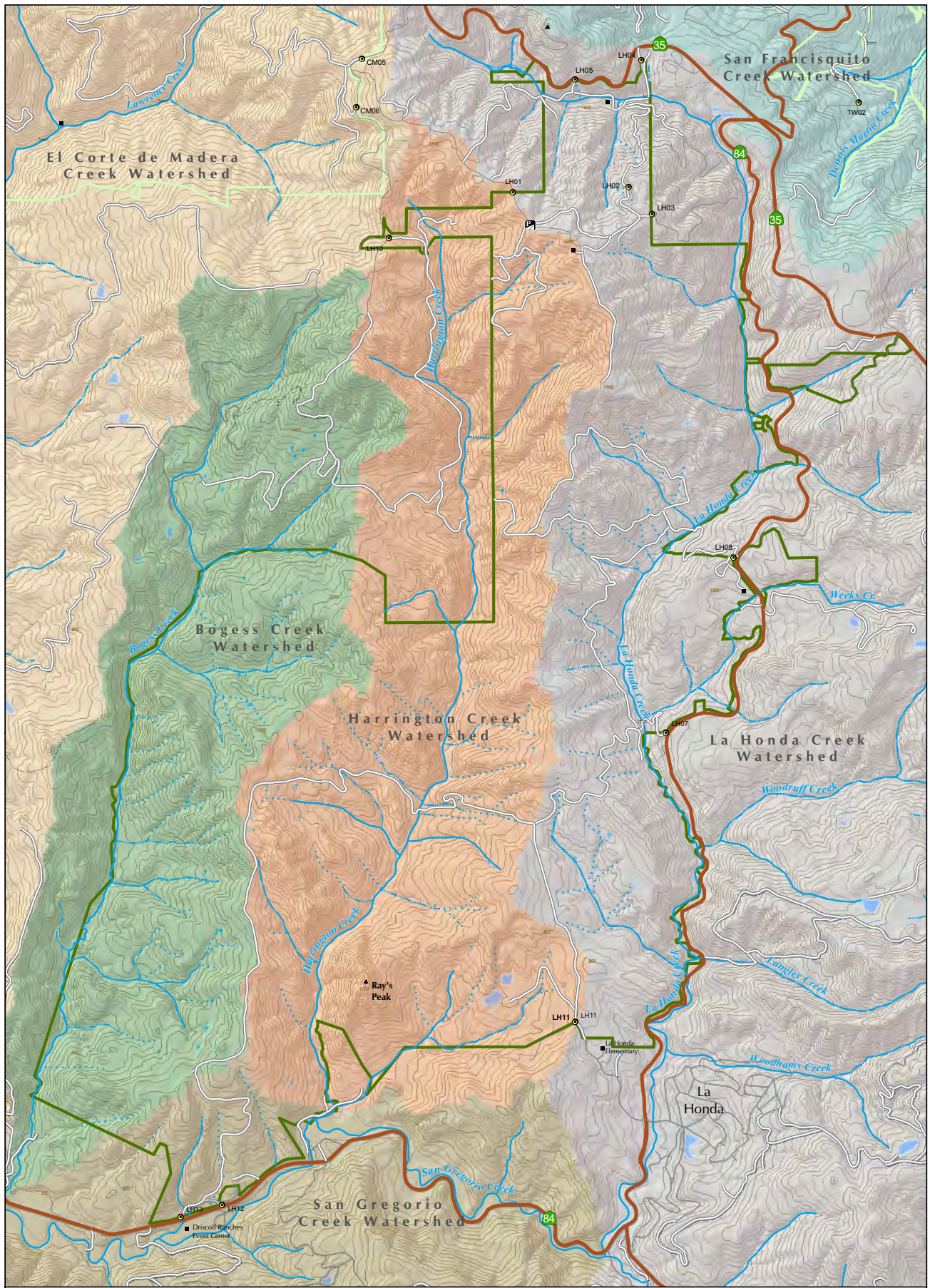
Map Projection: UTM Zone 10N, NAD 1927
 Data Sources: USGS, CA Dept. of Fish & Game,
 County of San Mateo, and MROSD.
 For their protection, not all sensitive species locations
 are included on this map. Reptiles & amphibians
 surveyed within Preserve area only.



Figure 6: Sensitive Biological Resources

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sensitive Plant & Animal Populations | | Non Site-specific Populations | |
| Kings Mountain Manzanita | California Red-legged Frog | Santa Cruz Manzanita | Redwood Stands |
| Western Leatherwood | Western Pond Turtle & Ca. Red-legged Frog | Arcuate Bush Mallow | Willow Stands |
| Native Perennial Grasses (Driscoll Ranch survey only) | Bat habitat (Townsend's big-eared bat, Pallid bat, California myotis, Yuma myotis, Fringed myotis, Mexican free-tailed bat, and Long-eared myotis) | Western Leatherwood | Red Alder Forest |
| California Bottlebrush Grass | | Anadromous Fisheries | Coastal Scrub/Chaparral |
| Artist's Popcorn Flower | | Steelhead trout habitat | Sedge/Juncus Meadow or Cattails |
| | | Natural/artificial passage barrier | Cliffs or Outcrops |

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**La Honda Creek
Open Space Preserve**

Map Projection: UTM Zone 18N, NAD 1927
 Data Sources: USGS, County of San Mateo, and MROSD.
 Map Printed September, 2008



Figure 7: Water Resources

Water Features

- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- Ephemeral Stream (project area only)
- Pond or Reservoir
- Spring or Well
- Subwatershed Boundary

Roads

- Unpaved Ranch / Patrol Road
- Existing Paved Road
- Highway

Land Use

- La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve
- MROSD Open Space Preserve

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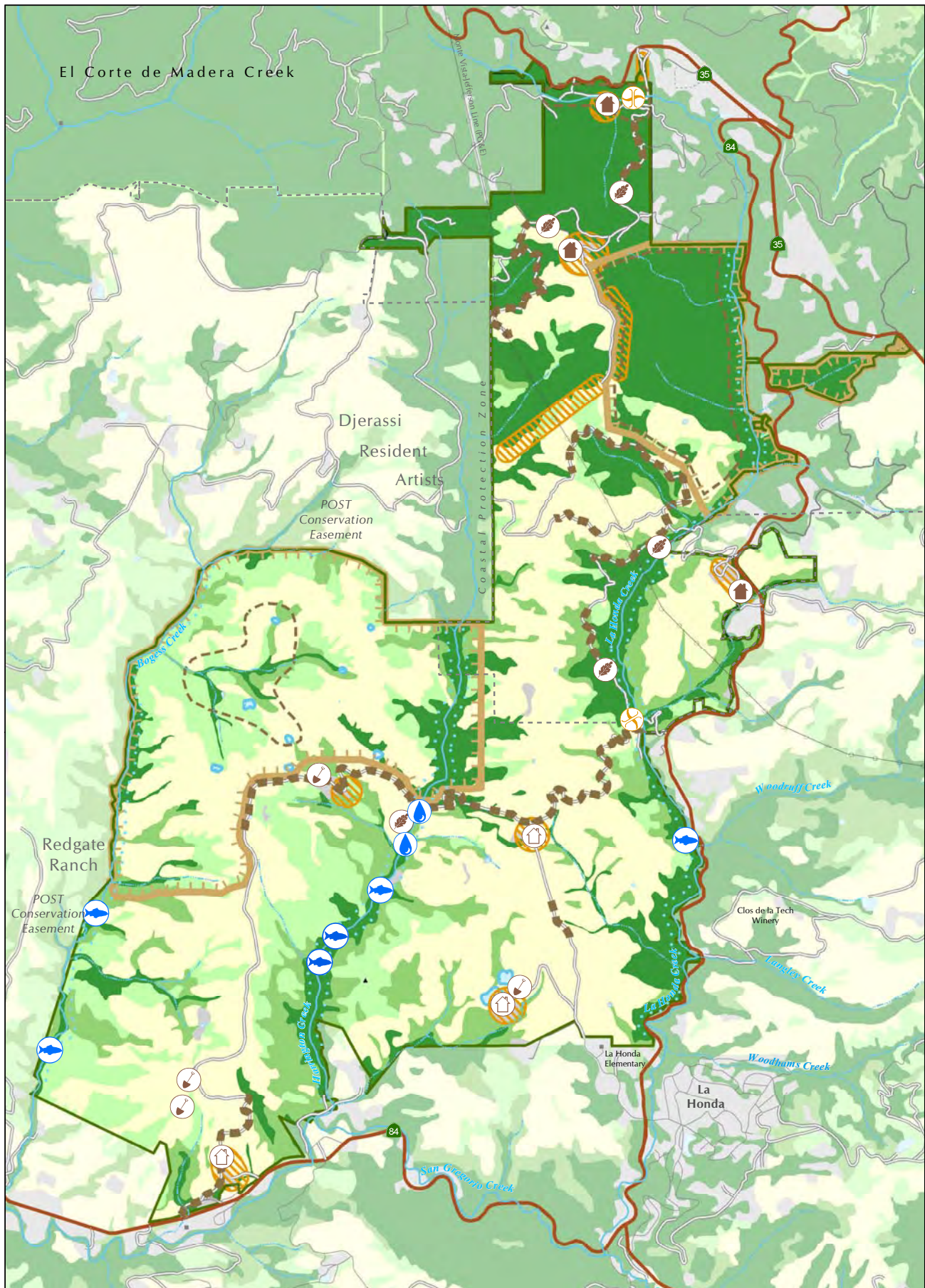


Figure 8: Resource Management Projects

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

Map Projection: UTM, Zone 10N, NAD 1927
 Data Sources: USGS, CA Dept. of Fish & Game, County of San Mateo, and MROSD.
 Map Printed September, 2008

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Management Unit (CMU) Improve road drainage or alignment Develop/implement erosion control plan Replace or extensively repair bridge Fire safety treatment: fuel break/defensible space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore riparian area, install fencing Survey for fish passage, presence, & population Manage ponds for sensitive species Coastside stream protection corridor Conservation grazing (grassland areas) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve local cultural landmark Assess historical significance of structures Remediate soil contamination Conserve & study rare plant occurrence | <p>Vegetation Types</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Woodland Shrubland Grasslands Unvegetated or rural residential |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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Conservation Management Units

The Preserve contains two noteworthy areas that merit special protections to prevent recreation-induced disturbances that can negatively impact sensitive natural resources. Figure 9 is a map of the two highly sensitive areas that would be designated as Conservation Management Units (CMUs). In accordance with District policy, highly unique and sensitive areas can be designated as Conservation Management Units (MROSD, Amended 1991). Conservation Management Units (CMUs) are not managed for public recreation, but rather for resource protection, conservation, and viewshed values. Hence, no general public access is allowed. Any use must be coordinated through and permitted by the District, and is allowed only on a case-by-case basis through issuance of a special permit. No trails are constructed, maintained, mapped, or made open for public use in CMUs. Public access may be provided, however, by docent-led tours.

Former Wool Ranch CMU

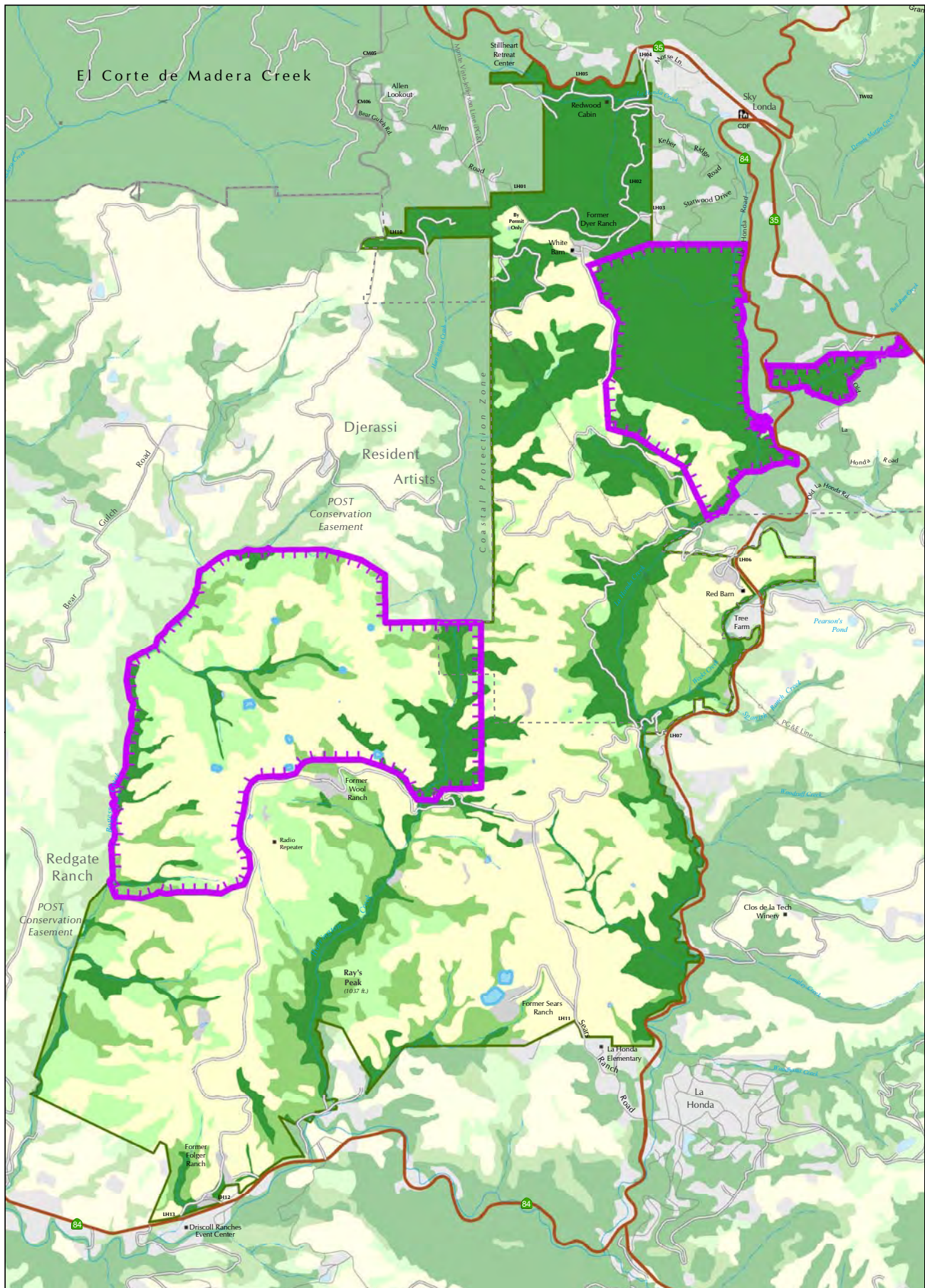
One area is located in the northwestern corner of the former Driscoll Ranch area, in southern La Honda Creek OSP. This area offers exceptionally high quality habitat for the California red-legged frog (CRLF), a species federally listed as threatened that has been observed and recorded throughout this area. The site contains a complex of ponds within a larger grassland setting and offers one of the highest quality aquatic habitats on District-owned lands. Given the existing site conditions and high numbers of CRLF, this site also provides suitable habitat for San Francisco garter snake (SFGS), which is federally listed as endangered. This species is currently given the highest level of regulatory protection (“Fully Protected” status) by the California Department of Fish and Game. SFGS is known from nearby locations, with a documented occurrence less than a mile to the east of the Preserve (CNDDDB 2012).

However, general amphibian and reptile surveys of the Preserve have failed to detect San Francisco garter snake (Seymour 2006), as did four subsequent years of focused surveys in areas of high habitat suitability (Vollmar Consulting 2009, The Wildlife Project 2010, MROSD 2011, 2012). Nevertheless, because of nearby occurrences and the presence of suitable habitat, it is possible that SFGS could occur. The District is currently implementing a pond management plan within the Former Wool Ranch CMU under a USFWS Endangered Species Recovery Permit. The goal of the pond management plan is to enhance habitat for California red-legged frog, a primary prey species for the San Francisco garter snake, which in turn would also enhance habitat for SFGS (refer to the *Watershed Resources and Aquatic Habitat* and *Wildlife Management* sections for more information). The District has implemented an ongoing coverboard monitoring program for detection of SFGS on the Preserve.

To ensure protection of the former Wool Ranch’s unique natural resources, general public access shall be restricted to avoid undesirable impacts and disturbances, including the introduction of non-native wildlife such as bullfrogs and red-eared slider turtles that would compete with and prey upon native rare species. By setting this area aside as a “preserve within a preserve”, conservation projects will be afforded the best opportunity for success.

East of Highway 84 CMU

The second area that merits public access restrictions is located in the eastern half of northern La Honda Creek OSP. This area includes an isolated, noncontiguous piece of District-owned property situated between Highway 84 and Old La Honda Road. This particular piece of land is surrounded by private property, excessively steep, and too small and narrow to feasibly accommodate public trails. This second area also includes the northeastern portion of northern La Honda Creek OSP, which was extensively logged prior to District ownership. As a result of this logging history, the area contains remnant logging and skid roads, many of which are in extremely poor condition with substantial failures that may have supplied a source of sediment into La Honda Creek. To compound the erosion concerns, this portion of the Preserve is underlain by Butano sandstone, a significantly erosive soil. Sedimentation of La Honda Creek is of particular concern to the District given that La Honda Creek and San Gregorio Creek, which La Honda Creek flows into, both support anadromous fish, and that the San Gregorio Creek watershed has been listed as “sediment-siltation impaired” under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d). In an effort to address sedimentation that may be originating from the remnant logging roads, this area is being targeted for site planning and implementation of sediment reduction projects. Given the steep slopes and sandstone soil formation, trail construction and recreation use will be restricted in this corner of the Preserve to reinforce watershed restoration efforts and prevent further erosion.



**La Honda Creek
Open Space Preserve**

Map Projection: UTM Zone 10N, NAD 1927
 Data Sources: USGS, CA Dept of Fish and Game,
 County of San Mateo, and MROSD
 Map Printed September, 2008

0 0.25 0.5
 Miles

Figure 9: Conservation Management Units

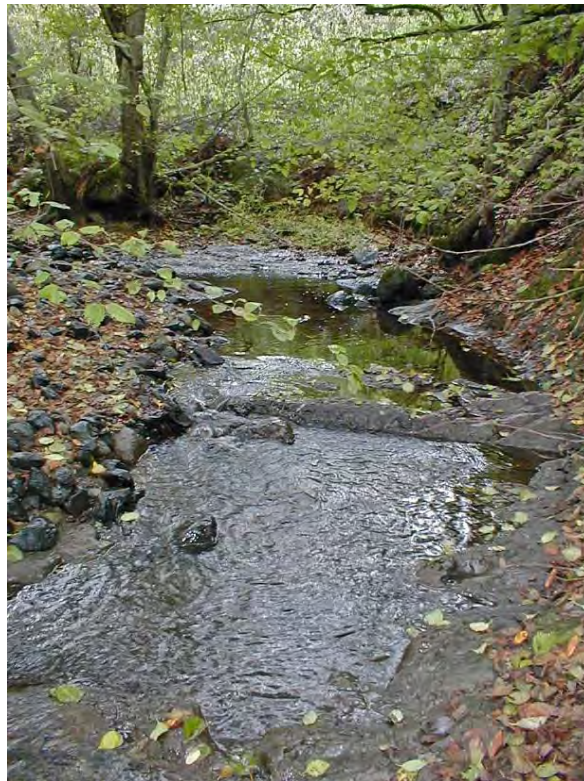
	Conservation Management Unit (CMU)	<p>Vegetation Types</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Woodland Shrubland Grasslands Unvegetated or rural residential
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Watershed Resources and Aquatic Habitat

In-stream Salmonid Habitat

La Honda, Harrington, and Bogess Creeks provide habitat for steelhead trout and potentially coho salmon, both of which are listed species with special protections. However, the quality of the salmonid habitat is impacted by a number of factors, including embedded sediments and limited vegetative cover. Initial steps to assess and restore in-stream habitat include continued surveys in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service, monitoring and potentially modifying fish passage barriers, and monitoring creek banks to determine the need for biotechnical revetment. Additional measures include the collection of data on creek temperature and flow volume, and management of large woody debris for increased habitat complexity and distribution. As roads are a potentially significant sediment source, the erosion and sediment control measures discussed in the *Maintenance and Operations* section of this chapter will also further this objective.



Bogess Creek, which forms the western boundary of the former Driscoll Ranch in southern La Honda Creek OSP

Riparian Habitat

Although fencing and tall vegetation act as physical barriers to accessing much of the riparian corridors, there are a number of locations where cattle in the former Driscoll Ranch area are still able to enter streambed and tributary channels. As a result, cattle have denuded the natural vegetation in these areas, which may become point sources

for creek sedimentation. Restoration projects in these areas include construction or extensive repair of fencing and gates, stream bank restoration and reinforcement, and willow or other riparian vegetation planting. Maintenance of these areas will potentially include follow up plantings, monitoring, and management of exotic riparian vegetation.

Cooperative Watershed Protection

The Preserve comprises approximately 51% of the Bogess Creek watershed, 38% of the Harrington Creek watershed, and 18% of the La Honda Creek watershed. District lands account for approximately 35% of the greater San Gregorio Creek watershed. The remaining watershed area consists largely of private property.

Recognizing that watershed processes occur regardless of property boundaries, the District plays an important role in supporting watershed protection and restoration, which results in both Preserve-wide and regional benefits. For example, the District routinely collaborates with groups such as the San Gregorio Environmental Resource Center, the communities of La Honda, Skylonda, and San Gregorio, California Department of Transportation, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Resource Conservation District, and private property owners to address watershed issues. The District will continue to support watershed restoration efforts by preparing and securing grants, writing letters of recommendation, partnering with local organizations and landowners, serving as technical advisors, and hosting educational trainings that highlight key topics such as Best Management Practices to reduce construction-related erosion.

Water Quality Protection

Given the importance of creeks within the San Gregorio Creek watershed as critical sources of water for aquatic species and agricultural use, the protection of water quality is of vital concern. As previously mentioned, the District is prepared to address erosion issues stemming from existing and abandoned roads and trails (refer to the *Road and Trail Maintenance* section for more information). In addition, the District seeks to identify and characterize pathogens and other pollutants that may be originating in the Preserve and entering San Gregorio Creek. In the event an issue is identified, the District would pinpoint the source(s) of the pollutants and develop a response and restoration plan. If appropriate, the District may also work with local agencies and neighbors if sources are located offsite.

Pond Management

A new Pond Management Plan (Plan) for the dense pond complex in the former Driscoll Ranch area focuses on the existing sensitive pond habitat. The Plan incorporates detailed documentation on the local hydrology and aquatic wildlife populations, including information gathered from focused surveys for San Francisco garter snake. A key element of the Plan offers management options on how best to enhance SFGS habitat and expand their population numbers. Other elements of the Plan address invasive species management, sediment levels and input, optimum water levels, and cattle use. The pond management plan was completed in 2009, with the first pond restoration project completed in 2010. Further projects are in the early implementation stages.



Sears Pond, located in the former Driscoll Ranch area of southern La Honda Creek OSP

New Pond Formation

Grazing will be reintroduced in the grassland areas of the former Weeks and Dyer ranches in northern and central La Honda Creek OSP once the appropriate grazing infrastructure is put in place. Given the dual benefits of stock ponds as water sources for cattle and as habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species, the District is interested in working collaboratively with future agricultural tenants, the USFWS, and CDFG to identify opportunities to create new stock ponds at the Preserve.

A former pond located near the prominent Red Barn structure was filled prior to District ownership of the property. Rehabilitation of this pond can create high quality habitat for a number of species, including CRLF and SFGS. Because of the site's proximity to existing populations, this pond, if rehabilitated, could provide a re-colonization opportunity for these species. The District will consult with the USFWS and other appropriate agencies to explore the feasibility and suitability of rehabilitating the former Red Barn pond. If deemed feasible and suitable, the pond restoration project will be incorporated into a specific site plan for the Red Barn area to ensure that the restoration work correlates with and complements other projects and uses proposed for this site (refer to the *Cultural Resource Management* section for more information).

Springs and Water Infrastructure

The Preserve has numerous natural springs, many developed for ranch and homestead use. Detailed inventories of these resources, in conjunction with an assessment of recorded water rights, will support management efforts to identify and prioritize improvements, repairs, and enhancements to existing springs and water infrastructure. To maintain current information on the location and condition of springs and water infrastructure, the District will continuously update its water rights and GIS database as new information is collected. Both the grazing operation and the planned restoration of stream and upland habitats will benefit from thorough knowledge and managed

allocation of the existing water supply. This work will also support the current efforts of the San Gregorio Creek Watermaster to determine the maximum amount of water allowed for diversion within the total available water supply, which will in turn help protect critical steelhead habitat.

Vegetation Management

Livestock Grazing

The vast majority of southern La Honda Creek OSP and some portions of the northern and central reaches are grassland areas, totaling approximately 2,435 acres or 42% of the Preserve. These grasslands require a regular cycle of disturbance to prevent the encroachment of shrubs and trees, which is most evident along grassland edges. A healthy grassland ecosystem requires active management that mimics prehistoric natural processes formerly carried out by great numbers of large native grazers like Tule Elk, Mule Deer and Pronghorn Antelope, which were effective in reducing large amounts of plant biomass. When plant biomass is not adequately removed, it can accumulate to levels that threaten the survival of native species by choking out the growth of native plants, making conditions more suitable for non-native plant growth, and impeding the movement of small animals that forage in the grasslands. The build-up of dry plant biomass also heightens the risk of destructive wildfires that can result in long-term damage to the ecosystem.



Grasslands in the former Driscoll Ranch area of southern La Honda Creek OSP

In the absence of large native herbivores, cattle can be used as an effective substitute to remove plant biomass and control invasive non-native weeds. Many land stewards have found that the controlled use of domestic livestock is the most effective tool to manage vegetation levels on rangelands. Conservation grazing can maintain native plant communities, enhance biodiversity, increase and regulate nutrient cycling in the ecosystem, improve wildlife habitat, and decrease fuel loads to reduce wildfire risks. Many endangered and threatened species are known to survive and thrive in cattle grazed areas because they can adapt well to these rangeland conditions. In fact,

biological surveys of the stock ponds in the former Driscoll Ranch area have identified healthy populations of CRLF and Western pond turtle (WPT).

A thorough assessment of the Preserve by Sage Associates, an agricultural and rangeland management services consulting firm, has determined that a conservation grazing program is well suited to the site history and environment (Sage Associate, 2007). Some important goals of conservation grazing are to approximate the level of grazing pressure formerly provided by native animals and to set appropriate stocking rates that avoid overgrazing, minimize erosion, protect water quality, and reduce fast burning fuels.

An ongoing 50-year grazing lease that began in 2002 is held by the previous landowner and is a key feature of the Master Plan. Both the grazing lease and Master Plan include provisions for continuous rangeland monitoring and set target measures to protect grassland health and watershed resources as well as maintain the desired composition of vegetation. Yearly photo monitoring will continue at key sites to understand the management effects of livestock grazing and determine if and when modifications are needed.

Cattle will be reintroduced in the former Dyer and Weeks Ranch areas of northern and central La Honda Creek OSP to extend conservation grazing into other Preserve grasslands. To prepare for the expanded grazing, the District will first make necessary repairs to the existing infrastructure (fences, gates, etc) and install additional improvements as recommended by the Grazing Plan before releasing a request for proposals to solicit interest from prospective grazing tenants. Consistent with the management of the former Driscoll Ranch area, a rangeland monitoring program is included in the Grazing Plan to ensure that the specified rangeland uses are in compliance with applicable land use regulations and established land stewardship goals.

Other Grassland Management Techniques

Grazing is one of many tools available to manage and conserve grasslands. Grassland conservation can also be achieved by using techniques principally reserved for the reduction of fuel loads to reduce fire hazards and fire severity. These include mowing, and spot herbicide application to help control brush encroachment and manage invasive species (refer to the *Fire and Fuels Management* section for more information). In active pastures, use of these additional grassland management techniques will be coordinated with the grazing tenant to ensure that the work complements and does not disrupt the grazing operation.

Rare Plant Populations

A number of rare and protected plant species are known to exist or are potentially present in the Preserve. Appendix D provides a full list of the special status plants. Northern La Honda Creek OSP, for example, supports important populations of King's Mountain manzanita (*Arctostaphylos regismontana*, *CNPS List 1B.2*), which is a large chaparral shrub endemic to granitic soils in the eastern Skyline region. Like many manzanitas, this species is associated with open, exposed sites and cannot tolerate heavy shade over the long term. The Preserve's King's Mountain manzanita population is threatened by shading as chaparral is replaced by conifer forest. The population is aging and no reproduction has been observed. Ongoing monitoring and mapping of the population and the species composition of the surrounding habitat (including tree

canopy cover) will be used to determine population trends and detect changes in natural succession. This information, coupled with the findings from District-supported research that investigates propagation methods, will inform the development of a management plan to help facilitate natural regeneration and protect this population.



King's Mountain Manzanita

Focused botanical surveys in the former Driscoll Ranch area identified colonies of Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*, *CMPS List 1B.2*) and California bottlebrush grass (*Elymus californicus*, *CNPS List 4.3*) along La Honda Creek, Harrington Creek, and tributary canyons, including the most extensive Western leatherwood colonies documented in this portion of its range. Populations will be monitored and mapped in conjunction with grazing monitoring protocols in grassland areas. If monitoring reveals evidence of long-term decline, adaptive management, such as clearing of competing vegetation to maintain a mosaic of shaded areas and small openings, may be required.

The Driscoll Ranch area also contains populations of the rare Choris's popcorn-flower (*Plagiobothrys chorisianus* var. *chorisianus*, *CNPS List 1B.2*), which is another candidate for monitoring and research. Substantial colony reductions that persist during normal or above-normal precipitation years should be regarded as population declines. Adaptive management, such as removal of encroaching woody vegetation or artificial disturbances (harrowing or thatch removal), may then be required to maintain suitable habitat for this species.

Forest Management

The forests within La Honda Creek OSP have a recent history of extensive logging-related management, which has left existing forest stands in mixed conditions of recovery and configuration. Under District ownership, these forests are protected from the threat of commercial logging and over time will be able to develop characteristics associated with natural forest regimes. Opportunities to accelerate development of these characteristics are possible through active management, which includes selective conservation logging to thin out existing young stands of trees and understory brush removal to open up the lower canopy for increased light penetration and reduced water and nutrient competition. These efforts will also further the goals of protecting and restoring habitat for special status species that depend on late-seral (old and mature) forest habitat, preventing destructive fires by reducing fuel loads and the potential for crown fires, and maximizing natural carbon uptake and storage in forested land.

Efforts to manage forests will begin with forest surveys to document specific conditions within the Preserve. These efforts will include wildlife surveys to document presence or absence of rare, threatened, or endangered species. The District will develop forest management practices and restoration recommendations based on these surveys and on District wide policy, incorporating other management concerns including invasive species control, fire and fuel management, maintenance of roads and trails for access and recreation, and restoration of abandoned and failed roads. Active on-the-ground management may offer the District opportunities to interpret forest ecology and forest management to increase visitor awareness and understanding of ongoing projects.



Redwood and Douglas fir forest

During these forest assessments, a comprehensive inventory of notable trees and groves will be added to the current database. Landmark trees will be designated by type (old growth redwoods, Douglas fir), historic context (plantings associated with historic uses), and by other unique characteristics (physical or aesthetic). By recording landmark trees, they can then be carefully managed and potentially incorporated as interpretive or unique trail features where appropriate.

Sudden Oak Death

A known biological threat to local forest health is Sudden Oak Death (SOD), which is caused by the plant pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*. SOD can devastate forests through the widespread dieback of several important local tree species, including tanoaks, coast live oak, California black oak, and canyon live oak. In this region, it appears that SOD is predominantly found in Coastal evergreen forests and tanoak/redwood forests within the fog belt. SOD poses serious ecological threats, including: changes to the species composition; loss of food sources and wildlife habitat when a significant dieback of a tree species occurs; a change in fire intensity where large stands of dead trees remain; and impacts to water quality from erosion in areas where vegetation is lost and soil surfaces exposed. The gravity of this issue elevates the need for the District to continue monitoring for SOD. The District will also take proactive approach to reducing its potential spread by installing SOD cleaning stations at target parking areas, educating the public about the spread and threat of the pathogen, following SOD Best Management Practices when conducting maintenance and construction activities (refer to Appendix C), and removing hazard trees in high use areas. District staff will continue to work with representatives from the California Oak Mortality Task Force to stay abreast of the latest science and news regarding the spread and control of the pathogen.

Invasive Plant Control

The Preserve has a varied history of past land uses that include homesteads, livestock ranching, logging, and recreation. These activities have inevitably disturbed the landscape, resulting in the introduction of non-native and invasive plants. Invasive plants are often “disturbance-adapted” and are primarily found along roads and at former building sites. The District will continue to target priority invasive plants that can impact conservation grazing efforts or threaten the viability of native species populations and important habitat if not actively managed. Of highest priority are two small populations of slender false brome, a priority A-rated noxious weed, located in the northern reaches of the Preserve. Slender false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) is a perennial non-native bunch grass capable of achieving over 90% ground cover, inhibiting the growth of tree seedlings, and completely replacing native vegetation. Other high priority invasive plants that will remain the focus of control efforts are Pampas grass, fennel, cape-ivy, Harding grass, and French broom. Medium priority invasive plants include yellow star thistle, purple star thistle, English ivy, and periwinkle. Low priority invasive plants are Italian thistle, poison hemlock, blue gum, Monterey pine, black locust, and milk thistle. Priorities are based on the California Invasive Plant Council ratings that consider the level of severity of the potential ecological impacts, rates and methods of dispersal, and geographical distribution of each invasive species.

Identification, mapping, monitoring and control of invasive plants will continue in conjunction with other District-wide efforts. In an effort to inhibit invasive plant colonization of disturbed areas, the District will continue to use native vegetation and native seeds from local stock in re-vegetation, restoration, and erosion control applications to the maximum extent possible. Also, the District will focus on invasive plant management in areas of the Preserve that will be opened to public use to prevent the inadvertent accelerated spread of invasive plants by trail users.

Wildlife Management

Rare Wildlife Species

Tracking known populations of rare wildlife species, such as the bat colonies in the Red Barn, CRLF, WPT, and steelhead salmon, will help gauge the health of these populations and determine the need for future land management actions to protect these rare species. Additionally, resource inventories can be used to identify a variety of wildlife habitat.



Cluster of western pond turtles at Sears Pond in the former Driscoll Ranch area

The District will work in partnership with the appropriate resource agencies to cross-share existing sensitive species data, encourage and facilitate future studies to identify suitable habitat and track populations of listed species, and assess the potential for the reintroduction of rare wildlife species, whether by re-colonization through passive dispersal from nearby populations or by active relocation. Appendix D provides a list of special status fish and wildlife species known to exist or be potentially present at the Preserve.

Wildlife Corridors

The Preserve and surrounding areas provide corridors for movement of large wildlife, including deer, mountain lion, and large raptors. Yet little is known about long distance wildlife movement in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The District will continue to identify and map key wildlife corridors as they become known to further inform resource management practices and future land management actions. The District will also follow the Uplands Habitat Goals project of the Bay Area Open Space Council and review relevant published reports that are available through ConservationOnline for additional insights to further understand wildlife use at the Preserve. In addition, wildlife-friendly fence design standards will be used at La Honda Creek OSP to allow for unimpeded wildlife movement between fenced areas, including pastures.

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Cultural Resource Inventories and Databases

Proper management of the District's cultural resources requires sound knowledge of the existing conditions. By continuously updating the District's cultural resource inventory for La Honda Creek OSP, the District will be able to refer to pertinent and current Preserve information to guide future implementation actions. The Preserve's cultural resource inventory can be populated following archaeological surveys, historical research, and assessments of historic structures. The District will also seek copies of the literature, maps, and other information listed in the Northwest Information Center records on the history of the site.

Cultural Resource Protection Measures

The District will implement cultural resource protection measures, as appropriate, to properly manage both known and unknown cultural resources that may be unearthed during future construction projects at La Honda Creek OSP. The cultural resources protection measures, part of the Master Plan's Environmental Protection Guidelines (Appendix C), include protocols for construction workers, a requirement for archeological surveys in areas of known sensitivity, and construction monitoring by an archeologist when a resource is known to be present.

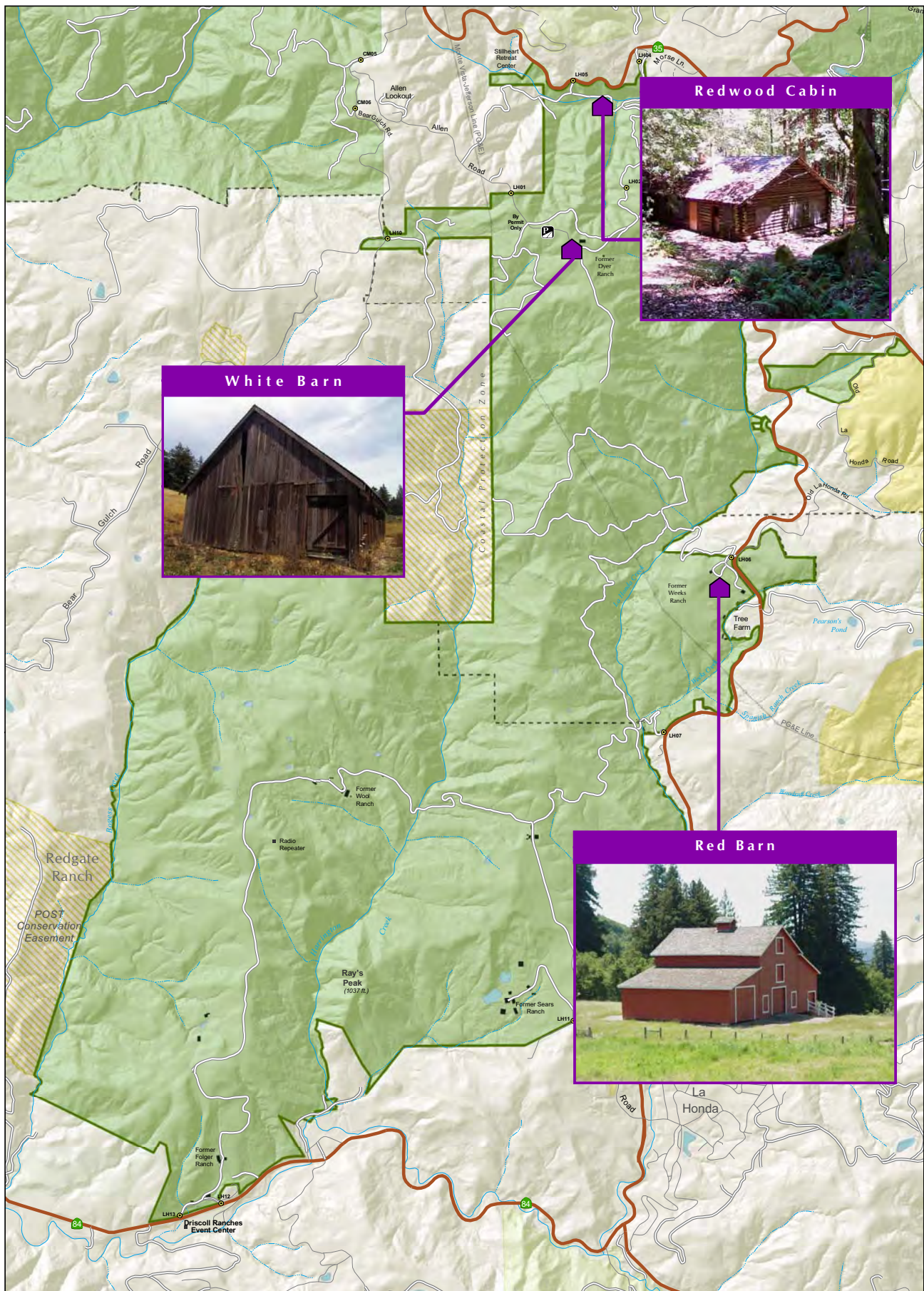
Historic and Noteworthy Structures

Figure 10 shows the location and characteristics of the three most important cultural assets found at the Preserve.

Red Barn

The Red Barn area is part of the former Weeks Ranch, to which Ronald J. Weeks and his family moved in the 1850s (Stoltz, 2002). None of the initial buildings from the ranch, which included a residence, agricultural buildings, and a hotel, are still standing. The Red Barn was built around the turn of the twentieth century and has undergone few major alterations (Stoltz, 2001; 2002). It is the most prominent Preserve monument and an important local landmark visible from Highway 84. In 2002, the District completed a restoration project for the Red Barn that involved structural repairs, re-roofing, and re-painting as well as reconstructing a lean-to on the north side of the barn, which was previously destroyed during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

The District will hire a qualified architectural historian to formally evaluate the Red Barn for possible inclusion on the California Register of Historical Resources and the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, with the input of a preservation architect, the District will prepare a detailed site specific plan that will include management practices to protect and enhance the historical significance of the site while incorporating public access and interpretation. The site specific plan will address a number of priorities, including: use and maintenance of the Red



**La Honda Creek
Open Space Preserve**
 Map Projection: UTM Zone 10N, NAD 1927
 Data Sources: USGS, County of San Mateo, and MROSD
 Map Printed September, 2008

0 0.25 0.5
 Miles

Figure 10: Key Cultural Resource Sites

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Land Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve MROSD Open Space Preserve Other Public Open Space Land Trust Land Trust Conservation Easement | <p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unpaved Ranch / Patrol Road Existing Paved Road Highway | <p>Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary Gate Roadside Parking Cultural Resource |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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Front view of the Red Barn looking southeast toward Highway 84

Barn; potential upgrades and use of an existing garage for environmental education; potential restoration of the adjacent former pond; use and maintenance of the corrals; parking; trailheads; picnic areas; special events; interpretation; the Red Barn as bat habitat; and the re-introduction of grazing. The site specific plan will incorporate design guidelines to ensure that future improvements in this area correspond to and enhance the rural character of the Red Barn.

The District will also prepare a maintenance plan for the Red Barn that includes a timeline for future repairs such as re-roofing and re-painting, and specifies appropriate work timeframes so as to not disturb existing resident bat colonies.

The Red Barn area offers a number of exciting interpretive opportunities that are discussed in detail under the *Environmental Education and Interpretation* section. Because there is a high potential for archaeological finds at this site, public access improvements and other projects involving landscape modification shall be conducted with sensitivity and in accordance with the Environmental Protection Guidelines as listed in Appendix C.

White Barn

Ranching began in the vicinity of the former Dyer Ranch in northern La Honda Creek OSP in the mid-nineteenth century. The White Barn was likely built in the 1860s. Although it has undergone alterations, it retains good structural integrity and may be historically significant. This structure will be retained for public interpretation as a cultural landmark, reminiscent of past agricultural activities at the site. A qualified architectural historian will assess the barn's condition and historical significance, as well as the potential significance of nearby structures and related landscape features such as fencing. A structural engineer will assess the integrity of the building to determine the need for structural upgrades or repairs. These assessments will inform future decisions on long-term preservation, interpretation, and restoration of the structure. If long-term preservation remains a priority, the District will prepare a maintenance plan that

identifies routine repairs and maintenance cycles. Due to the limited footprint and lack of electrical power, the structure will continue to be used for storage purposes. Pending the findings of the structural and historical assessments, necessary and urgent maintenance repairs shall be made in the short term to extend the longevity of the structure.



The White Barn, located in the former Dyer Ranch area of northern La Honda Creek OSP

Redwood Cabin

W. B. Allen, a former owner of Palo Alto Hardware, built the Redwood Cabin with the help of two Swedish laborers in 1927-28. The California Conservation Corps built and improved nearby roads and trails in the 1930s. The cabin served as a recreational retreat for Allen's family and guests, including the YMCA and Rotary Club (Paulin, 2004). As such, it is an excellent example of early recreational destinations in the region. Given the current condition of the structure and years of deferred maintenance, a structural engineer will be hired to evaluate the building's structural integrity, identify any necessary repairs, and provide information about the financial feasibility of rehabilitating the structure. An assessment of the of the cabin and surrounding landscape features by a qualified architectural historian will inform the District as to the site's historical significance, the potential for interpretation, and noteworthiness as a local cultural landmark. These evaluations are a high priority and will influence future planning decisions for this site, including whether the structure is deemed suitable for, and the District is equipped to proceed with, long-term preservation, rehabilitation, reuse, and maintenance.

Should long-term preservation remain a priority, the District will prepare a detailed site plan for the Redwood Cabin area, which will address its desired future level of use, surrounding roads and trails, new signage, a potential new picnic area, interpretive features, and other site improvements. Upon completion of this plan, the District will be poised to solicit interest from the public for partnership opportunities to reuse and help rehabilitate and maintain the Redwood Cabin. Preliminary ideas include use as a

seasonal hiker's hut, a nature center featuring displays from the era, and an overnight environmental education cabin. The District would also prepare a maintenance plan that identifies routine repairs and maintenance cycles. Meanwhile critical and urgent repairs of the structure will be done to extend its longevity. Failure to secure a long-term partner may result in loss of the facility to natural causes.



The Redwood Cabin, located in the forested area of northern La Honda Creek OSP

Former Driscoll Ranch Area

In April 2007, an architectural historian with the environmental firm Jones and Stokes completed a preliminary historical assessment of the former Driscoll Ranch structures. Table 3 presents a list of the potentially historically significant structures that merit further evaluation. These findings are preliminary, pending more in-depth research on the history of the area to confirm historical significance. Other structures on the property did not meet the criteria for historical significance for either design or historical association. More detailed surveys and additional historical research will better inform subsequent site specific planning decisions to determine what structures are worthy of preservation and what measures can be taken to best retain the historic nature of the agricultural landscape.

Given the varying conditions of the structures listed in Table 3, an evaluation by a structural engineer may be prudent to determine structural integrity and the extent of necessary upgrades and reinforcements. Structures that will remain vacant and in their current condition will need to be secured with appropriate fencing and signage to ensure public safety.

Table 3: Structures of Potential Historical Significance at Driscoll Ranch

Location	Structures
Former Sears Ranch (Lower Ranch) (located off Sears Ranch Road)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranch house • Two mostly intact hay barns • Large barn nearest the residence • Older of two storage buildings – if it served a significant function in past ranching operations
Former Sears Ranch (Upper Ranch) (also known as former Guerra-Zanoni Ranch; northeastern corner of the former Driscoll Ranch area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranch house and garage • Board-and-batten sided barn/storage with corrugated roof
Former Wool Ranch (northwestern corner of the former Driscoll Ranch area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Former Folger Ranch (nearest to the Driscoll Events Center)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large white barn • Smaller board-and-batten sided one-story barn • Lodge – if it served a significant function in past ranching operations

Historic Landscape Features

Historic Logging Features and Sawmill Sites

The forested area in La Honda Creek OSP has a history of logging dating back to at least 1865 and continuing through the early 1900s. There were a number of sawmills and shingle mills along La Honda Creek within the boundaries of the Preserve, of which remnants remain (Stanger, 1967; Jordan, 2005b).

Archaeological surveys will be conducted to verify and document the presence of historic logging era features within the Preserve. These surveys will be used to inform strategies to protect remaining noteworthy features, as necessary, and to interpret this era to the public. Preliminary archival research will accompany the initial surveys. More thorough research may be conducted based on survey results or interpretive needs.

La Honda Oil Field

The southwestern corner of the former Driscoll Ranch area, once known as the La Honda Oil Field Main Area, was the site of petroleum exploration. Oil drilling began in 1879 under the direction of the Pacific Coast Oil Company (Jordan, 2005a). Development of the Main Area appears to have continued through 1961 with the completion of 11 wells. Oil production on the property continued through the 1980s. Anecdotal accounts state that one million barrels of crude oil were collected from the site. Today, there are no aboveground remnants of this period; the site was decommissioned and largely cleaned prior to District ownership of the land (refer to the *Environmental Hazards* section for more information). Because of the unique nature of this piece of Preserve history, information about the historic oil fields will be included in new interpretive materials, as appropriate.

PUBLIC ACCESS, RECREATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Public Use

The Master Plan retains the trail uses that have been allowed at the Preserve prior to Master Plan adoption, namely 3.7 miles of hiking and equestrian trails accessed via Gate LH01 off Allen Road in northern La Honda Creek OSP. These uses were designated by the Board of Directors in 2000, when the Preserve became one of seven (out of a current total of 26 Preserves) reserved specifically for hiking and equestrian use only (no bicycles). This action was in part intended to offer the public a variety of sites to hike or ride horses without encountering potential user conflicts with bicyclists. As part of this change in trail use, the Board also set a policy to consider opening regional trails, such as the Bay Area Ridge Trail, to multiple-use (including bicycles) in these same Preserves, should such a trail be planned or implemented. The Board also agreed to consider opening connector trails that link urban areas to the Bay Area Ridge Trail to multiple-use. These additional trail use policy changes reflect the Board's desire to allow hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists access on regional trails to the greatest extent possible, where appropriate.

The master planning process provided the District with an opportunity to reconsider how the Trail Use Policies are applied at this Preserve, particularly as they relate to bicycle use. Two public use options were provided to the full Board of Directors for their consideration, one which would allow bicyclists to use the Ridge Trail corridor only, and another which would open an additional 5 miles of trail to bicycles. Following three public hearings to accept public input on the two options, the Board tentatively approved (pending environmental review) the "expanded" bicycle use scenario, which would permit bicycles on the Ridge Trail corridor once a through connection is made, on an existing ranch road connecting the Town of La Honda to the Ridge Trail corridor, and on one loop trail off the existing ranch road (Figure 11).

The phased implementation of the trail use changes described in this Master Plan, which include opening new areas to public recreation and expanding the types of uses allowed on La Honda Creek OSP trails, requires review and approval from the appropriate resource agencies, including USFWS and CDFG. Preliminary resource agency consultations have identified initial concerns regarding trail use within or near potential habitat for the endangered, "fully-protected" San Francisco garter snake. The District will continue to consult with the resource agencies to ensure that potential impacts to sensitive species (including, if it should be identified on the Preserve in the future, San Francisco garter snake) from trail construction and use are avoided.

Figure 11 illustrates the trail use options that was tentatively approved (pending environmental review) by the Board of Directors. Construction and use of trails and other public access facilities are subject to Environmental Protection Guidelines, which are provided in Appendix C.

The District will monitor all existing and new trail uses (hiking, equestrian use, bicycle use, and dog use) to determine if unforeseen environmental issues or poor user compliance with District regulations merit a subsequent change in trail use for this Preserve.

The following action items are listed in order of implementation; for more detailed information on the scheduled phasing and level of priority of each element, please refer to the *Implementation Plan* section:

Hiking

- Keep existing designated trails open to hiking.
- Allow off-trail hiking except in Conservation Management Units.
- Open new trails and areas of the Preserve to hiking as they become available.

Equestrian Use

- Keep existing designated trails open to equestrian use
- Open new areas of the Preserve to equestrian use as trails become available, unless site conditions do not allow trail construction to meet District equestrian standards.

Bicycle Use

Pending approval from the resource agencies.





- Open the ranch road that extends from the Sears Ranch Road trailhead to the northeastern boundary of the Driscoll Ranch area to bicycles.
- Construct a new multiple-use trail west of La Honda Creek in the northeastern corner of the Driscoll Ranch area to establish a loop trail that will be accessible to visitors traveling on bicycle who enter from the Sears Ranch Road trailhead.
- Open the ranch road that extends from the northeastern boundary of the Driscoll Ranch area to the Red Barn to bicycles; this multiple-use trail extension will provide visitors traveling on bicycle a connection between the Town of La Honda and the Red Barn.
- Open the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment to bicycles once this trail is established and at least one safe through-connection (an extension of the official Ridge Trail beyond the Preserve boundary) is secured. Two connections, one to the east and one to the west, are ideal to fulfill the larger goal of a continuous Ridge Trail alignment that encircles the Bay Area.
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PUBLIC ACCESS TRAILS

listed in order by implementation phase

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Driscoll Ranch Main Access Road | 5.6 |
| 2 | Easy Access Loop Trail | 0.9 |
| 3 | Vista Point Loop Trail | 2.8 |
| 4 | Trail Connection to Red Barn Area | 0.3 |
| 5 | Trail Connection to Driscoll Ranch | 1.5 |
| 6 | La Honda Creek Loop Trail | 4.8 |
| 7 | Redwood Cabin Loop Trail | 2.3 |
| 8 | Interior Loop Trail | 2.4 |
| 9 | Red Barn Loop Trail | 2.0 |
| 10 | Folger Ranch Loop Trail | 3.9 |
| 11 | Harrington Creek Trail | 1.6 |
| 12 | Sears Ranch Loop Trail | 1.9 |
| 13 | Trail to Ray's Peak | 0.1 |

TRAIL USE

-  All trails open to hiking. Off-trail hiking allowed throughout except in Conservation Management Units.
-  All trails open to equestrian use, unless site conditions do not allow trail construction to meet District equestrian use standards.
-  Pending resource agency approval: multiple-use on (1) the northeastern section of the Driscoll Ranch Road from Sears Ranch Road to the Red Barn area, (2) a portion of the La Honda Creek Loop Trail, and (3) the designated Bay Area Ridge Trail once one safe, through connection is secured (see legend).
-  Trails north of Vista Point open to dogs on leash after grazing program is established; also, work with existing grazing tenant to identify suitable trail loop off Sears Ranch Road for dogs on leash.

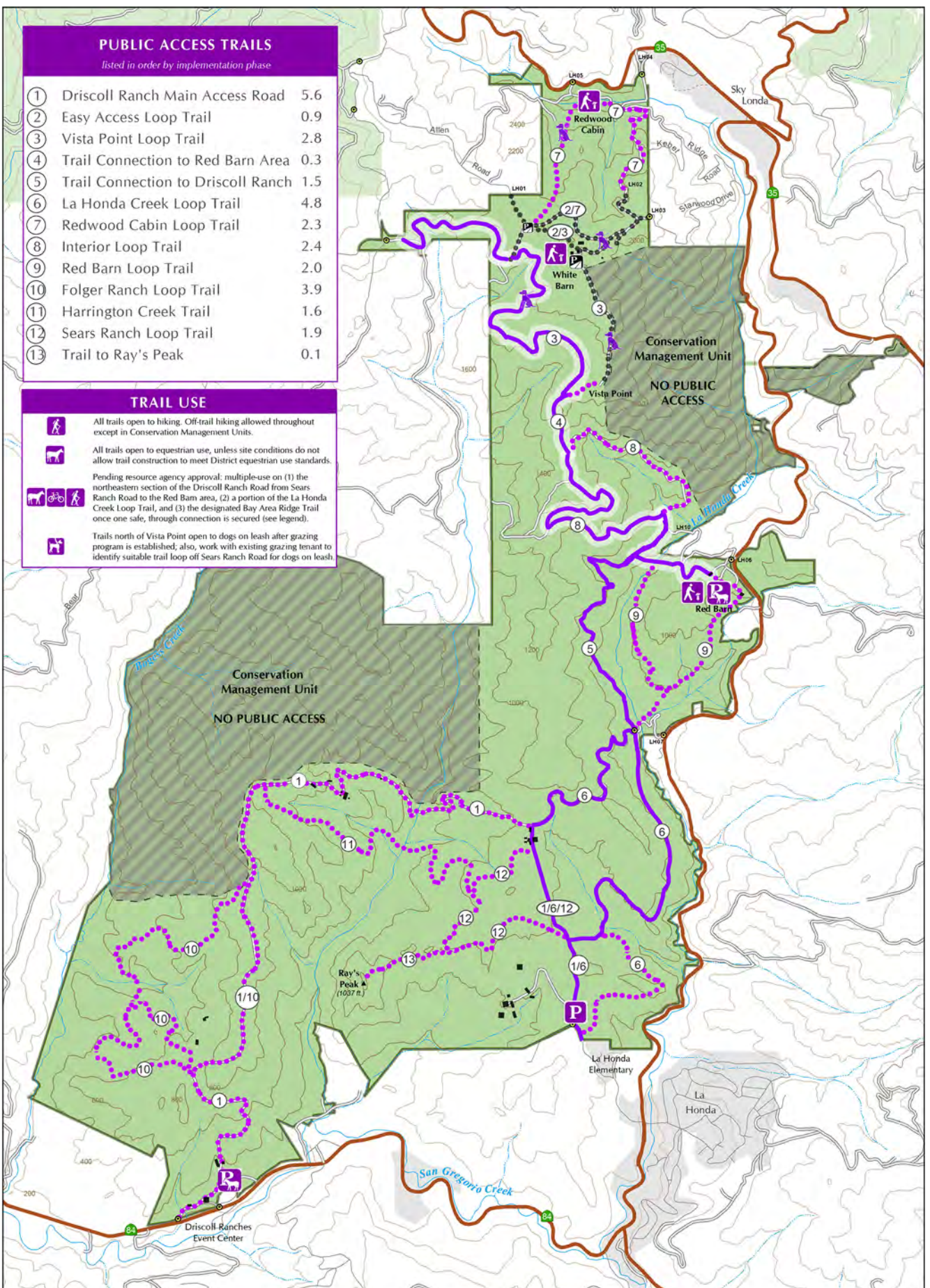


Figure 11: Public Access Trails

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

Map Projection: UTM Zone 10N, NAD 1927
 Data Sources: USGS, CA Dept. of Fish & Game,
 County of San Mateo, and MBRPSD.
 Map Printed August, 2012



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| Trails
 Existing Public Trails (Hiking, Equestrian)
 New Public Trails (Hiking, Equestrian)
 New Multiple-Use Public Trails (Hiking, Equestrian, Bicycling)
 New Segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail (Hiking, Equestrian, Bicycling) | Facilities
 Existing Parking Area
 New Parking Area
 New Interpretive Site
 New Equestrian Parking Area | Roads
 Unpaved Ranch / Patrol Road
 Existing Paved Road
 Highway |  Conservation Management Unit (No Public Access) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Dog Use

La Honda Creek OSP has historically remained closed to dogs due to limited access and a small trail system. The Master Plan identifies new parking areas, trailheads, and additional miles of trail, making it appropriate to reconsider the suitability of dog use at the Preserve. La Honda Creek OSP scores relatively high on the Dog Access Site Evaluation Criteria that was adopted by the Board of Directors in 1995, indicating that the Preserve is well suited to dog use. There are other factors not part of the site evaluation criteria that must also be considered, including the potential for conflicts between dogs and existing or future uses, which include the existing grazing operation in the former Driscoll Ranch area, expansion of grazing at the former Dyer and Weeks Ranch areas, and various onsite tenant residences.

Dogs on leash generally do not pose a problem to grazing operations. However, given poor leash law compliance experienced by the District and other agencies, it is the potential for dogs running free that raises major concerns. In speaking to other agencies that manage recreation in actively grazed areas, off-leash dogs can be problematic in that they may harass, scare, or chase cattle, potentially resulting in injury to livestock and the dogs themselves. This behavior can impact a grazing tenant's ability to run a smooth operation and can result in liability issues for the dog owner. These concerns are particularly relevant in the pastures of the former Driscoll Ranch area that are located closest to Sears Ranch Road, which are the site of the ranch's calving operation. Mother cows can be especially protective of their calves, which may trigger major conflicts should an off-leash dog run between a cow and its calf. For these reasons, dog use has been proposed for only certain areas of the Preserve and under specific conditions as described below.

Introducing dog use to the Preserve will be subject to review and approval by the resource agencies, which will determine whether dogs on leash pose a threat to the natural resources.

Pending approval from the resource agencies:

- Open trails north of the vista point in northern La Honda Creek OSP to dogs on leash after the grazing program has been planned and implemented; implement seasonal closures for dog use, as needed, to avoid disrupting the seasonal grazing operation in this area.
- Work with the Driscoll Ranch tenant to explore opportunities to open a loop trail to dogs on leash near the Sears Ranch Road entrance. Some ideas that will be considered for discussion include seasonal dog use based on the calving schedule, fencing, and the relocation of the calving operation.
- The timeframe for the use changes listed above is dependent upon the installation of signage, changes to the Preserve brochure, discussions and agreements with grazing tenants, and installation of fencing and other improvements to safely and appropriately accommodate dog use. Please refer to the *Implementation Plan* and *Phasing Plan* for more information.

Practices to Responsibly Introduce Public Use in New Areas

The District has identified a number of critical initial actions to responsibly introduce public access in new areas of the Preserve. These actions will provide the public with important wayfinding tools and information about the use and management of the Preserve, appropriately prepare the Preserve to receive public use, and seamlessly integrate public recreation with leased areas, including current and future grazing operations.

Signs, Brochures, and Other Forms of Public Information

In accordance with standard practice, the District will install trail directional signs, regulatory signs, and informational signs, and develop a new formal brochure to inform the public of the rules, regulations, and open trail network for the Preserve. Information will also be posted on the District's website and periodically in the District's newsletter. This information will be revised and updated as new parking areas and trails are constructed and opened to the public. These actions will help inform visitors of recent changes to the Preserve and keep visitors aware of their location as they travel through the Preserve.

One of the many benefits of the master planning process is the identification of new communities, interested individuals, and stakeholders who are eager to assist the District with the implementation of the Master Plan as volunteer land stewards. With this in mind, the District will seek the assistance of both current and future volunteers to participate in resource management, new trail construction, and trail maintenance projects. Volunteers will also be recruited to organize docent-led activities for La Honda Creek OSP to help introduce the public to the Preserve.

Land Treatments to Prepare the Preserve for Public Use

By proactively implementing the following land treatments, the District will prepare new areas of the Preserve to receive public use and thus minimize the potential for direct and indirect recreational impacts on the land.

- Reduce and control priority invasive plant populations in areas that will be opened to public use to prevent the inadvertent accelerated spread of invasive plants by trail users.
- Upgrade roads and trails by implementing priority treatments to support an increase in use and prevent road-related erosion.
- Incorporate trail design features to reduce user speeds, as needed.

Measures to Introduce Public Use in Leased Areas

The Preserve remains subject to a number of ongoing leased uses. The District is mindful of the need to responsibly integrate public use in leased areas to protect tenant privacy and minimize disruptions to the ongoing grazing operation. Public recreation through actively grazed pastures is not uncommon; many agencies have integrated and managed these two uses with great success, including East Bay Regional Parks District and Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation. The District is committed to maintaining a strong working relationship with each tenant that resides and operates at the Preserve. At the same time, the District is also interested in opening new areas to the public with the expectation

and awareness that recreation and ranching can effectively coexist. In this pursuit, the District will proceed with educating the public on how best to behave around cattle and establish suitable buffers between the public and cattle/ranchers/tenants, where appropriate. These and other measures to responsibly integrate public use with leased areas are described below.

- Post educational signage to inform visitors of proper trail etiquette when hiking or riding through an active ranch operation.
- Author newsletter articles that focus on safety and etiquette when recreating in grazing areas; train volunteers using same information.
- Install residence privacy signs for tenants.
- Realign trails away from popular cattle resting areas, ranching facilities, and residences.
- Relocate troughs and other ranching facilities away from trails, parking areas, and popular public access points, where feasible.
- Install wildlife-friendly barriers to separate cattle and trail users, where needed.
- Install stiles and self-closing gates between fenced pastures to prevent disruptions to the grazing operation as visitors travel between pastures.

Parking Areas

The Master Plan calls for improvements to an existing permit parking lot and the construction of three new parking areas, two of which will accommodate horse trailers; these improvements are described below and shown on Figure 12.

- **Allen Road Enhancements.** Expand the existing Allen Road Parking Area (as part of Phase II) into the adjacent grasslands to the south to better accommodate the existing ten parking spaces. This would allow a clear delineation of parking spaces and make it easier for vehicles to turn around. The capacity of the lot would not change.
- **Red Barn.** Construct a permanent parking area above the existing corrals near the Red Barn along Highway 84, during years six to ten (Phase II). The parking lot would accommodate 15-25 vehicles, three to six horse trailers, a restroom, signboards, and other miscellaneous staging area furnishings. To improve line of sight, a new driveway would be constructed near the mid-point between Weeks Creek and the existing driveway.
- **Sears Ranch Road.** During years one through five (Phase I), construct an interim informal parking area accommodating 10 to 20 vehicles and a portable restroom at the entrance to Driscoll Ranch on Sears Ranch Road, at least 150 feet from the La Honda Elementary School property. A permanent parking facility with a permanent restroom would be developed in years 6 through 10 (Phase II).
- **Driscoll Ranch West Gate.** During years one through five (Phase I), construct a temporary parking area across from the Driscoll Events Center.

Subsequently, the phased construction of permanent parking facilities would accommodate the Preserve’s future levels of use. The first phase would accommodate 10 to 20 vehicles and three to six horse trailers, a restroom, signage, fencing, and other furnishings.

In 2007, Hexagon Transportation Consultants conducted a line-of-sight evaluation for six existing Preserve driveways/gates that could be used as potential access points. Table 4 below shows the results of the line-of-sight analysis. As shown in Table 4, potential access points at the Driscoll Ranch West Gate, Sears Ranch Road Gate, and Red Barn Lower Gate provide adequate line of site, whereas access points at Driscoll Ranch East Gate, East Access Gate, and Red Barn Upper Gate do not provide the minimum site distance required by Caltrans.

Table 4. Sight Distance at Existing Preserve Gates

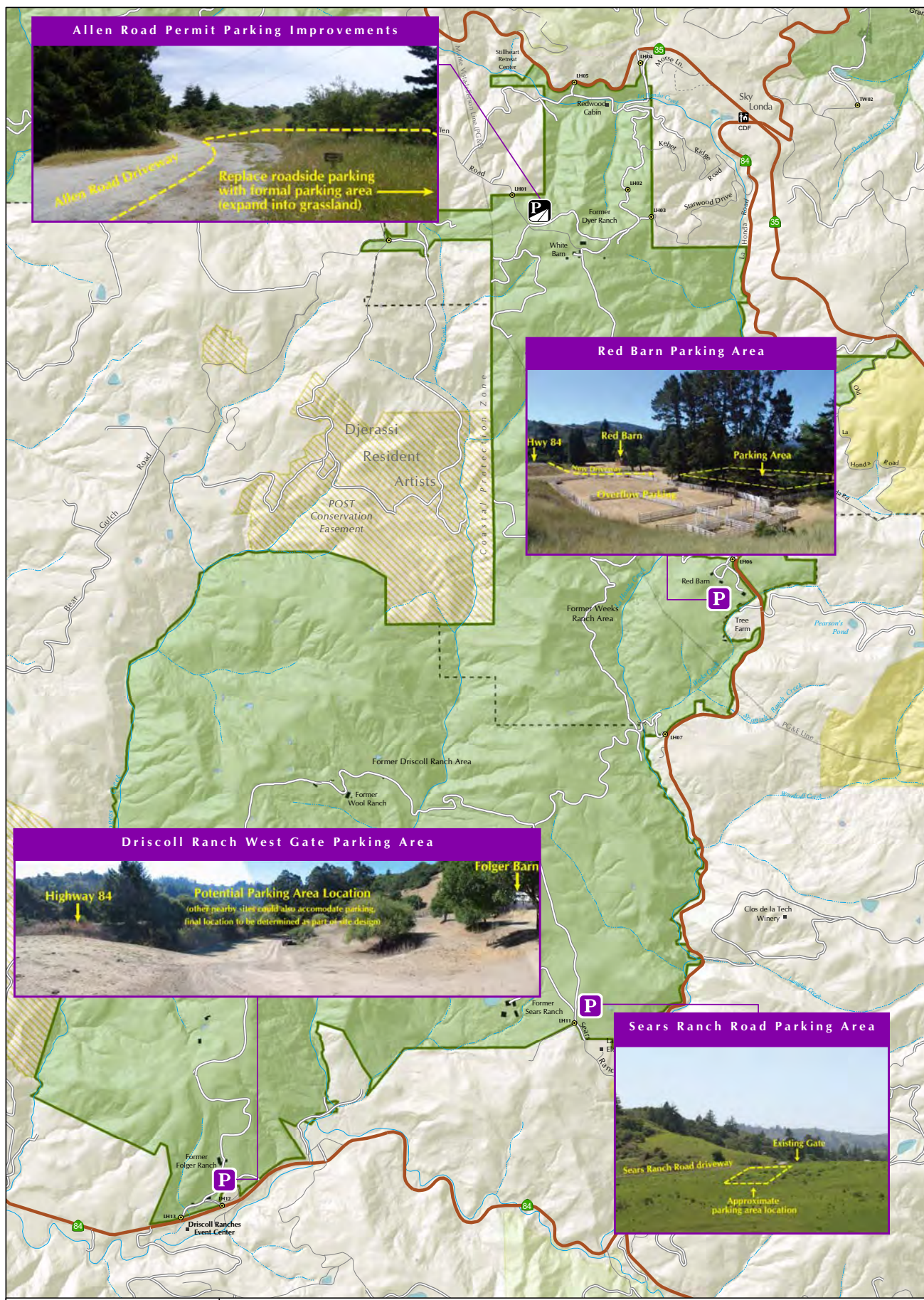
Gate	Location	Min. Req'd Sight Distance	Measured Sight Distance		Key Issues
			North/ East	South/ West	
Driscoll Ranch West Gate	North side of Hwy 84, across from Driscoll Ranch Event Center	580	1,405'	610'	This location provides adequate sight distance and is a good candidate for access to the southern portion of the Preserve.
Driscoll Ranch East Gate	North side of Hwy 84, across from Driscoll Ranch Event Center	580	275'	1,685'	Sight distance to the east is less than Caltrans' minimum requirement. The driveway would need to be moved approximately 305 feet to the west in order to meet the minimum sight distance requirement.
Sears Ranch Road Gate	At the northern terminus of Search Ranch Road	n/a	n/a	n/a	The existing road ends at the gate; therefore sight distance is not an issue. La Honda Elementary school is located on Sears Ranch Road near this gate. Any potential safety concerns associated with school children in the area should be addressed if the gate is used.
East Access Gate	West side of Hwy 84, southeast corner of Preserve	430	400'	400'	Driveway needs to move approx. 150 ft. to the north to improve sight lines at the intersection. An inbound left-turn lane on the hwy would be required since sight lines to the north will be reduced.
Red Barn Lower Gate	West side of Hwy 84, Immediately east of Red Barn	430	520'	515'	This driveway provides adequate sight distance. The grade of the driveway leading down to the Red Barn site would need to be reduced to provide for safe and efficient vehicular access.

Source: Design Community and Environment/Hexagon Transportation Consultants 2007 (adapted)

The new and improved parking areas will include standard District site furnishings, including pit toilet restrooms, signboards, split-rail fencing, wheel stops, native vegetation plantings, and entrance signs, unless otherwise noted in Table 4. For

detailed information regarding the scheduled phasing and level of priority for each parking facility, please refer to the *Implementation Plan* section.

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La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

Map Projection: UTM Zone 10N, NAD 1927
 Data Sources: USGS, County of San Mateo, and MROSD
 Map Printed September, 2008

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 Miles

Figure 12: New Parking Improvements

Land Use	Land Trust	Roads	Access
La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve	Land Trust	Unpaved Ranch / Patrol Road	Boundary Gate
MROSD Open Space Preserve	Land Trust Conservation Easement	Existing Paved Road	Roadside Parking
Other Public Open Space		Highway	New Parking Areas

Master Plan Environmental Protection Guidelines (Appendix C) require coordination with Caltrans regarding access location and configuration. The Guidelines include specific driveway siting requirements provided by Hexagon Transportation Consultants. It is anticipated that Caltrans recommendations would be consistent with the Hexagon's recommendations; however, Caltrans may provide additional measures to ensure their standards are met. Meeting Caltrans standards for access location/configuration would ensure that the access points are safe for vehicles to access.

The Allen Road permit parking lot will continue to be limited to no more than 10 vehicles per day per an agreement with the Allen Road neighborhood. Given the very narrow and windy nature of the paved roads leading to Allen Road, the permit parking lot will continue to be restricted to vehicles only (no horse trailers).

In an effort to expedite the opening of southern La Honda Creek OSP to the public, two interim parking areas will be established relatively quickly with only minor improvements. Minor improvements include minimal grading, baserock surfacing, new signage, wheel stops, and a portable restroom. Each interim parking area will be replaced with a new permanent parking area once the District finalizes construction plans, obtains permits, and completes construction.

Each new parking area (not including the Allen Road permit lot) can accommodate a future expansion to increase the Preserve's parking capacity. The District will evaluate the parking demands placed on the Preserve after 10 years (during Phase III), or sooner should the need arise, to determine if the parking capacity is sufficient. Should the Preserve experience higher visitation than is currently expected, an expansion of each or a select number of parking areas may be considered. However, parking lot expansion is not anticipated at this time.

Preserve Trail System

By expanding and improving the Preserve trail system, the recreational experience offered at La Honda Creek OSP will be greatly enhanced. New trail loop opportunities that originate from current and future parking areas will provide Preserve visitors multiple options to vary their trail routes on each visit.

New Trail Loops, Connections, and Alignments

Please refer to Table 5 for a complete list of new trail loops, connections, and alignments and to the *Implementation Plan* section for the scheduled phasing and level of priority of each trail alignment. Figure 11 illustrates the approximate alignments of each new trail corridor. New trail alignments will incorporate existing ranch and forest roads, where appropriate. These roads will be improved to correct surface drainage flow in order to minimize the potential for surface erosion and protect water quality and aquatic habitat (refer to Table 5 for a summary of the proposed drainage improvements and to the *Road and Trail Maintenance* section for more information). In some locations, existing roads will be realigned to reduce grades and avoid sensitive resources. Where new trail construction is planned, new alignments will be designed to follow natural contours and maintain an average 10% grade to the greatest extent possible (refer to Appendix E for more information on standard District trail construction methods).

New trails through actively grazed areas will be aligned away from cattle water sources to keep Preserve visitors at a distance from popular cattle resting areas (refer to the *Public Use* section for additional measures to responsibly integrate public access in leased areas). The District will monitor public use in grazed pastures to determine the need to realign trails, thereby adapting to changes in the grazing operation.

The Preserve trail system will offer trails with varying mileages, elevation changes, and degrees of difficulty to meet the needs and physical abilities of a diverse population.

Table 5: Trail System Additions and Improvements

Trail Name	Trail Number	Length	Width	Trail Description	Drainage Improvements to Existing Roads*	Habitat Types
Former Driscoll Ranch Area Main Access Road	1	5.6 miles	12-14 feet	The easternmost starting point of the trail begins at the end of Sears Ranch Road and heads north, passing one residence. At this point the road turns west, crosses Harrington Creek, and passes a second residence, eventually horseshoeing around to the south. The road later passes a third residence before reaching its terminus at Highway 84. The trail includes a short spur that reaches Gate LH08/Hwy 84.	Culvert replacements and enlargements; bridge assessment; rocking/armoring the road; corrections to inside ditches; new rolling dips; re-crowning road surface	Open grasslands with spectacular views to the coast
Allen Road Permit Parking Lot Loop Trail (Easy Access Loop Trail)	2	0.9 miles	12-14 feet	A short, gentle loop trail that begins and ends at the Allen Road permit parking lot. The trail surface will be smoothed and hardened to better accommodate wheelchairs and strollers. The White Barn and an old growth redwood will be integrated as trail features.	Surface grading; rocking; minor drainage improvements	Grassland and redwood/ tanoak forest
Vista Point Loop Trail	3	2.8 miles	2.2 miles of existing ranch roads at 12-14 feet; 0.6 miles of new trail at 3-4 feet	From the Allen Road permit parking lot, the trail will head south toward the PG&E transmission lines, following contours as much as possible, and then travel southeast to connect to the prominent Preserve vista point. From the vista point, the trail follows the existing road-width path along the ridgeline and heads directly north to the former Dyer Ranch area, at which point it turns west back to the parking lot.	Additional ditch relief culverts, rocking sections of road, additional rolling dips, and installation of new culverts	Edges of grasslands, redwood forest, Douglas fir forest, and mixed broadleaf forest
Trail Connection: Former Dyer Ranch Area to Former Weeks Ranch Area/Red Barn	4	0.3 miles	2-4 feet	A key trail link that will traverse steep terrain southwest of the prominent vista point to realize the important and highly desired trail connection between trails in the northern and central areas of the Preserve.	None (all new construction)	Coyote brush scrubland and grasslands
Trail Connection: Former Weeks Ranch Area to Former Driscoll Ranch Area	5	1.5 miles	12-14 feet	Trail parallels La Honda Creek along eastern facing slopes to provide a connection between the trails in the central and southern areas of the Preserve.	Rocking steep sections of road; new ditch relief culverts; new rocked fords; additional rolling dips	Douglas fir/ redwood forest, grasslands, oak woodlands, and coyote brush scrubland

Note: This table conceptually describes the potential Draft Master Plan scenario for the future of La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. It is not intended as a commitment or approval to implement any specific draft element. This table is for planning purposes only. It is not intended as a guide to public lands, trails, or facilities. See individual preserve or park maps and brochures for access information.

Trail Name	Trail Number	Length	Width	Trail Description	Drainage Improvements to Existing Roads*	Habitat Types
La Honda Creek Loop Trails	6	4.8 miles	1.0 mile of existing ranch roads at 12-14 feet; 3.8 miles of new trail at 3-4 feet	A double loop trail located in the eastern corner of southern La Honda Creek OSP (former Driscoll Ranch area) that climbs and descends at steady grades and crosses a tributary to La Honda Creek.	Installation of rolling dips; culvert replacements and additions; new rock energy dissipaters	Grasslands with section near creek through oak woodlands and Douglas fir/redwood forest
Redwood Cabin Loop Trail	7	2.3 miles	0.8 miles of existing forest roads at 12-14 feet; 1.5 miles of new trail at 3-4 feet	From the Allen Road permit parking lot, the trail heads east through the former Dyer Ranch. From Gate LH02, the trail veers north and downhill until it reaches the south bank of La Honda Creek, at which point it will continue west past the Redwood Cabin. Approximately 1,000 feet beyond the cabin, the trail will head south and climb uphill following a tributary to La Honda Creek until it reaches the Allen Road permit parking lot.	New rolling dips and replacement of rusted culverts; partial trail realignments to bypass steep sections of road	Largely forested environment of redwood and Douglas fir stands
Interior Loop Trail North of the Red Barn Area	8	2.4 miles	1.6 miles of existing ranch roads at 12-14 feet; 0.8 miles of new trail at 3-4 feet	Loop trail located north of the Red Barn area and south of the prominent vista point.	Realignments to reduce steep grades and address erosion; rocking sections of road; new rolling dips; new rock fords; culvert enlargements	Grasslands, broad leaf forest, and evergreen forest
Red Barn Area Loop Trail	9	2.0 miles	1.6 miles of existing ranch roads at 12-14 feet; 0.8 miles of new trail at 3-4 feet	The loop trail will encircle a broad knoll just west of the Red Barn and highlight the Red Barn, corrals, and other ranching landscape features.	None (all new construction)	Grasslands with section nearest La Honda Creek through evergreen and Douglas fir/redwood forest
Former Folger Ranch Loop Trails	10	3.9 miles	3-4 feet	A double loop trail located in the western former Driscoll Ranch area within the Bogess Creek subwatershed. The trail will veer to the west of the main access road, crossing a tributary to Bogess Creek before connecting back to the main road.	Grading; installation of inboard ditches and ditch relief culverts	Open grasslands with scenic views of Bogess Creek drainage in the foreground and neighboring ranches in the background

Trail Name	Trail Number	Length	Width	Trail Description	Drainage Improvements to Existing Roads*	Habitat Types
Harrington Creek Trail	11	1.6 miles	3-4 feet	Located south of the northernmost stretch of the Former Driscoll Ranch main access road. The trail will cross Harrington Creek approximately mid-way. Offers an improved trail alternative to using the northern segment of the main access road.	None (all new construction)	Grasslands, coyote brush, oak woodlands, and red alder forest
Former Sears Ranch Loop Trail	12	1.9 miles	3-4 feet	Loop trail above the former Sears Ranch building complex and ponds.	None (all new construction)	Grasslands
Trail to Ray's Peak	13	0.1 miles	2-4 feet	An in-and-out destination trail that will reach as close to the top of Ray's Peak as feasible. Although not the highest point within the former Driscoll Ranch area, Ray's Peak is the most prominent, can be seen from numerous vantage points, and appears to stand apart from surrounding ridgelines.	None (all new construction)	Grasslands and coyote bush scrubland

* These drainage improvements are specifically for existing ranch roads that will be incorporated into the trail system and upgraded to accommodate public use.

Note: This table conceptually describes the potential Draft Master Plan scenario for the future of La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. It is not intended as a commitment or approval to implement any specific draft element. This table is for planning purposes only. It is not intended as a guide to public lands, trails, or facilities. See individual preserve or park maps and brochures for access information.

Easy Access Trails

Trail alignments that have a gentle grade of no more than 5%, are readily accessible from parking areas, and have a smooth, sturdy surface are defined as easy access trails.

Constructed and maintained using many of the whole access trail standards, easy access trails can accommodate a great diversity of trail users and are well suited to families with young children, the elderly, and people with physical disabilities. The District makes an effort to construct easy access trails where the terrain and site conditions do not require substantial grading or tree removal, thereby avoiding significant impacts to the natural resources.

As described in Table 5, the short 0.9-mile loop trail off the Allen Road permit parking lot will be improved as an easy access trail. The District will also construct easy access trails in the Red Barn area, which is expected to become a popular destination site for families with young children, the elderly, and school groups given the planned interpretive and recreational opportunities at this location. The Red Barn site specific plan will incorporate easy access trails and other easy access and ADA-accessible facilities (refer to the *Historic and Noteworthy Structures* section for more information).

Regional Trail Corridors

Over time, as the Preserve gradually increases in size through incremental land purchases, the possibilities for future regional trail connections become more and more real. La Honda Creek OSP does not currently adjoin public property; however, a number of public open space lands do lie within close vicinity. El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve is located across Bear Gulch Road to the northwest, approximately 0.15 miles from the property line. To the south, approximately 0.8 miles from the property line, is Sam McDonald County Park. Given the proximity of these open space lands, it is reasonable to consider and plan for desirable future regional trail corridors.

In 1998, the District prepared the *Regional Open Space Study* (ROSS) as a tool for ongoing study and discussions with the public and other agencies about ideas for open space preservation and public access on a regional level. The ROSS illustrates the general extent of protected lands and public access improvements existing, under consideration, or under conceptual study, to complete the District's mission. The ROSS includes a number of regional trail corridors that would eventually connect La Honda Creek OSP to El Corte de Madera Creek, Windy Hill, and Russian Ridge Open Space Preserves as well as Sam McDonald and Memorial County Parks.

Table 6 outlines the desired regional trails for this area. However, there is no guarantee on implementation of these regional connections, since they are highly dependent on future land negotiations and funding. Two of the corridors listed below are also included in the 2001 San Mateo County Trails Plan.

Table 6: Regional Trails

Name	Description	Next Steps
Connection to El Corte de Madera Creek OSP	Extending beyond the northwestern corner of the Preserve. A suitable trail corridor is needed; Bear Gulch Road is too narrow and winding, with limited line of sight, steep side slopes, and no roadside shoulders to allow trail users to safely step off the road when necessary.	Continue to work with neighbors and property owners to secure trail easements and/or purchase properties to gain public access rights to establish a trail connection between the two Preserves.
Connection to Sam McDonald County Park	Extending beyond the southern boundary of the Preserve, toward intersection of La Honda Rd (Hwy 84) and Pescadero Rd.	Work with County Parks, State Parks, and local communities to secure a connection.
Bay Area Ridge Trail (BART) Alignment	Extending from the northwestern corner of the Preserve and continuing past the Vista Point and across La Honda Creek. The BART is a 500-plus mile regional trail envisioned to encircle the Bay Area ridge tops. The District's Board of Directors supports the BART and has dedicated 32 miles of the BART through District lands. La Honda Creek OSP lies within a critical BART gap, providing an opportunity to link dedicated alignments in Wunderlich County Park to those in Windy Hill OSP.	Dedicate the BART alignment when: (1) the interior alignment is fully constructed and officially opened to use, and (2) at least one safe through trail connection beyond the Preserve boundary is secured to ensure that trail users can safely access nearby open space lands.

Recreational Amenities and Enhancements

The District manages and maintains its open space preserves in as close a natural state as possible to protect native landscapes and natural vistas, thereby offering the public a backcountry, wilderness type experience. With this in mind, the District has identified a few select recreational amenities that will blend well into the landscape to better support Preserve visitors. Landscape improvements that will enhance the scenic qualities of the Preserve have also been identified.

Trail Amenities

Horse Troughs

A few horse troughs will be added to the Preserve, utilizing some of the many water sources available on the property. These troughs will be located outside cattle pastures to prevent the inadvertent transmission of water-borne pathogens. Given the increasing concern about West Nile virus, the District will continue to install floating barley discs in water troughs to inhibit the development of mosquito larvae.

Picnic Areas

A number of sites in the upper reaches of the Preserve, outside of the Coastside Protection Area, are ideal candidates for picnic areas (picnic areas are not allowed in the Coastside Protection Area per adopted Service Plan guidelines). The Red Barn is expected to be a high use area given the concentration of parking, trailheads, interpretive opportunities, the possibility of an outdoor education facility, and the future scheduling of special events. A picnic site, preferably under tree canopy for shade protection, will be installed at this location. The preferred site for a picnic area shall be included in the

Red Barn site plan. Once the Redwood Cabin area is made available to the public, a separate but smaller picnic site at this location will also be established.

Memorial Bench and Bridge Sites

The most appropriate locations for memorial bench sites are found in areas outside current and future grazing pastures and away from residences. Ideal locations for memorial benches include the Red Barn and Redwood Cabin sites, where groups of people are expected to congregate as part of docent-led activities, field trips, and special events. Future picnic sites as previously described can incorporate a number of memorial benches as additional seating.

The four existing bridges located at the Preserve are in various conditions. Future trail construction will likely require the installation of new recreational bridges. Each of these is a potential candidate for memorial dedication and plaque installation.

District staff will work with the Board of Director's Legislative Funding and Public Affairs Committee to identify suitable locations for memorial benches and bridges to honor individuals who have made significant contributions toward the preservation of open space. These sites will be submitted to the Board for final approval and subsequently incorporated into Section V, Approved Memorial Locations, of the District's *Site Naming, Gift and Special Recognition Policy*.

Viewshed Enhancements

Undergrounding Overhead Lines

Southern La Honda Creek OSP offers multiple picturesque panoramas of the surrounding Coastal foothill landscape. Unfortunately, the presence of overhead utility lines can detract from the visual quality of the scenery, especially in areas that are expected to receive high visitor use, including trailheads and scenic vista points. One such site is located in the former Sears Ranch area in the southern area of the Preserve. Overhead utility lines run the length of the eastern main ranch access road and detract from views of the prominent Ray's Peak. This stretch of utility lines will either be relocated underground or replaced with a solar system to help restore open views characteristic of rural ranchlands.

Removal of Dilapidated and Obsolete Structures

A number of dilapidated and obsolete structures, once used by former property owners, are located throughout the Preserve. These structures have fallen into great disrepair, are not of benefit to the District or existing tenants, and detract from the Preserve experience, and are therefore becoming a public nuisance. Architectural historians have evaluated these structures and determined that they are not historically significant due to significant alterations, lack of sufficient age, or low quality construction. The preferred alternative for the disposition of these structures is demolition and removal. Table 7 provides a list of the structures that will be removed from the Preserve.

The District will also remove other small and insignificant structures, as appropriate, that pose a potential public hazard or are considered a public nuisance. Interesting ranching-related articles that reflect the rural character of the Preserve, such as old fencing and

ranch gates, will remain as landscape elements to help preserve the remaining physical ties to the site’s history and past land uses.

Table 7: Structures to be Removed

Location	Structure
Northern La Honda Creek <i>Redwood Cabin area</i>	1 structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House near the Redwood Cabin
Central La Honda Creek <i>Red Barn area</i>	1 structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranch house
Southern La Honda Creek (former Driscoll Ranch) <i>Former Sears Ranch (Lower Ranch)</i> <i>Former Sears Ranch/Guerra-Zanoni Ranch (Upper Ranch)</i> <i>Former Wool Ranch area</i> <i>Former Folger Ranch area</i>	12 structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower mobile home • Hospital barn • Newest of two storage buildings • Upper mobile home • Two (2) storage buildings • Remnant concrete pad • Storage building • Mobile home • Horse barn • Tractor port • Folger mobile home

Environmental Education and Interpretation

Interpretive programs are a great way to enhance the visitor’s experience of the Preserve and contribute to environmental and historical education in the Bay Area. The rich local history and strong visual presence of unique landmark structures and landscape features located on the Preserve create multiple opportunities for interpretation and education. These resources can be highlighted individually as Preserve landmarks or featured along a trail. Interpretative information can be conveyed using sign displays and brochures and through self-guided hikes, docent-led hikes, and school field trips. Additional research will be needed to develop interpretive materials.

Broad topics for interpretation include the Preserve’s plants and wildlife, prehistoric and historic uses of the landscape, and specific cultural landmarks. In many cases, the natural resources and cultural landscape can be connected through interpretive materials. For example, a docent-led hike through logged areas of redwood forest can focus on both the logging history and forest ecology. In addition, ongoing practices, such as site restorations and cattle grazing, provide opportunities to educate visitors about the District’s resource management program. Table 8 provides a list of the priority interpretive sites, topics, and projects that will be provided at this Preserve.

Table 8: Priority Interpretive Sites, Topics, and Projects

Priority Site	Topics	Projects
Red Barn area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource management related topics, including conservation grazing, grasslands management, and watershed stewardship Site history and past land uses, history of La Honda, Red Barn rehabilitation Bat habitat, local native wildlife and plant species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host community events, docent-led hikes, and educational field trips Install interpretive signage Install “bat window”, if feasible, with associated devices (e.g., periscope, night vision goggles) to view bats without disturbing them Reuse former Ranch house garage, if determined to be structurally sound, as an educational facility Include information in signboards and brochures
White Barn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site history, history of the structure, past ranching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install interpretive signage Host docent-led hikes
Redwood Cabin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of logging Early 20th century recreation in the Santa Cruz Mountains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install interpretive signage Host docent-led hikes and other educational events
Former Driscoll Ranch area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural history and present day use as a working ranch Benefits of conservation grazing on grassland ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include information in signboards and brochures Host docent-led hikes and other educational events
Historic logging features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Past logging history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host docent-led hikes Develop self-guided hikes using interpretive brochures and/or signs; incorporate logging era features (old sawmill sites, remaining old-growth redwoods, and remnant springboards) as trail features, where appropriate

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION

Road and Trail Maintenance

A road and trail network is necessary for recreational use, emergency access, District patrol and maintenance, and ranch operations. The Master Plan identifies road and trail maintenance and improvement projects that enhance movement throughout the Preserve while reducing potential impacts to water quality and aquatic habitat from road related erosion. Sedimentation of the three major drainages that flow into San Gregorio Creek is of particular concern to the District given that these drainages support anadromous fish and the San Gregorio Creek watershed is listed as “sediment impaired” under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d). Excessive suspended sediment in streams can impact fisheries and other aquatic wildlife by increasing water temperatures, reducing light penetration and plant growth, clogging fish gills, and reducing visibility needed to locate and capture prey. Excessive sediment on the stream bottom can cover gravel beds used for spawning and smother fish eggs, aquatic insects, and oxygen-producing plants.

Of the 144 sites inventoried as part of a road and trail assessment for the Preserve, 74 have moderate to high treatment priority and are targeted for corrective measures to reduce the potential for sediment delivery or repair damaged segments of road. Priority projects will improve connectivity, surface drainage, and road conditions. Prior to opening existing segments of ranch road to trail use, as discussed in the *Preserve Trail System* section, the District will address road and trail treatments, focusing on higher priority treatments. Table 9 provides a summary of the road and trail treatments and Figure 13 identifies the specific locations and treatment types identified for the road and trail system.

Table 9: Summary of Road and Trail Treatments

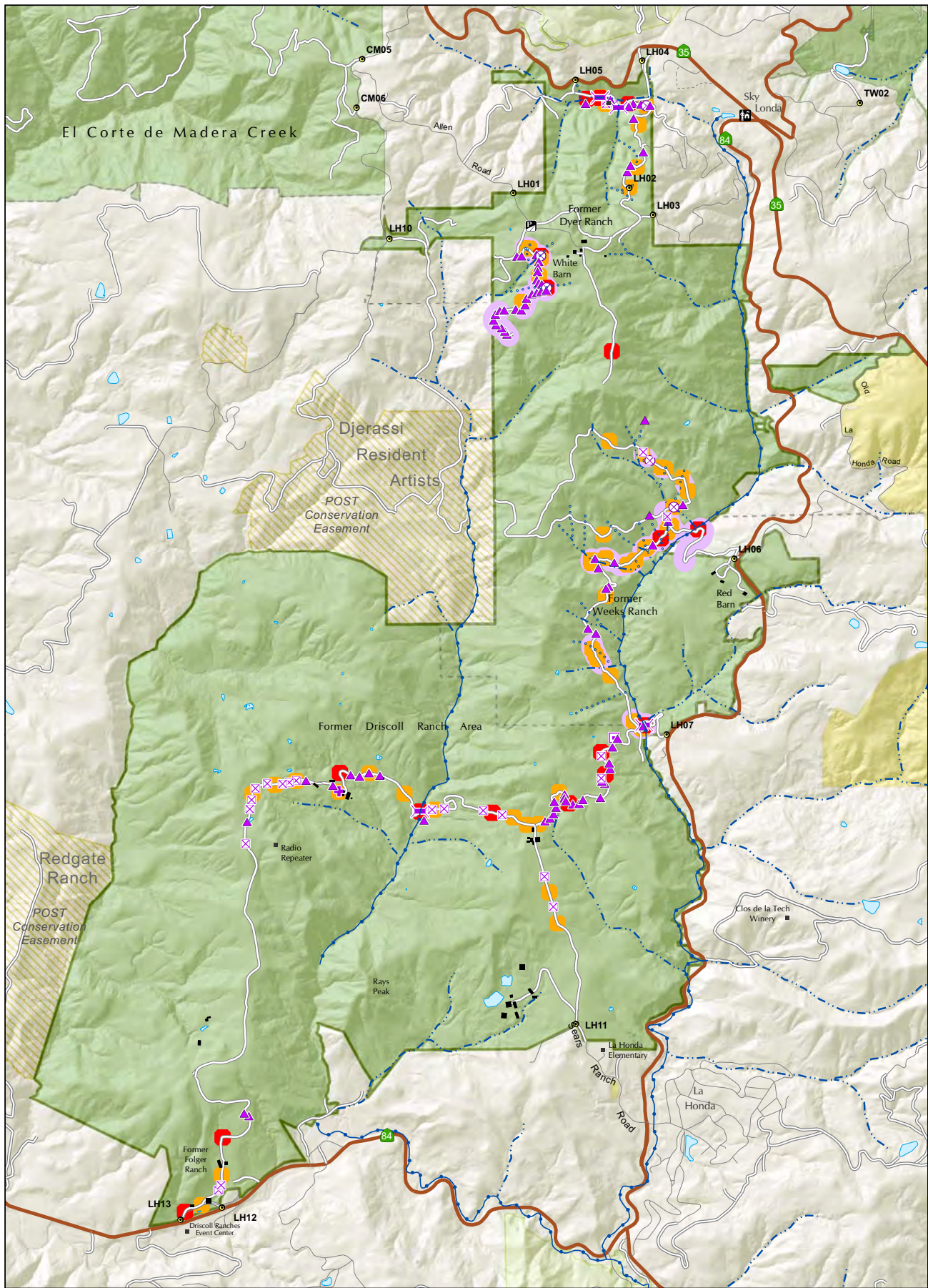
Erosion Issue	Treatment Priority			Total
	High	Moderate	Low	
Stream Crossing	10	12	37	59
Road Drainage	11	39	33	83
Landslides	0	1	0	1
Other	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	21	53	70	144

Within the former Driscoll Ranch area of the Preserve, the District, the grazing operator, and recreational users will share use of some of the existing ranch roads. Trails that are constructed specifically to accommodate public access will be maintained by the District. The grazing tenant will be responsible for maintenance of the roads that will be specifically used in support of leased activities. This arrangement is detailed in the Driscoll Ranch grazing lease agreement.

Best Management Practices

The District shall follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) during road and trail construction and maintenance to reduce the potential for erosion and sedimentation. BMPs are listed in Appendix C. They include:

- Design new trails to minimize grading and concentration of surface water flow.
- Incorporate drainage structures that can accommodate high storm flow.
- Rock trails where native soils are especially prone to erosion, particularly if the intensity of use is expected to be relatively high or vehicles, horses, or bicycles are allowed.
- Address new erosion problems that may arise from severe storms, earthquakes, increased use, or other causes.
- Use inventories and GIS capabilities to evaluate maintenance needs and track repairs.
- Implement seasonal closures, where and when appropriate.



La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

Map Projection: UTM Zone 10N, NAD 1927
Data Sources: USGS, CA Dept. of Fish & Game,
County of San Mateo, and MROS.D.
Map Printed September, 2008

0 0.25 0.5

Miles

Figure 13: Road and Trail Treatment Sites

<p>Treatment Sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair/Install Culvert Assess Bridge/Repair As Needed Install/Clean Rolling Dip Install/Clean Waterbar Install/Repair Ditch Relief Culvert Repair/Clean Inboard Ditch Rock Surface of Road 	<p>Treatment Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Priority Erosion Site Moderate Priority Erosion Site 	<p>Streams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ephemeral Intermittent Perennial <p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unpaved Ranch / Patrol Road Paved Road Highway
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Road and Trail Treatments

The District will implement priority road and trail repairs and treatments identified in the road and trail erosion inventory prepared for this Preserve (Best, 2007). Repairs and treatments include: road and trail re-surfacing, installation of additional drainage structures (i.e. culverts, inside ditches, rolling dips), upgrades and maintenance of drainage structures, stream crossing restorations, and installation of exclusionary livestock fencing. To take advantage of an economy of scale, lower priority erosion control treatment sites located within close proximity to higher priority sites may be addressed concurrently. Stretches of road and trail identified as high priority erosion control sites include:

- The road located directly east of the Redwood Cabin.
- Roads and trails directly south of the Allen Road permit parking area.
- The road connecting Gate LH08 with areas to the north.
- Portions of the loop trail located north of the Red Barn area.
- Lower southwestern segments of the main Driscoll Ranch area access loop.

Road Maintenance Plan

The District will prepare a Road Maintenance Plan that identifies problem sites and includes a repair history to keep track of road conditions and past roadwork. The Road Maintenance Plan will also include a maintenance schedule to help the District stay on top of periodic maintenance work. The District will incorporate the information into a GIS database to facilitate information tracking.

Road Restoration

A number of remnant ranch and logging roads that are no longer necessary or useful for access or circulation will be closed and restored. These abandoned road cuts can act as a source of sedimentation, particularly if they redirect or impede natural surface runoff. Historically, roads across steep terrain were constructed by cutting into the hillside and using the excavated material to create the roadbed. This practice often resulted in overly steepened side slopes made of fill material. As a result, these roads can be prone to failure, particularly when the ground becomes over saturated following a heavy rainfall event. Removing abandoned road cuts and restoring natural drainage patterns will further the District's goal of reducing potential sources of erosion and sedimentation. As an added benefit, the restoration of decommissioned roads will result in a simplified road and trail network better suited to public use. Specific locations identified for road restoration include the area surrounding the Redwood Cabin, the northern La Honda Creek Conservation Management Unit (CMU), and a subset of the Driscoll Ranch CMU. The District will prepare a Road Restoration Plan that identifies and tracks old road cuts slated for closure and restoration.

Grazing Impact Treatments

Cattle roaming in pastures and crossing existing ranch roads may contribute to increased erosion and road maintenance costs, particularly at eroding cut-banks, inside ditches, culvert inlets and outlets, and on the road surface. Corrective measures, such as exclusionary fencing and rock surface treatments, will be completed as needed to reduce erosion caused by cattle and the grazing operation. Improving critical channel crossings

to facilitate the movement of cattle, restoring duplicate or unnecessary stream crossings, and re-vegetating denuded stream banks are additional measures to further reduce potential sources of erosion. The District will also work with the grazing tenant to identify additional measures to reduce cattle impacts to roads and watercourses.

Fire and Fuels Management

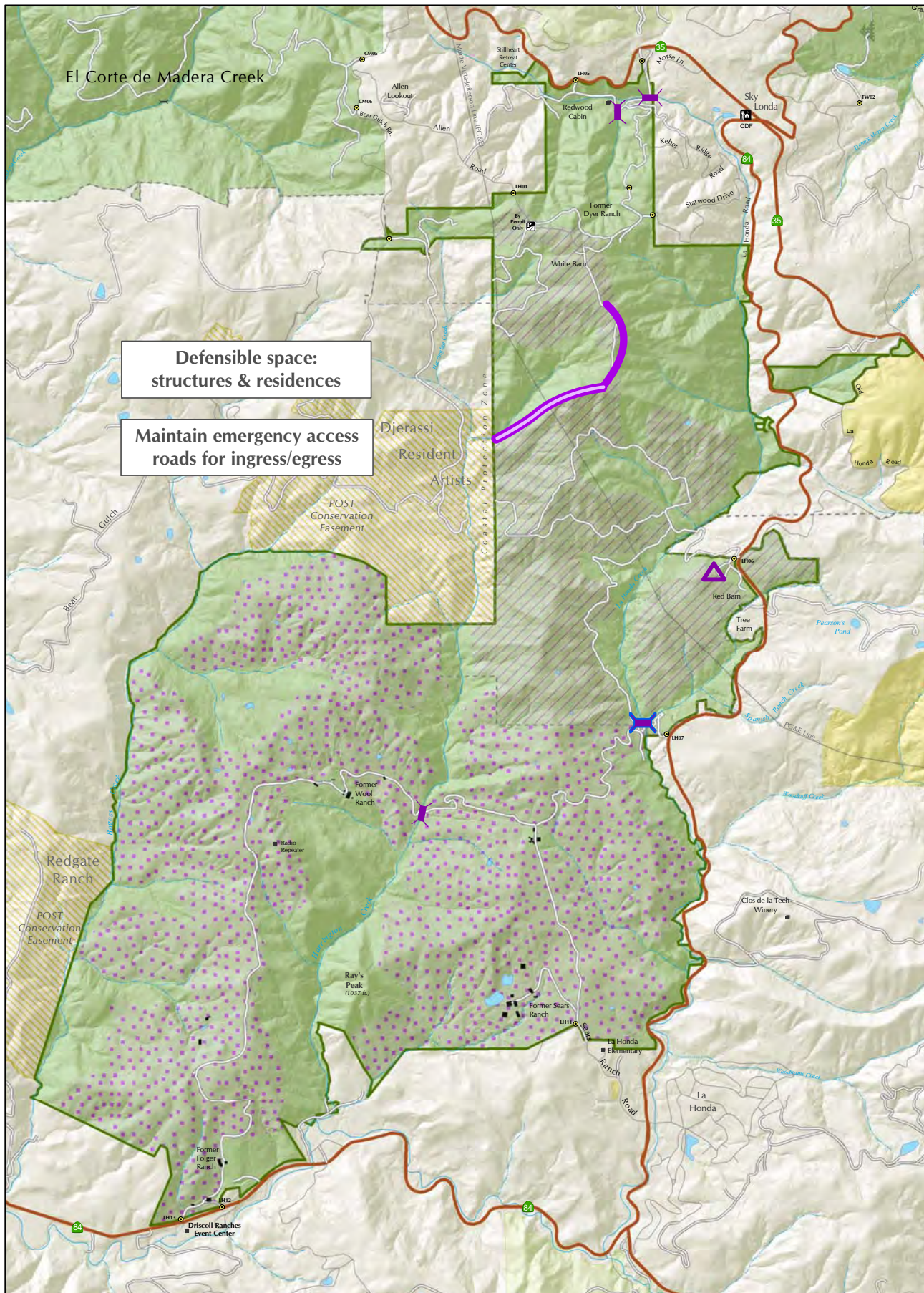
The preparation of the Master Plan provides an opportunity to enhance the District's fire safe practices to further reduce the risk and potential severity of a wildfire. In addition to the human-made facilities on the land, numerous natural resources are also at risk from a large fire event. Most significant among these is the risk of a stand-replacing fire, should a wildfire enter the canopy of the existing forest and result in the death of a large percentage of trees. A fire of this intensity could also result in secondary impacts, including sediment delivery into streams from significant erosion of soils left with little vegetation cover. The resulting reduction in water quality could severely impact native fisheries within the creeks draining the Preserve.

Also of concern is the potential for a wildfire to move off the Preserve and impact neighboring residential development. Fire can move off the Preserve through direct advancement of the fire front as well as by spotting, where windblown burning embers ignite new spot fires.

These concerns prompted the preparation of a wildland fire hazard assessment for La Honda Creek OSP to identify wildland fuel loads, inventory critical resources at risk, assess relative fire hazards, and develop recommendations for wildland fuels management. The preparation of a wildland fire management plan began with an assessment of potential fire behavior in the Preserve, providing a science-based analysis aimed at identifying fuel and fire management actions that support and augment current operations and projects. These actions are prioritized to best allocate limited resources. Figure 14 depicts many of the site specific fuel and fire management actions discussed below.

Fuel Management and Fire Hazard Reduction

Fuel management on every wildland acre in the Preserve is neither possible nor advisable. Priorities for fuel management projects are determined by various objectives, such as reducing the ability of fires to cross boundaries and minimizing damage to developed areas and natural resources. Priorities are also based on regulatory requirements, which themselves are intended to increase access, facilitate fire suppression, and minimize resource damage. Although the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) is the primary fire agency responsible for wildland fire suppression, the District maintains a fire program to assist with fire response. If a fire occurs on or is threatening District lands, District staff helps establish Incident Command if first on scene, evacuates or closes the Preserves for visitor safety, performs initial attack when safe and effective to do so, provides logistical assistance given staff knowledge of the property, monitors and attacks spot fires, and supplies additional water for primary agency engines. Appendix F provides a list and description of current District fire management practices that will continue to be implemented, as needed, at the Preserve.



Defensible space:
structures & residences

Maintain emergency access
roads for ingress/egress

**La Honda Creek
Open Space Preserve**

Map Projection: UTM Zone 10N, NAD 1927
Data Sources: USGS, County of San Mateo, and MROSD
Map Printed September, 2008

Figure 14: Fire Management Projects

Projects		Land Use	
	Expand Grazing		La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve
	Continue Grazing		Other MROSD Preserves
	Replace Bridge		Other Public Open Space
	Evaluate Bridge Repair/Replace As Needed		Land Trust
	Deepen Pond		Land Trust Conservation Easement
	Restore Grasslands Near Tenant Residence		
	New Shaded Fuel Break		
	New Fuel Break (from western property boundary to former Dyer Ranch area)		

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Defensible Space

Potential fire damage to structures and developed areas can be significantly lessened by reducing flame length (height of wildfire flame from ground surface) to two feet within 30 feet of structures, and maintaining vegetation to defensible space guidelines within 100 feet of structures. The following structures and facilities shall be maintained annually:

- Red Barn and corrals
- White Barn
- Redwood cabin
- Tenant residences
- Additional significant historical structures that are identified through cultural resource inventories

Ignition Reduction

Roadsides are the most common ignition sites in California; approximately 80 percent of all wildfire ignitions occur within 10 feet of a road. The California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) is the primary agency responsible for maintenance of Highways 84 and 35, including roadside vegetation management. The District will continue to facilitate CalTrans' efforts to manage vegetation along the stretch of highway that fronts the Preserve. The District will also manage vegetation at other high risk ignition locations within the interior of the Preserve, such as parking areas, to bolster fire prevention.

Trail Closures During Red Flag Days

In accordance with the Coastside Protection Area Service Plan, trail access points within the Coastside Protection Area shall be closed on predicted high fire response level days (red flag days) to reduce fire hazards.

Fire Containment

Fire containment is facilitated through the modification of vegetation fuels to reduce the intensity of fires, should they occur, and to allow for improved firefighter access. Through implementation of fuel breaks and other fuel modifications, the Preserve can be compartmentalized to create opportunities to strategically manage and contain fire within sections of the Preserve. The District will work cooperatively with leading fire management agencies, including CalFire, to facilitate the creation and maintenance of the following new fuel breaks (note that fuelbreak location is approximate and may change after further coordination under a cooperative agreement with Calfire):

- Create a new fuelbreak that extends from the western boundary of the Preserve near the Djerassi property to the former Dyer Ranch area of northern La Honda Creek OSP.
- Create a new shaded fuelbreak that extends from the former Dyer Ranch area (northern La Honda Creek OSP) to the former Weeks Ranch area (central La Honda Creek OSP).
- Reducing the risk of wildfire spread from adjacent properties onto District land is best achieved if fuel management projects are implemented

cooperatively with adjacent landowners. Fuelbreaks, for example, need to be continuous to be most effective, particularly when achieving region-wide fire safety. With this in mind, the District will strive to work with adjacent property owners to maximize fire reduction efforts.

Brush Encroachment Reduction

Preservation and restoration of grassland areas is a major District goal. To this effort, as described under the *Vegetation Management* section, the District intends to continue and expand conservation grazing throughout the larger grasslands in the Preserve and employ other vegetation management practices. This action will not only preserve grassland habitat, but also control brush encroachment into grassland areas and reduce fuel loads. One important target area is located near and around the Red Barn. The District aims to restore this particular site to native grassland and increase its grazing productivity potential. The District will also aim to limit the encroachment of coyote brush into grassland areas along forested edges to reduce ladder fuels at the transition between grasslands and forest.

Wildfire Response

Emergency Vehicle Access

Reducing potential fire intensities near roads and driveways will provide firefighting vehicles, staff, and visitors safe passageways through the Preserve. Fuels will be maintained to reduce flame length to 2 feet along fire response roads in the following areas:

- Within 10 feet of the road edge where flames are predicted to be 0-8 feet in length (generally grassy locations and in oak woodlands)
- Within 30 feet of the road edge where flames are predicted to be over 8 feet in length (generally brushy locations and where understory shrubs are developed in woodlands)

Bridge Improvements

Bridge improvement projects will be necessary to accommodate fire response vehicles in the Preserve. One existing bridge will need to be replaced and three others require an engineering assessment to evaluate current structural conditions and determine the need for repairs or upgrades, as described below:

- The bridge located through gate LH08 has deteriorated and is no longer passable by vehicles; fully replace the bridge.
- Two bridges, one across the main stem and the other across a tributary to La Honda Creek, just north of the Redwood Cabin, may not withstand sufficient weight loads to accommodate emergency response vehicles; assess bridges and repair/upgrade as needed.
- The bridge across Harrington Creek in the former Driscoll Ranch area may not withstand sufficient weight loads to accommodate emergency response vehicles; assess bridge and repair/upgrade as needed.

Additional Fire Suppression Water Sources

Wildfire suppression activities require large quantities of water. In steep, rugged terrain like that found in the Preserve, fire suppression often involves using

helicopters to drop water on the fire. Having available water on site to facilitate fire suppression is of great benefit. The development of new ponds, restoration of former ponds, and deepening of existing ponds will improve fire suppression at the Preserve by supplying additional sources of water in the event of a fire. One of these projects involves removing decades of deposited sediment from an existing pond located between the former Dyer Ranch area and the former Weeks Ranch area in order to deepen the pond and therefore increase its water capacity. The *Watershed Resources and Aquatic Habitat* section identifies additional opportunities to develop new and restore former stock ponds at the Preserve, thereby further increasing the number of onsite water sources.

Wildland Fire Response Plan

A Wildland Fire Response Plan, developed with participating fire departments, will set forth Best Management Practices for wildland fire response and suppression activities. The Wildland Fire Response Plan will identify known resources and structures at risk from wildland fire, and recommend that certain fire suppression activities be avoided to protect the sensitive natural and cultural resources on the Preserve. The plan will also identify structures that are inhabited or are historically significant that should have resources committed to their defense during a wildland fire. Finally, it will call out the access and circulation roads of the Preserve and identify strategic areas for modified suppression or fuel modification.

Local communities are often an underutilized resource in the effort to prepare Wildland Fire Response Plans. Local volunteer firefighters frequently assist with fire response and can lend valuable knowledge of place, fire history and fuel loading. Local residents often have the most to gain from participating in community level education, coordination, fuel load reduction, and other fire management efforts. With the ever-increasing population density of the wildland-urban interface, it is the human-caused fires that are of greatest concern for land management agencies and the local communities that reside adjacent to wildland areas. For these reasons, an effective Wildland Fire Response Plan will be prepared with the participation and input of community residents and leaders, including the local Fire Safe Council. The information exchange gained through this effort will be invaluable in the event of a major wildfire because it arms local residents with critical site specific information regarding escape routes, including the location of stable bridges, passable roads, opened gates, and water sources. Moreover, it is through active public involvement that a Wildland Fire Response Plan gains support and continued attention, which can translate into greater numbers of private landowners taking the initiative to carry out critical fuel reduction actions around their homes.

Environmental Hazards

Environmental hazards remediation is a priority for the District and is consistent with the District's mission, the Coastal Protection Program, and the vision for La Honda Creek OSP. Environmental hazards include contaminants found in soils or groundwater that can pose risks to human health and the environment. The risk posed by a contaminant depends upon many factors, including the toxicity of the contaminant, the level of the contaminant present, and the potential route of

exposure. Numerous laws and regulations at the federal, state, and local levels exist to protect human health and the environment from contaminants.

Site Containment and Remediation

During the site investigations conducted for the purchase of the Driscoll Ranch property, several potential contaminated sites were identified. The District completed a full characterization of these areas of concern and prepared a Remedial Investigation report (RI report; Northgate 2008). The RI report, which was reviewed and accepted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) in 2009, identified a series of final actions to ensure full protection of future recreational users and the grazing operation. These actions included removal and disposal of existing debris and remnant infrastructure, and the preparation of a Soil Management Plan (SMP) for the site. These actions were completed in 2009. The SMP (Northgate 2009) documents current soil conditions and provide guidance on soil handling, disposal or reuse procedures, and health and safety provisions for workers who might encounter the soils if projects are implemented that disturb soils at these specific locations. However, no soil-disturbing activities are called for by the Master Plan in these locations. The RWQCB has indicated that no further action is necessary (RWQCB 2010). The sites are described in more detail below.

Former Folger Ranch/La Honda Oil Field Well and Tank Sites

Located in the former Folger Ranch in southern La Honda Creek OSP, the La Honda Oil Field Main Area was one of the largest oil production sites in San Mateo County, producing over 780,000 barrels of oil during its 25-year production period. The oil field area was closed in the early 1990s with the capping of the oil wells and removal of the aboveground oil storage tanks and pipelines. Petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated soils were removed from the site during this time under the oversight of San Mateo County. Site investigations identified several La Honda Oil Field sites with remaining petroleum hydrocarbon contamination, including former well sites and aboveground storage tank locations. In accordance with the RI report, the District removed all remnant debris and infrastructure associated with the well and tank sites and prepared a Soil Management Plan. The RWQCB has indicated that no further action is necessary (RWQCB 2010).

Former Wool and Sears Ranch Corrals

The former Driscoll Ranch area is a consolidation of three earlier ranches: Wool Ranch, Folger Ranch, and Sears Ranch. All had a long history of cattle ranching with accompanying infrastructure development, including corrals that were used to work with and care for livestock. Initial site investigations identified some of the former and current corral locations with organochlorine pesticide residues in the soil (a class of pesticides now mostly banned in the United States and no longer used on the Preserve). In 2008, a more thorough investigation indicated that pesticide levels were below state screening levels (possibly due to soil homogenization by continued cattle use of the corrals), and that no risk to human health or the environment was present. The RWQCB has indicated that no further action is necessary (RWQCB 2010).

Vehicle Maintenance Building Fuel Storage Area

One approximately 500-gallon aboveground gasoline storage tank and one approximately 1,000-gallon aboveground diesel fuel storage tank were located at the former Sears Ranch as part of the vehicle maintenance facility for ranch operations. These tanks have since been removed, but petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated soils were detected at this location, presumably as a result of fuel spills and tank leaks. A thorough investigation concluded that residual hydrocarbons remaining at area would not pose a health risk to future users of the property. Chemical concentrations were well below state screening levels developed for residential and recreational use scenarios, and naturally occurring degradation processes likely will continue to reduce petroleum hydrocarbon concentrations in the soil over time (Northgate 2008). The RWQCB has indicated that no further action is necessary (RWQCB 2010).

Dilapidated Structures and Debris

As part of the Driscoll Ranch area clean-up process, unoccupied, dilapidated structures that are no longer used by the tenant or necessary for ongoing agricultural operations may be demolished and removed from the Preserve (refer to *Viewshed Enhancements* section for more information). Given the age of these structures, they may contain lead-based paint and asbestos materials. The District will adhere to state regulations concerning the demolition of buildings containing these materials. State regulations require the abatement of asbestos-containing materials and the removal of loose and peeling lead-based paint prior to demolition or renovation activities.

In the past, it was common practice for ranches to deposit debris and other waste on the property rather than haul the material offsite, partly to reduce cost and transportation time. One debris site has been identified for clean up removal by the RWQCB. In the event additional debris sites are found on the Preserve, the District will clean up the site and properly dispose of the material as needed.

Land Classification

Updates to the land use definitions, restrictions, and allowances in place for each of the numerous parcels that make up the Preserve have been sporadic in the past, which has resulted in the inconsistent application of land use controls. The research conducted to prepare this Master Plan has highlighted this inconsistency and made it apparent that a Preserve-wide update is needed to ensure internal consistency and ease of long-term management.

Williamson Act

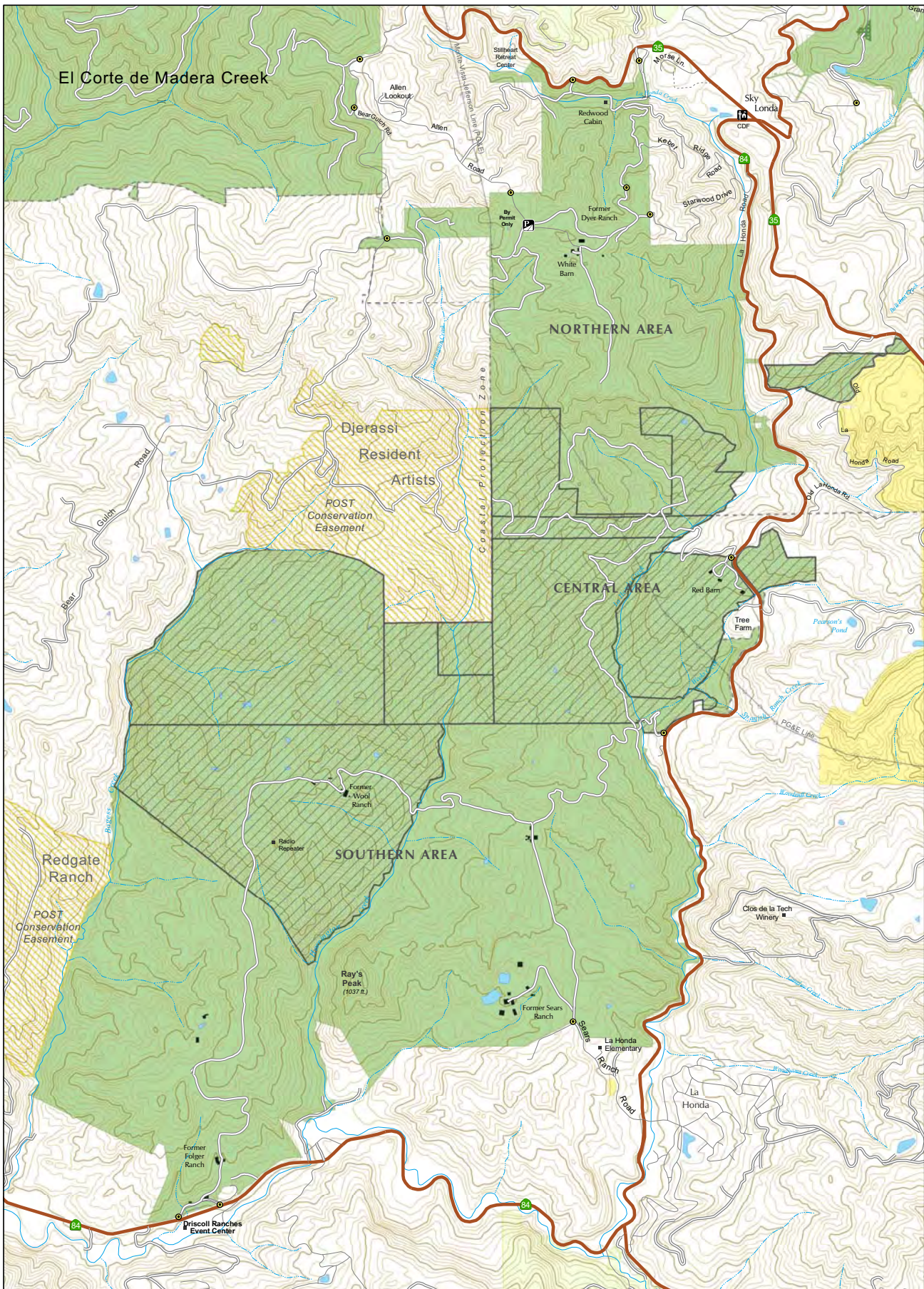
The California Land Conservation Act of 1965 (Government Code § 51200 to 51297), also known as the Williamson Act, was enacted to preserve agricultural and open space lands and discourage premature and unnecessary conversion to urban uses through the use of a property tax incentive. The Williamson Act creates an arrangement whereby private landowners contract with a county or city to voluntarily restrict their land to agricultural and compatible open space uses in exchange for reduced property taxes. A number of parcels in La Honda Creek OSP

were placed under a Williamson Act contract by prior land owners and to this day remain under contract (refer to Figure 15). As a public agency, lands under District ownership are exempt from property taxes, so the typical tax reductions do not apply. Moreover, the District acquires land primarily for the purpose of open space and agricultural preservation in the public interest, which is already consistent with the intent of the Williamson Act. Therefore, the continuation of the contract after District purchase is no longer necessary.

In fact, continuation of the contracts can unduly burden the District's ability to efficiently manage its lands by requiring additional consultations and approvals above and beyond those that are already required through the typical permitting processes. Future public access improvements on contracted lands, for example, are potentially subject to obtaining prior approval of a County Compatible Use Determination, a process designed to ensure that development is compatible with the Williamson Act. Since the District's uses and related improvements are intended for open space and agricultural preservation, these procedural requirements do not serve a useful purpose and result in unnecessarily delays and added expense. For these reasons, the District will seek to file notices of non-renewal with San Mateo County for lands in La Honda Creek OSP that have been historically covered by Williamson Act contracts. Non-renewal is the standard, preferred administrative method of terminating a contract on a parcel of land; the entire non-renewal process requires a nine-year wind-down period. Non-renewal of Williamson Act contracts is an administrative procedure that will not affect the agricultural use that is currently present in La Honda Creek OSP. Consistent with the District's mission, agricultural lands will remain protected even after non-renewal.

The Master Plan calls for the development of trails and staging areas that would facilitate open space and recreational uses, both of which are compatible with ongoing cattle grazing in grassland areas of the property. Although the proposed Master Plan represents one of the first examples of this mixed use of open space in the District, many parks, both country-wide and in the San Francisco Bay region, successfully integrate these uses. The Williamson Act contracts on the affected Preserve properties are quite old and out-of-date in regards to current statutory provisions governing compatible uses, with these mid-1960s contracts specifically allowing *only* those uses that directly support the production of agricultural commodities. The Master Plan therefore calls for amendment of the contracts to include compatible open space and recreational uses, as provided for by Section 51253 of the Williamson Act.

Before any non-agricultural use (e.g. staging areas or hiking trails) is implemented within the areas under Williamson Act contracts, the contracts would be amended, in cooperation with San Mateo County, to provide for such compatible uses, or the improvement would be deferred until the contract nonrenewal period has passed and the property is out of the contract. The administrative act of nonrenewal along with any necessary contract amendments would abide by San Mateo County requirements. Current and future land uses as described in the Master Plan would remain consistent with the Williamson Act contracts, as amended, throughout the non-renewal period.



**La Honda Creek
Open Space Preserve**

Map Projection: UTM Zone 10N, NAD 1927
 Data Sources: USGS, County of San Mateo, and MROSD
 Map Printed September, 2008



Figure 15: Williamson Act Parcels

Land Use	Roads	Contour Intervals
Preserve Parcel Under a Williamson Act Contract	Unpaved Ranch / Patrol Road	200 Feet
MROSD Open Space Preserve	Existing Paved Road	40 feet
Other Public Open Space	Highway	
Land Trust		
Land Trust Conservation Easement		

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Open Space Dedication

The California Public Resources Code provides for the dedication of real property owned by open space districts and regional parks so that their boards may formally acknowledge the public importance of lands acquired for open space purposes. By dedicating land through an adopted resolution, the District's Board of Directors is declaring that open space is its best and most necessary public use. Dedicated lands are properties and interests that may not be conveyed without either the consent of a majority of voters or by concurrent resolution of the Legislature, thus bestowing these properties special added protections (refer to Section 5540, Section 5540.5, or Section 5540.6 of the California Public Resources Code for more information). By comparison, undedicated lands may be conveyed, transferred, leased, or disposed of at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors. At the time the Board approves a property purchase, a decision is made on whether to immediately dedicate the land based on an analysis that considers planning constraints, existing use, and access. Currently, 3,758 acres of La Honda Creek OSP remain undedicated. The District will identify those parcels that merit dedication and present them to the full Board of Directors in a resolution for formal adoption.

Rental Structures and Facilities

As the District acts to fulfill its primary mission of preserving and managing open space lands and resources, the agency often also becomes the owner of structures and improvements of varying condition, usefulness, and value. The Board-adopted *Policies Regarding Improvements on District Lands* govern the use, retention, removal, and rental of District structures and improvements. Structures are initially assessed for hazards and suitability for retention as potential rentals at the time of land purchase.

The primary intent for renting structures is not typically revenue-making; instead, operational needs are often the drivers. Renting structures as employee residences, for example, provides the District with added site security, emergency call-out services, and land stewardship assistance. La Honda Creek OSP is the site of seven tenant residences, three of which are included in the Driscoll Ranch grazing lease (refer to Table 10).

Red Barn Area Rental

The building complex in the Red Barn area includes a mobile home that is occupied by a District ranger. Given its strategic location in the Preserve and its current good condition, the District will continue utilizing and maintaining the structure for use as employee housing.

Former Folger Ranch Rental

The Driscoll Ranch land purchase included a vacant ranch house with a garage that can be converted into a District employee residence. A structures assessment has determined the need for upgrades prior to use as a residence. Given its strategic location in the Preserve and the fair condition of the residence, the District

will retain the structure and make the necessary upgrades for use as employee housing.

Table 10: Tenant Residences

Location	Structure
Northern La Honda Creek <i>Redwood Cabin area</i> <i>Former Dyer Ranch</i>	2 structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bechtel residence • Dyer residence
Central La Honda Creek <i>Red Barn area</i>	1 structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile home
Southern La Honda Creek (former Driscoll Ranch) <i>Former Sears Ranch (Lower Ranch)</i> <i>Former Sears Ranch/ Guerra-Zanoni Ranch (Upper Ranch)</i> <i>Former Wool Ranch area</i> <i>Former Folger Ranch area</i>	4 structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Sears Ranch residence (included in grazing lease) • Upper Sears Ranch residence (included in grazing lease) • Wool Ranch residence (included in grazing lease) • Folger Ranch residence

Other Rental Structures and Facilities

The District will continue to carry out maintenance and improvements to rental structures to maintain them in safe, sanitary, and attractive conditions. The District will also continue annual inspections of rental and employee residences and administer long-term and recurring maintenance priorities on rental properties. Residences that fall under the grazing lease in the former Driscoll Ranch area will be maintained by the grazing tenant.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Overview

The *Implementation Plan* functions as a concise, standalone document containing all of the information needed to guide the implementation of the Master Plan. The *Implementation Plan* is organized in a table format for ease of reading and includes the following pertinent information:

Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives developed for the Master Plan are repeated in the *Implementation Plan* to give the reader context and background on the need for each listed action.

Draft Plan Element

Each action falls under one of many draft plan elements, which briefly describes the type or nature of each listed action.

Action Description

The *Implementation Plan* also includes a brief description of the scope of work for each action. For additional information on each action, please refer to chapter III, *Master Plan Elements*.

Priority

The Master Plan prioritizes each action based on its level of importance in fulfilling the Preserve's vision. Some actions are also prioritized depending on whether these actions are dependent on the implementation of previous actions. For example, the Red Barn parking area is given priority over the connecting Red Barn loop trails since the parking area must first be in place before the trails can be opened to public use. The priorities are divided as follows:

- High Highest priority action
- Moderate Second highest priority action
- Low Third highest priority action

Action Type

The action type further describes each listed action as follows:

- CIP Capital improvement project
- CR Key criteria for a project
- M Maintenance project
- NR Natural resources/restoration project
- POL Policy statement or clarification
- PRG Programming project
- RES Research or information gathering project

- SAFE Public safety project

Cost

The expected implementation cost for each action is also included. For capital improvement projects such as new parking areas, these costs include consultant fees to complete the design and prepare construction plans and technical specifications, miscellaneous expenses to fulfill California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, permitting fees, and construction costs including materials, labor, and equipment. It is assumed that an outside contractor will construct all capital improvement projects. The costs are approximate, in 2007 dollars, and are based on the cost of similar projects previously undertaken by the District. These numbers only reflect capital costs and therefore do not include staff time (salaries and benefits) or expenses associated with recurring maintenance or repairs completed by District staff (e.g., trail brushing, trail re-grading). For information on the long-term maintenance and management costs related to the Master Plan, please refer to the *Financial Implications* section. Direct costs to the District may be reduced or avoided through grant funding and by use of in-house crews, where appropriate, to complete construction projects.

Phase

The Master Plan is a long-range, 30-year document with an ambitious work program that requires prioritization to distribute the workload and manage the expectations of staff, the Board, and the public. Five phases have been identified as described below. The “to be determined” phase accounts for those projects that are clearly beyond District control (refer to the *Phasing Plan* section for more information).

- Phase I Years 1 to 5
- Phase II Years 6 to 10
- Phase III Years 11 to 20
- Phase IV Years 21 to 30
- TBD To be determined; outside factors will determine schedule

Expected Duration

The expected duration column indicates the approximate length of time that will be needed to implement each action, which is based on past experiences with similar projects. Depending upon the project, the expected duration accounts for the time needed to plan, hire consultants, develop designs, review plans with the Board, Committee members, staff, and public, administer subsequent CEQA review, apply for permits, release bids, administer contracts and grant applications, hire contractors, construct the work, and close-out projects.

Outside Funding Sources

Outside funding sources include all outside grants for which each action may be eligible. This column does not include District funding. Outside funding sources include:

- BABT Bay Area Barns and Trails grant
- BART Bay Area Ridge Trail grant
- Bond Parks and Open Space Bond Measure
- CCHE California Cultural and Historical Endowment
- CDFG California Department of Fish and Game fisheries restoration grants
- CHF California Heritage Fund grant
- EEMP California Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program
- EQIP United State Department of Agriculture Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- HCF Habitat Conservation Fund grant
- LWCF Land and Water Conservation Fund
- NRCS National Resource Conservation Service grants
- NTHP National Trust for Historic Preservation grants
- PA Preserve America grants
- PG&E Pacific Gas and Electric Company
- Prop 84 Proposition 84 Safe Drinking Water Bond
- RTP Recreational Trails Program
- RWQCB Regional Water Quality Control Board watershed restoration grants
- SAT Save America's Treasures grants
- SOH Save Our History grants

Potential Partners

There are a number of potential partners that can help the District fulfill the vision for the Preserve. These are listed as appropriate in the *Implementation Plan* to help identify other agencies and organizations with whom the District can work in partnership to implement the various Master Plan actions. These include:

- Academic Academic research institutions
- Audubon Audubon Society
- BAOSC Bay Area Open Space Council

- BART Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
- CalFire California Department of Forestry and Fire
- CalTrans California Department of Transportation
- CDFG California Department of Fish and Game
- CNPS California Native Plant Society
- County San Mateo County
- Farm Farm Bureau
- Grants Small Grants Program
- LHES La Honda Elementary School
- LHFB La Honda Fire Brigade
- NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- NRCS National Resources Conservation Service
- Parks San Mateo County Parks
- PG&E Pacific Gas and Electric Company
- POST Peninsula Open Space Trust
- RCD San Mateo County Resource Conservation District
- SGERC San Gregorio Environmental Resource Center
- SOD California Oak Mortality Taskforce
- Tenants Grazing Tenants
- USFWS United State Fish and Wildlife Service
- VOL Volunteers, Volunteer Trail Patrol (may include local organizations and trail user groups)

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT									
Goal NR-1: Preserve surrounding open space lands									
Objective NR-1.1: Continue to purchase properties and conservation easements to expand and protect the Preserve's natural resources, aesthetic values, and connectivity	Preservation of Surrounding Open Space Lands	1.1.a. Continue to expand Preserve boundaries by working with willing sellers to purchase properties and easements	High	POL	TBD	I-IV	Ongoing	HCF	POST
Goal NR-2: Expand the District's natural resource information									
Objective NR-2.1: Organize and increase the District's knowledge of the Preserve's natural resources and populate GIS databases with new and up to date information	Natural Resource Inventories and Databases	2.1.a. Continuously update the District's GIS database with natural resource information as it becomes available	High	PRG	Costs reflected under other Goals and Objectives	I-IV	Ongoing		
		2.1.b. Conduct periodic site surveys to inventory native and nonnative species (including in-stream fish sampling) and habitats; populate the GIS database with new information; use data to understand if and how populations are changing in response to management actions; modify management actions accordingly	High	RES, CR	\$130,000	I-IV	Ongoing		CDFG NOAA, CNPS
Goal NR-3: Protect unique and sensitive resources									
Objective NR-3.1: Manage key areas that require special protection due to high quality habitat, presence of sensitive species, and/or susceptibility to negative resource impacts as conservation areas where use is limited	Conservation Management Units	3.1.a. Designate the eastern area of northern La Honda Creek and northwestern corner of southern La Honda Creek as Conservation Management Units where (1) access is allowed only by special permit, and (2) no trails are maintained, mapped, or made open for public use	High	POL	\$15,000 for signs and fencing	I	1year for implementation Ongoing management		

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Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners	
Goal NR-4: Protect and enhance watershed resources and aquatic habitat										
Objective NR-4.1: Protect water quality and improve stream habitat	In-Stream Salmonid Habitat	4.1.a. Monitor and modify barriers to enable fish passage	High	CR, RES, NR	\$25,000	I-IV	Ongoing	HCF, CDFG	CDFG, USFWS, NOAA	
		4.1.b. Manage large woody debris/log jams within streams to increase habitat complexity and distribution	Moderate	NR, RES	\$10,000 for each occurrence	I-IV	Ongoing	HCF, CDFG	CDFG, USFWS, NOAA	
		4.1.c. Monitor channel bank erosion; treat with bioengineering as needed	Moderate	CR, NR, RES	\$20,000	I-IV	Ongoing	HCF, CDFG	CDFG, USFWS, NOAA	
		4.1.d. Per Goal MO-1, Objective MO-1.2, Action 1.2.a., improve road and trail drainage, especially near and upslope of creeks; implement road and trail erosion treatments	High	M, NR, CIP	Costs reflected under Goal MO-1, Objective MO-1.2, Action 1.2.a.	I-III	5-10 years	RTP, EEMP, CDFG, RWCQB	Tenants	
		4.1.e. Per Goal MO-1, Objective MO-1.2, Action 1.2.c., prepare Road Restoration Plan to retire and restore abandoned and unnecessary roads to reduce potential sediment input; implement Plan accordingly	Moderate	CR, NR, CIP	Costs reflected under Goal MO-1, Objective MO-1.2, Action 1.2.c.	I-III	5-10 years	RTP, EEMP, CDFG, RWQCB		
	Riparian Habitat	4.1.f. Fence riparian areas as needed to exclude cattle and reduce potential disturbance to creeks	High	NR, M, CIP	\$40,000 - \$70,000	I	3 years	HCF, CDFG, EQIP, Prop 84	RCD, NRCS, Tenants	
		4.1.g. Restore denuded riparian areas that are not part of the road and pathway system; when re-vegetating, use native plants and/or native seed	Moderate	NR	\$40,000 - \$70,000	I-II	2-5 years	HCF, EEMP, CDFG	RCD, NRCS, Tenants	
	Cooperative Watershed Protection	4.1.h. Work in partnership with local agencies and Coastside neighbors to support, promote, and undertake watershed restoration projects	Moderate	NR, NG, PRG	\$50,000	I-IV	Ongoing	Prop 84, CDFG, RWQCB	SGERC, CalTrans	
	Objective NR-4.1 (continued): Protect water quality and improve stream habitat	Water Quality Protection	4.1.i. In the event a water quality issue is identified, characterize pollutants entering San Gregorio Creek, pinpoint sources, and develop a response and restoration plan that includes monitoring; work with local	TBD	RES, NR	TBD	I-IV	TBD	Prop 84, HCF	

Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
		agencies and neighbors if sources are located offsite							
Objective NR-4.2: Protect the quality of existing pond habitat	Pond Management	4.2.a. Prepare a pond management plan to enhance and protect habitat conditions for CRLF (present), WPT (present), and SFGS (potentially present); include measures to prevent and remove sedimentation (complete), manage cattails, and maintain optimum water levels; implement plan accordingly	High	CR, NR	\$100,000 for enhancement projects every 1-2 years	I-IV	9 months for plan preparation Ongoing implementation	HCF, CDFG	USFWS, CDFG
Objective NR-4.3: Develop new and restore former stock ponds to increase available aquatic habitat	New Pond Formation	4.3.a. Work with agricultural tenants, USFWS, and CDFG to identify opportunities to develop new ponds for dual use as cattle stock ponds and habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species; explore feasibility and suitability of restoring the former Red Barn pond; implement accordingly	Low	NR	\$300,000	IV	3 years	HCF	Tenants, USFWS, CDFG
Objective NR-4.4: Identify and maintain existing springs and water infrastructure	Springs and Water Infrastructure	4.4.a. Locate and assess condition of springs and water infrastructure	High	RES, CR	\$5,000	I	2-3 years		
		4.4.b. Maintain database of water rights, springs, and water infrastructure; identify any reporting requirements	Moderate	PRG	\$0	I-IV	Ongoing		
		4.4.c. Prioritize improvements and/or enhancements to existing springs and water infrastructure; implement as appropriate	Low	PRM, M	\$30,000	I	2 years	Prop 84	Tenants

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Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
Goal NR-5: Protect and enhance native grassland vegetation									
Objective NR-5.1: Continue and expand the grazing program as a conservation tool to help manage grasslands	Livestock Grazing	5.1.a. Continue conservation grazing in southern La Honda Creek OSP	High	NR	Costs reflected under Goal NR-5, Objective NR-5.1, Actions 5.1.b. and 5.1.c.	I-IV	Ongoing	NRCS	NRCS, RCD, Farm, Tenants
		5.1.b. Expand conservation grazing into northern and central grasslands as a tool to address fuel reduction, control invasive plants, control brush encroachment, and conserve native plant and animal diversity; implement grazing plan; install grazing infrastructure (e.g. new and/or repairs to pasture fences, new gates); prepare RFP; select grazing tenant	High	NR	\$75,000	I-IV	Ongoing	NRCS	NRCS, RCD, Farm, Tenants
		5.1.c. Implement the rangeland monitoring programs developed for northern, central, and southern areas of the Preserve; evaluate target measures for grassland health, vegetation composition, and watershed protection to understand management effects; modify management actions accordingly	High	CR, NR, RES	\$0	I-IV	Ongoing		
Objective NR-5.2: Utilize a variety of management techniques to prevent brush encroachment into grassland habitat	Other Grassland Management Techniques	5.2.a. Periodically manage brush and invasive species encroachment into grassland habitats and forage areas using methods complementary to livestock grazing (e.g. mowing, herbicides)	Moderate	NR	\$30,000 - \$70,000	I-IV	Ongoing		
Objective NR-5.3: Protect populations of rare plants	Rare Plant Populations	5.3.a. Develop and implement a management plan to facilitate natural regeneration of King's Mountain Manzanita	Moderate	NR	\$20,000	III-IV	5-10 years		Grants
Objective NR-5.3 (continued): Protect populations	Rare Plant Populations (continued)	5.3.b. Periodically monitor select rare plant occurrences to determine if changes in land management	Moderate	NR, RES	\$10,000 every 5-10	I-IV	Ongoing		CNPS, VOL

Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
of rare plants		are needed to protect rare plants			years				
Objective NR-5.4: Protect, and where appropriate, enhance forest habitat	Forest Management	5.4.a. Conduct forest assessments to document forest conditions and health	Moderate	CR, NR, RES	\$20,000	II-III	2 years		
		5.4.b. Develop forest management practices and incorporate with resource management projects	Moderate	CR, NR	\$0	I	2 years		
		5.4.c. Develop and maintain a GIS database of notable trees and groves of various species, include point locations and tree descriptions	Moderate	NR, RES, PRG	\$5,000 for initial data analysis and dataset development	I-IV	Ongoing		CNPS, VOL
	Sudden Oak Death	5.4.d. Continue to monitor sudden oak death (SOD); install SOD cleaning stations at parking areas as needed and educate visitors regarding the potential spread and impact of this disease; follow SOD Best Management Practices when conducting maintenance and construction activities; remove hazard trees in high use areas	High	NR, RES, PRG	\$25,000 - \$50,000	I-IV	Ongoing		Academic, SOD
Objective NR-5.5: Eradicate or control key non-native, invasive species	Invasive Plant Control	5.5.a. Continue to implement slender false brome eradication program	High	NR	\$6,000	I-II	5-10 years	Prop 84	
		5.5.b. Continue to identify, map, monitor and remove invasive plants, including Harding grass, distaff thistle, and French broom; focus on high priority invasive stands that threaten sensitive and unique resources	Moderate	M, NR	\$100,000	I-IV	Ongoing		
		5.5.c. Use native vegetation in re-vegetation applications to the maximum extent possible	High	PRG	Costs reflected under other Goals and Objectives	I-IV	Ongoing		
Goal NR-6: Protect native wildlife populations									
Objective NR-6.1: Protect and enhance populations of listed wildlife species	Rare Wildlife Species	6.1.a. Survey populations of listed species, in particular bat colonies, California red-legged frog, steelhead salmon, and San Francisco garter snake (SFGS)	High	RES, CR	\$25,000 for each survey; average of 1 survey every 2	I-IV	Ongoing	CDFG	USFWS, CDFG, NOAA

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Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
					years				
		6.1.b. Partner with resource agencies to cross-share species data; facilitate additional sensitive species habitat and population research; assess potential for reintroduction of SFGS	Moderate	RES, CR	\$20,000 - \$40,000	I-IV	Ongoing	CDFG	USFWS, CDFG, NOAA
Objective NR-6.2: Identify and protect key wildlife corridors	Wildlife Corridors	6.2.a. Identify key wildlife corridors within the Preserve to inform resource management practices; review the Uplands Goals Project and other published documents to better understand wildlife corridors in the Santa Cruz Mountains	Low	RES	\$5,000	III	3 years		USFWS, CDFG, BAOSC
		6.2.b. Utilize wildlife friendly fencing to allow for wildlife movement between fenced areas	High	NR	Costs reflected under other Goals and Objectives	I-IV	Ongoing		Tenants
CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT									
Goal CR-1: Protect significant cultural, historical, and archaeological resources									
Objective CR-1.1: Organize and increase the District's knowledge of the Preserve's cultural resources and populate GIS databases with new and up to date information	Cultural Resource Inventories and Databases	1.1.a. Continuously update the District's cultural resource inventory as information becomes available	High	PRG, RES	Costs reflected under other Goals and Objectives	I-IV	Ongoing		
Objective CR-1.2: Implement cultural resource protection measures	Cultural Resource Protection Measures	1.2.a. Follow cultural resource protection measures listed in Appendix C, as appropriate, to properly manage known and unknown resources	High	PRG, CR	Costs reflected under other Goals and Objectives	I-IV	Ongoing		
Objective CR-1.3: Protect historically significant structures	Red Barn	1.3.a. Retain the Red Barn as a cultural resource; hire a qualified architectural historian to evaluate the Red Barn for	Low	CR, RES	\$20,000 for evaluation	IV	1-2 years	PA	

Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
		nomination on historic registers							
		1.3.b. Prepare site plan for the Red Barn area that includes a parking area, potential reuse of the Red Barn garage & corrals, picnic areas, and interpretive opportunities	High	CR	\$70,000	I	1-2 years	CCHE, CHF, NTHP	
		1.3.c. Prepare a maintenance plan that identifies routine repairs to keep Red Barn, corrals, & fencing in good condition; include repainting and reroofing maintenance cycles; implement accordingly	Moderate	CR, M	\$70,000 for plan preparation and high priority repairs	II	1 year for plan preparation Ongoing maintenance	CCHE, CHF, NTHP, PA	
	White Barn	1.3.d. Retain the White Barn as a cultural resource pending historical and structural evaluations	High	CR	\$0	I-IV	Ongoing		
		1.3.e. Address deferred maintenance as necessary to extend building longevity pending historical and structural evaluations	High	M	\$10,000	I	1-2 years	CCHE, CHF, NTHP, SAT	
		1.3.f. Hire a qualified architectural historian and structural engineer to evaluate the historical significance and condition of the White Barn and surrounding landscape features and make recommendations for preservation, interpretation, rehabilitation, and reuse	Moderate	CR, RES	\$20,000	I	1 year		
		1.3.g. If long-term preservation is recommended based on the historical and structural evaluations, prepare a maintenance plan that identifies routine repairs and maintenance cycles; implement accordingly	Moderate	M	\$10,000 for plan preparation	III	1 year for plan preparation Ongoing maintenance	CCHE, CHF, NTHP, PA	
	Objective CR-1.3 (continued): Protect historically	Redwood Cabin	1.3.h. Retain the Cabin as a cultural resource pending historical and structural evaluations	High	CR	\$0	I-IV	Ongoing	CCHE

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Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
significant structures		1.3.i. Address deferred maintenance as necessary to extend building longevity pending historical and structural evaluations	High	M	\$50,000	I	1-2 years	CCHE, CHF, NTHP, SAT	
		1.3.j. Hire a qualified architectural historian and structural engineer to evaluate the historical significance and condition of the Redwood Cabin and surrounding landscape features and make recommendations for preservation, interpretation, rehabilitation, and reuse	High	CR, RES	\$50,000	II	1 year	CCHE, CHF, NTHP	
		1.3.k. If long-term preservation is recommended based on the historical and structural evaluations, prepare a detailed site plan that identifies connecting trails, interpretive signage, and other site improvements; solicit proposals for reuse of site accordingly	High	CR	\$45,000	II	1-2 years	CCHE, CHF, NTHP, PA	
		1.3.l. If long-term preservation is recommended based on the historical and structural evaluations, prepare a maintenance plan that identifies routine repairs and maintenance cycles; implement accordingly	Moderate	M	\$20,000 for plan preparation	III	1 year for plan preparation Ongoing maintenance	CCHE, CHF, NTHP, PA	
	Former Driscoll Ranch Area	1.3.m. Hire a qualified architectural historian, and if needed, a structural engineer to assess structures deemed potentially significant prior to determining final disposition; manage structures accordingly	Moderate	CR, RES	\$50,000 for plan preparation	I-IV	1 year for plan preparation Ongoing maintenance	CCHE	
Objective CR-1.4: Protect key cultural landscape features	Historic Logging Features and Sawmill Sites	1.4.a. Conduct archaeological surveys to verify and document the presence of historic logging era features	Low	CR, RES	\$30,000	IV	1-2 years	CCHE	
Objective CR-1.4 (continued): Protect key cultural	Historic Logging Features and Sawmill Sites (continued)	1.4.b. Inventory and monitor noteworthy historic logging features	High	CR, RES	\$0	I-IV	Ongoing	SAT	

Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
landscape features	La Honda Oil Field	1.4.c. Research oil field's history and consider inclusion in interpretive materials on the history of La Honda Creek OSP	Low	RES, PRG	\$0	IV	1 year		
PUBLIC ACCESS, RECREATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION									
Goal PA-1: Enhance the recreational opportunities in the Preserve									
Objective PA-1.1: Open additional areas within the Preserve to the public for low-intensity recreation and enjoyment	Public Use	1.1.a. Keep existing trails open to hiking; continue to allow off-trail hiking except in Conservation Management Units; open new trails and areas to hiking as they become available (Redwood Cabin area, former Weeks/Red Barn Area, former Driscoll Ranch area)	High	POL	\$1,000 per year for signs and factsheets Other costs reflected under other Goals and Objectives	I-IV	Ongoing		VOL
		1.1.b. Keep existing designated trails open to equestrian use; open new trails to equestrian use as they become available, unless site conditions do not allow trail construction to meet District equestrian standards	High	POL	Costs reflected under other Goals and Objectives	I-IV	Ongoing		VOL
Objective PA-1.2: Where appropriate, allow bicycle use	Bicycle Use	1.2.a. In order of priority: Open the ranch road that connects Sears Ranch Rd to the Red Barn area to bicycles; open a portion of the La Honda Creek Loop Trail to bicycles; open the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment to bicycles once one safe through trail connection is secured (actions require approval by regulatory agencies)	High	POL	\$15,000 for signs, factsheets, and stiles Other costs reflected under other Goals and Objectives	TBD for BART; I-III for other trails	6-9 months	BART	BART
Objective PA-1.3: Where appropriate, allow dogs on leash	Dog Use	1.3.a. Open trails north of the Vista Point to dogs on leash after grazing is reintroduced; implement seasonal closures, if needed, to avoid impacts to grazing operation (requires approval by regulatory agencies)	High	POL	\$10,000 for signs, factsheets, fencing, and stiles	I	1 year		VOL

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Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
		1.3.b. Coordinate with Driscoll Ranch tenant to explore the possibility of introducing dogs near Sears Ranch Rd; discuss potential changes to grazing operation, seasonal closures, fencing, etc; implement accordingly (requires approval by regulatory agencies)	High	POL	\$10,000 - \$20,000 for signs, factsheets, fencing, and stiles	I	1-2 years		Tenants
Objective PA-1.4: Follow appropriate steps to responsibly open new areas to public use	Signs, Brochures, and Other Forms of Public Information	1.4.a Install Preserve signage to inform the public of District rules, regulations, and trail network; update as appropriate	High	PGM	Costs reflected under Goal PA-1	I-IV	Ongoing		
		1.4.b Develop a new Preserve brochure; revise as new parking areas and trails are constructed and opened	High	PGM	\$1,000 for each revision	I-IV	Ongoing		
		1.4.c Post Preserve information on the District's website and periodically include in the District's newsletter	High	PGM	\$0	I-IV	Ongoing		
		1.4.d Solicit volunteer assistance to help educate the public and assist with Master Plan implementation	High	PGM	\$0	I-IV	Ongoing		VOL
Objective PA-1.4 (continued): Follow appropriate steps to responsibly open new areas to public use	Land Treatments to Prepare the Preserve for Public Use	1.4.e Target priority invasive plant populations to reduce spread	High	CIP	\$10,000 - \$50,000 for invasive plant control every 5 years	I-IV	Ongoing		VOL
		1.4.f Implement priority road and trail treatments to upgrade roads for increased use	High	CIP	Costs reflected under Goal PA-3	I-IV	Varies, depending on the trail project		
		1.4.g Incorporate trail design features to reduce speeds	High	CIP	Costs reflected under Goal PA-3	I-IV	Varies, depending on the trail project		

Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
	Measures to Introduce Public Use in Leased Areas	1.4.h Post signs on trail etiquette and include safety tips on sharing trails with cattle; author newsletter articles and brochures on safety and etiquette when recreating in grazing areas; communicate safety and etiquette information during docent led tours; install residence privacy signs; realign trail segments away from popular cattle resting areas, ranching facilities, and residences, where feasible; relocate troughs and other ranching facilities away from public access areas, where feasible; install wildlife-friendly fencing; install stiles and self-closing gates to move visitors between pastures	Moderate	CIP	\$10,000 - \$50,000	I-IV	Ongoing		Tenants, VOL
Goal PA-2: Expand and improve the available parking									
Objective PA-2.1: Improve the Allen Road permit parking lot layout	Allen Road Permit Parking Area Enhancements	2.1.a Improve the permit parking area by formalizing parking spaces, installing signboards, split rail fencing, and a larger turnaround (the Permit Parking Area will continue to be limited to no more than 10 vehicles each day per an agreement with Allen Rd neighbors)	Moderate	CIP	\$75,000	II	1-2 years	LWCF	
Objective PA-2.2: Provide additional parking elsewhere in the Preserve where feasible	Red Barn Parking Area	2.2.a Construct a new parking area for 15-25 vehicles, 3-6 horse trailers, with a restroom; work with a transportation engineer to design new driveway entry; make additional improvements to increase line of sight; design improvements to reflect and enhance the rural character of the Red Barn	High	CIP	\$500,000 - \$700,000	II	4 years	LWCF	CalTrans

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Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
	Sears Ranch Road Parking Area, Gate LH11	2.2.b Make minor improvements to establish a small interim permit parking area to expedite opening the former Driscoll Ranch area to public use (interim permit parking area will be replaced with a formal parking area per Action Description 2.2.c.)	High	CIP	\$25,000 - \$50,000	I	1 year		LHES
		2.2.c Construct a new parking area at the end of Sears Ranch Road for 10-20 vehicles with restroom; include a setback for the parking area of at least 300 feet from the nearby school; locate facilities, signs, and the trailhead away from the school boundary; work with La Honda Elementary School to address potential use and safety concerns	Moderate	CIP	\$350,000	II	3-4 years	LWCF	LHES
	Former Driscoll Ranch West Gate Parking Area (across from the Driscoll Events Center)	2.2.d Make minor improvements to establish an interim parking area for horse trailers to expedite opening the former Driscoll Ranch area to public use (interim parking area will be replaced with a formal parking area per Action Description 2.2.e.)	High	CIP	\$25,000 - \$50,000	I	1 year		
Objective PA-2.2 (continued): Provide additional parking elsewhere in the Preserve where feasible	Former Driscoll Ranch West Gate Parking Area (across from the Driscoll Events Center) (continued)	2.2.e Construct a new parking area in the southwestern corner of the Preserve, across the street from the Driscoll Events Center, for 10-20 vehicles, 3-6 horse trailers, with a restroom; work with a transportation engineer to improve/redesign the driveway entrance for better line of sight to the west and prune trees/remove brush along the highway and at the driveway entry	Moderate	CIP	\$600,000 - \$800,000	II	4 years	LWCF	

Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
	Future Parking Area Expansions	2.2.f Should parking demand exceed expectations, consider expanding one or more of the parking areas (with the exception of the Allen Road Permit Parking Area); implement as appropriate	Low	CIP	\$50,000 - \$80,000	IV	1-2 years		
Goal PA-3: Enhance the Preserve trail system									
Objective PA-3.1: Provide loop trails and trail connections to parking areas, key destination sites, and newly opened areas of the Preserve	Former Driscoll Ranch Area Main Access Road, 5.6 mi (Trail #1 on Figures 11a and 11b)	3.1.a Open ranch access roads to public use; implement measures to effectively and responsibly introduce public use within leased areas (i.e., installation of educational signs, compatible gates, trail bypasses, etc.)	High	CIP	\$40,000	I	6-9 months		Tenants
		3.1.b Install and maintain improvements to the roads to reduce erosion potential and correct drainage per Road and Trail Assessment Report; begin with high priority improvements, and phase the remainder over time	Moderate	CIP	\$1,000,000	I-III	2-3 years for each phase of work		Tenants
	Allen Road Permit Parking Lot Loop Trail, 0.9 miles (Trail #2 on Figures 11a and 11b)	3.1.c Implement surface and drainage improvements to the upper loop trail that originates at the Allen Road permit parking lot and encircles the former Dyer Ranch house	High	CIP	\$25,000-\$35,000	I	6-9 months	RTP	
Objective PA-3.1 (continued): Provide loop trails and trail connections to parking areas, key destination sites, and newly opened areas of the Preserve	Vista Point Loop Trail, 2.8 miles (Trail #3 on Figures 11a and 11b)	3.1.d Open a new loop trail in the western corner of the northern area of the Preserve, from the Allen Road permit parking lot to the vista point and back; utilize existing roads for portions of the loop trail; realign and/or improve drainage of existing steep sections of road to address erosion; construct new trail at a 3-4 foot width and follow contours, where feasible	Moderate	CIP	\$160,000 - \$190,000	II	3 years	RTP, HCF	VOL

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Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
	Trail Connection: Former Dyer Ranch Area to Former Weeks Ranch Area, 0.3 miles (Trail #4 on Figures 11a and 11b)	3.1.e Construct a new trail connection at a 2-4 foot width to connect trails in the northern and central areas of the Preserve	High	CIP	\$20,000 - \$40,000	II	3 years	RTP, BABT, BART	VOL
	Trail Connection: Former Weeks Ranch Area to Former Driscoll Ranch Area, 1.5 miles (Trail #5 on Figures 11a and 11b)	3.1.f Open a new trail connection between the former Weeks and Driscoll Ranch areas; utilize existing roads for portions of the trail; rock road surface and improve drainage on existing steep sections of road to address erosion	High	CIP	\$130,000 - \$150,000	II	3 years	RTP, HCF	VOL
	La Honda Creek Loop Trails, 4.8 mi (Trail #6 on Figures 11a and 11b)	3.1.g Open new loop trails in the eastern area of the former Driscoll Ranch; utilize existing roads for portions of the loop trails; realign and/or improve drainage of existing steep sections of road to address erosion; construct new trail at a 3-4 foot width and follow contours, where feasible	Moderate	CIP	\$60,000 - \$90,000	II	3-4 years	RTP, HCF	Tenants, VOL
Objective PA-3.1 (continued): Provide loop trails and trail connections to parking areas, key destination sites, and newly opened areas of the Preserve	Redwood Cabin Loop Trail, 2.3 mi (Trail #7 on Figures 11a and 11b)	3.1.h Construct a new loop trail in the northern area of the Preserve, from the Allen Road permit parking lot to the Redwood Cabin and back; utilize existing roads for portions of the loop trail; realign and/or improve drainage of existing steep sections of road to address erosion; construct new trail at a 3-4 foot width and follow contours, where feasible	Low	CIP	\$230,000 - \$260,000	III	3 years	RTP, HCF, EEMP	VOL
	Interior Loop Trail North of the Red Barn Area, 2.4 mi (Trail #8 on Figures 11a and 11b)	3.1.i Open a loop trail north of the Red Barn to public use; make necessary drainage improvements and/or road realignments to address erosion concerns	Moderate	CIP	\$60,000 - \$90,000	II-III	2-3 years		VOL

Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
	Red Barn Area Loop Trail, 2.0 mi (Trail #9 on Figures 11a and 11b)	3.1.j Construct a new loop trail in the Red Barn area off the new parking lot; incorporate the trail alignment into the Red Barn site specific plan	High	CIP	\$25,000 - \$35,000	III-IV	3 years	RTP, HCF	VOL
	Former Folger Ranch Loop Trails, 3.9 mi (Trail #10 on Figures 11a and 11b)	3.1.k Construct a new double loop trail along the western area of the former Driscoll Ranch; utilize as much of the existing road network as appropriate; construct new trail at a 3-4 foot width and follow contours, where feasible	Moderate	CIP	\$40,000 - \$60,000	III	3 years	RTP, BAPT	Tenants, VOL
	Harrington Creek Trail, 1.6 mi (Trail #11 on Figures 11a and 11b)	3.1.l Construct a new 3-4 foot trail through the Harrington Creek drainage, south of the northern segment of the existing ranch access road; follow contours, where feasible	Low	CIP	\$20,000 - \$30,000	IV	3-4 years	RTP, BAPT	VOL
Objective PA-3.1 (continued): Provide loop trails and trail connections to parking areas, key destination sites, and newly opened areas of the Preserve	Former Sears Ranch Loop Trail, 1.9 mi (Trail #12 on Figures 11a and 11b)	3.1.m Construct a new loop trail above the former Sears Ranch building complex; utilize existing roads for portions of the loop trail; realign and/or improve drainage of existing steep sections of road to address erosion; construct new trail at a 3-4 foot width and follow contours, where feasible	Low	CIP	\$30,000 - \$50,000	IV	3-4 years	RTP, BAPT	Tenants, VOL
	Trail to Ray's Peak, 0.1 mile (Trail #13 on Figures 11a and 11b)	3.1.n Construct an out-and-back destination trail to Ray's Peak at a 2-4 foot width; follow contours, where feasible	Low	CIP	\$20,000 - \$30,000	IV	3 years	RTP	VOL
Goal PA-4: Expand opportunities for people with diverse physical abilities to enjoy passive recreational and educational activities									
Objective PA-4.1: Provide trails with a wide variety of mileages, elevation changes, and levels of difficulty that reflect a diverse	Easy Access Trail, Allen Road Permit Parking Lot Loop Trail	4.1.a. Following implementation of surface and drainage improvements, designate the trail as an easy access trail that can support wheelchairs and strollers; if feasible, feature the White Barn and old-growth redwood	High	CIP	Costs reflected under Goal PA-3, Objective PA-3.1, Action 3.1.c.	I	6-9 months	RTP	

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Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
population	Red Barn Area Easy Access Trails	4.1.b. Design and construct trails and paths leading to key destination sites within the Red Barn area as easy access trails that can support wheelchairs and strollers, as feasible; incorporate the easy access trails and paths into the Red Barn site plan	High	CIP	\$10,000 for easy access trail upgrades	III-IV	6-9 months	RTP	
	Preserve Trails (approx. 30 mi total)	4.1.c. The actions under Goal PA-3 include a wide variety of new trails with varying mileages and elevation changes to accommodate diverse physical abilities	Refer to Goal PA-3	Refer to Goal PA-3	Costs reflected under Goal PA-3	Refer to Goal PA-3	Refer to Goal PA-3	Refer to Goal PA-3	Refer to Goal PA-3
Goal PA-5: Promote regional trail connections									
Objective PA-5.1: Provide connections to other public open space lands where feasible	Connection to El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve	5.1.a. Work with neighbors to establish access rights for a new regional trail connection from El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve to La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve	High	NG	TBD	TBD	3-4 years	BART, RTP	BART
	Connection to Sam McDonald County Park	5.1.b. Work with the La Honda and Cuesta La Honda Guild communities and San Mateo County Parks to identify a suitable trail connection between La Honda Creek OSP and Sam McDonald County Park; if achieved, work with additional stakeholders to refine and implement vision of a long-distance loop trail	Low	NG	TBD	TBD	4-5 years	RTP	Parks
Objective PA-5.2: Designate a Bay Area Ridge Trail corridor through the Preserve	Bay Area Ridge Trail Alignment	5.2.a. Designate a Bay Area Ridge Trail corridor through the Preserve once: one safe, through connection is established and the interior alignment is fully constructed and opened for public use	Moderate	POL, NG	TBD	TBD	6 months	BART, RTP	BART

Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
Goal PA-6: Educate the public about Preserve resources									
Objective PA-6.1: Interpret the natural and cultural resources of La Honda Creek OSP to expand public understanding of the Preserve's local and regional role and how past land uses have shaped the current condition of the landscape	Signs, Displays, Interpretive Hikes, Field Trips	6.1.a. Develop interpretive material, including signs and displays, to aid self-guided hikes, docent-led hikes, and educational field trips; relate information on past and current practices to the protection and preservation of the natural resources	Moderate	PRG	\$10,000 - \$30,000	I-IV	1-2 years for each project	CCHE	LHES
	Red Barn Area	6.1.b. Develop an interpretive program that includes community events, docent-led tours, school field trips, and/or self-guided tours; focus on resource-related topics including role of conservation grazing, bats, grassland management, and stewardship	Moderate	PRG	\$5,000 - \$10,000	I-IV	Program development: 6-9 months Implementation: Ongoing	HCF	
		6.1.c. Install interpretive signage; topics may include past ranching uses, history of structure and site rehabilitation, bat habitat, conservation grazing, and history of La Honda	Low	PRG	\$8,000	I	1-2 years	CCHE	
		6.1.d. Explore the possibility of installing a "bat window" at the Red Barn with associated devices (e.g., periscope, night vision goggles) to view the bats without disturbing them; implement accordingly	Low	RES	\$20,000	II	1-2 years		Audubon
		6.1.e. Hire an engineer to evaluate the structural integrity of the former Ranch House garage for use as an interpretive educational facility; retain and reuse if deemed structurally sound	Low	CIP, PRG	\$15,000 for engineering assessment \$80,000 for upgrades and furnishings	III	2-3 years		
6.1.f. Incorporate interpretive projects into the Red Barn area site plan		Low	PRG	\$0	I	1-2 years			

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Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
	White Barn	6.1.g. Design and install an exterior display to interpret the barn's past uses and its place in the landscape	Low	PRG	\$8,000	II	1-2 years	CCHE	
	Redwood Cabin	6.1.h. Design and install an exterior interpretive display in accordance with the Redwood Cabin site plan; topics may include history of the structure and early 20 th century recreation in the Santa Cruz Mountains	Low	PRG	\$8,000	II	1-2 years	CCHE	
Objective PA-6.1 (continued): Interpret the natural and cultural resources of La Honda Creek OSP to expand public understanding of the Preserve's local and regional role and how past land uses have shaped the current condition of the landscape	Former Driscoll Ranch Area	6.1.i. Highlight the ranch's agricultural history and its current use as a working ranch; include information on the benefits of cattle grazing and its use as a grassland management tool	Moderate	PRG	Costs reflected under Goal PA-6, Objective PA-6.1, Action 6.1.a.	I	1 year	CCHE	LHES
	Historic Logging Features	6.1.j. Select key features for interpretation and incorporate them as part of the trail experience, where appropriate	Low	PRG	Costs reflected under Goal PA-3, Objective PA-3.1	I-IV	6-9 months each site	CCHE	
Goal PA-7: Enhance the trail experience									
Objective PA-7.1: Provide trail-related amenities	Horse Troughs	7.1.a. Install horse troughs where appropriate	Low	PRG	\$1,000 each	I-IV	6-9 months each	BABT	
	Picnic Areas	7.1.b. Develop picnic sites in the Red Barn and Redwood Cabin areas; incorporate them into the site plans	Low	CIP	\$10,000 each	II	6-9 months each site		
	Memorial Bench and Bridge Sites	7.1.c. Identify potential memorial bench and bridge site locations; install benches or bridge plaques as appropriate	Low	PRG	\$2,500 each for benches \$500 each for bridge plaques	I-IV	6-9 months each site		
Objective PA-7.2: Remove obstructions to	Undergrounding Overhead Lines	7.2.a. Underground or replace overhead line that extends past Sears Ranch Rd with a solar system	Moderate	CIP	\$40,000	III	1-2 years	PG&E	PG&E

Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
important viewsheds	Removal of Dilapidated and Obsolete Structures	7.2.b. Demolish and remove unused and/or un-maintained structures that do not hold historic value	Moderate	SAFE, M, CIP	\$60,000	I-II	5 years		
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION									
Goal MO-1: Reduce and control sources of erosion and sedimentation									
Objective MO-1.1: Follow Best Management Practices during road and trail maintenance and construction	Best Management Practices	1.1.a. Implement Best Management Practices during road and trail maintenance and construction to control erosion	High	PRG	Costs reflected under Goal PA-3 and Goal MO-1, Objective MO-1.2	I-IV	Ongoing		
Objective MO-1.2: Maintain and manage roads and trails to address road-related erosion	Road and Trail Treatments	1.2.a. Implement treatment recommendations for erosion sites as described in the Road and Trail Assessment reports; treatments include culvert replacements, waterbars, recontouring, and out-sloping	High	NR, M, CIP	\$400,000 - \$600,000	I-III	5-10 years	Prop 84, HCF, RWQCB, EEMP, CDFG	
	Road Maintenance Plan	1.2.b. Prepare a Road Maintenance Plan that identifies problem sites and includes a repair history and maintenance schedule; use GIS to facilitate information tracking to the extent possible	Moderate	M, CIP	\$50,000	II	2 years		
	Road Restoration	1.2.c. Prepare a Road Restoration Plan to retire and restore abandoned and unnecessary roads to reduce potential sediment input; implement accordingly	High	NR, CIP	\$50,000 for plan \$300,000 - \$400,000 for restoration	I-III	Plan preparation: 3 years Restoration: 5-7 years	RTP, EEMP, CDFG, RWQCB	
Objective MO-1.3: Evaluate and address erosion caused by cattle and the grazing operation	Grazing Impact Treatments	1.3.a. Per Goal NR-4, Objective NR-4.1, Actions 4.1.f. and 4.1.g., implement corrective measures to reduce erosion caused by cattle and the grazing operation, including installing exclusionary fencing, rocking road surfaces, and improving channel crossings	High	NR, CIP	Cost reflected under Goal NR-4, Objective NR-4.1, Actions 4.1.f. and 4.1.g.	I	3 years	CDFG, RCD, NRCS, Prop 84, HCF, EQIP	

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Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
Goal MO-2: Reduce fire risk									
Objective MO-2.1: Implement practices to manage wildland fuels and reduce fire hazards	Defensible Space	2.1.a. Reduce fuel loads in order to limit flame length to 2 feet within 30 feet of key structures, and maintain vegetation to defensible space guidelines within 100 feet of key structures	High	SAFE, M	\$5,000 - 10,000 every 3 years	I-IV	Ongoing		
	Ignition Reduction	2.1.b. Work cooperatively with CalTrans to facilitate roadside vegetation management on stretches of Hwys. 35 and 84 that front District land	High	SAFE, M	\$0	I-IV	Ongoing		CalTrans
		2.1.c. Manage vegetation adjacent to high risk ignition locations in the interior of the Preserve	High	SAFE, M	\$5,000 per year	I-IV	Ongoing		CalFire
	Trail Closures During Red Flag Days	2.1.d. Close trails within the Coastside Protection Area on predicted high fire response level days (Burn Index \geq 41)	High	SAFE, PRG	\$0	I-IV	Ongoing		
	Fire Containment	2.1.e. Work cooperatively with CalFire to facilitate the creation and maintenance of a new fuel break across the northwestern area of the Preserve (approx. 0.5 mi.)	Moderate	SAFE, M	\$50,000 to install fuel break \$10,000 every 3-5 years for maintenance	I-IV	Ongoing		CalFire
		2.1.f. Work cooperatively with CalFire to facilitate the creation and maintenance of a new shaded fuel break across the center of the Preserve from the former Dyer Ranch to the former Weeks Ranch (approx. 0.5 mi.)	Moderate	SAFE, M	\$50,000 to install fuel break \$10,000 every 3-5 years for maintenance	I-IV	Ongoing		CalFire
		2.1.g. Work cooperatively with adjacent property owners to maximize fire reduction efforts on a regional scale	Moderate	SAFE, M	\$5,000 - \$50,000 every 3-5 years	I-IV	Ongoing		

Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
Objective MO-2.2: Protect and manage natural resources by modifying vegetation/fuel	Brush Encroachment Reduction	2.2.a. Per Goal NR-5, Objectives NR-5.1 and NR-5.2, Actions 5.1.b. and 5.2.a., restore grasslands and control coyote brush encroachment near and around the Red Barn area utilizing conservation grazing and other forms of grassland management	High	SAFE, NR, M	Cost reflected under Goal NR-5, Objectives NR-5.1 and NR-5.2, Actions 5.1.b. and 5.2.a.	II	5 years for restoration Ongoing maintenance		
		2.2.b. Per Goal NR-5, Objectives NR-5.1 and NR-5.2, Actions 5.1.b. and 5.2.a., reduce the encroachment of coyote brush into grassland areas along forested edges to reduce ladder fuels	High	SAFE, NR, M	Cost reflected under Goal NR-5, Objectives NR-5.1 and NR-5.2, Actions 5.1.b. and 5.2.a.	II	5 years for restoration Ongoing maintenance		
Objective MO-2.3: Facilitate wildland fire response and suppression	Emergency Vehicle Access	2.3.a. Maintain fuels to reduce flame length to 2 feet, where feasible, using equipment (1) within 10 feet of road edges in the Preserve where flames are predicted to be 0-8 feet, and (2) within 30 feet of road edges in the Preserve where flames are predicted to be >8 feet	High	SAFE, M	Cost reflected under Goal MO-2, Objective MO-2.1, Action 2.1.c	I-IV	Ongoing		
	Bridge Improvements	2.3.b. Hire engineer to assess the vehicular bridge located north of the Redwood Cabin; replace/repair bridge accordingly	High	SAFE, CIP	\$200,000 - \$300,000	II	5 years	Bond	
		2.3.c. Replace the vehicular bridge located at LH08; hire engineers to design new crossing for vehicular use	High	SAFE, CIP	\$400,000 - \$500,000	I	5 years	BOND	
Objective MO-2.3 (continued): Facilitate wildland fire response and suppression	Bridge Improvements (continued)	2.3.d. Evaluate structural integrity and rating of the Harrington Creek vehicular bridge; make repairs and upgrades as needed	High	SAFE, CIP	\$20,000 for evaluation	I	1 year for assessment 5 years for repair/upgrade		
	Additional Fire Suppression Water Sources	2.3.e. Deepen pond located between former Dyer and Weeks Ranch and former Weeks Ranch	Moderate	SAFE	\$30,000 - \$50,000 for pond deepening	II-III	3-5 years		USFWS, CDFG

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Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
		2.3.f. Per Goal NR-4, Objective NR-4.3, Action 4.3.a., develop new and restore former ponds to increase number of water sources	Low	SAFE, NR	Costs reflected under Goal NR-4, Objective NR-4.3, Action 4.3.a.	IV	3 years	HCF	Tenants, USFWS, CDFG
Objective MO-2.4: Prepare a Wildland Fire Response Plan	Wildland Fire Response Plan	2.4.a. Develop a Wildland Fire Response Plan to identify Best Management Practices for fire suppression activities and protection of natural and cultural resources; consult with response agencies, residents, and community leaders	High	SAFE, PRG	\$25,000	I	5 Years		CalFire, County, LHFB
Goal MO-3: Address environmental hazards									
Objective MO-3.1: Remediate environmental hazards in accordance with regulatory agency requirements	Site Containment and Remediation (Final Remedial Actions for 4 Known Contamination Sites)	3.1.a. Contain and secure contaminated areas until remedial actions are fully addressed; meanwhile keep sites closed to public use	High	SAFE	\$1,000	I	2 years		
		3.1.b. Complete remedial action treatments as approved and directed by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, including development of a Soil Management Plan (SMP); follow SMP when conducting work within the four target sites	High	SAFE	\$40,000	I	1 year	EEMP	
	Dilapidated Structures and Debris	3.1.c. As part of or prior to demolition and removal of structures, abate for asbestos and lead-based paint, as appropriate	Moderate	SAFE, M, CIP	\$30,000	I-II	5 years		
Objective MO-3.1 (continued): Remediate environmental hazards in accordance with regulatory agency requirements	Dilapidated Structures and Debris (continued)	3.1.d. Clean and properly dispose of debris and waste deposited by former ranches	Low	SAFE, M, NR	\$10,000	I	5 years		

Goals and Objectives	Plan Element	Action Description	Priority	Action Type	Cost	Phase	Expected Duration	Outside Funding Sources	Potential Partners
Goal MO-4: Update the land classification for individual Preserve parcels									
Objective MO-4.1: Amend Williamson Act contracts	Williamson Act	4.1.a. In cooperation with San Mateo County, update/amend Williamson Act contracts to permits compatible open space and recreational uses	High	POL	\$6,000		1 year		
Objective MO-4.2: File for non-renewal of Williamson Act contracts	Williamson Act	4.1.b. If appropriate, file notices of nonrenewal with San Mateo County for lands historically covered by Williamson Act contracts	Moderate	POL	\$0	I	1 year		
Objective MO-4.3: Assess parcels for open space dedication	Open Space Dedication	4.2.a. Assess parcels for open space dedication under Public Resources Code Section 5540 and refer them to the Board on an annual basis per the adopted Dedication Policy	Moderate	POL	\$0	I	1 year		
Goal MO-5: Maintain District rental facilities in working and safe condition									
Objective MO-5.1: Make necessary structural and mechanical system upgrades to rental structures	Red Barn Rental	5.1.a. Maintain the existing rental residence and retain as District employee housing	High	CIP	\$20,000 - \$40,000 for major repairs every 10 years	I-IV	1-2 years for each major improvement		
	Former Folger Ranch Rental	5.1.b. Make upgrades to the existing rental residence and retain as District employee housing	High	CIP	\$100,000 for initial improvements \$50,000 - \$70,000 for major repairs every 10 years	I-IV	1-2 years for each major improvement		
	Other Rental Structures and Facilities	5.1.c. Continue to maintain and improve other existing rental units, as needed	High	CIP	TBD	I-IV			

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Overview

Capital costs to complete all Master Plan projects over a 30 year period are estimated to be between \$9.2 and \$11.7 Million (in 2012 dollars). This range of costs is based on the conceptual nature of the Master Plan and only reflects project initiation costs; it does not include future maintenance or management costs. Implementation costs may increase as more detailed estimates are developed with each design and implementation phase.

The current capital cost estimates reflect the District's desire to design and build projects in a manner that reduces long-term maintenance needs. The higher costs of high-quality design and construction are often recouped through reduced maintenance costs over the project's lifetime. Nonetheless, the District intends to consider future maintenance and management costs prior to the implementation of each Master Plan element to ensure that adequate funding and staff resources can be committed to the project over its lifetime. To better inform Board decisions regarding the allocation of funding and staff resources, the District will soon be conducting a fiscal modeling analysis to understand the true implementation, maintenance, and management costs and resource loading needs of new properties and future projects.

In an effort to shed some light on the potential increase in long-term maintenance and management costs resulting from the implementation of the Master Plan, a simple projection of future costs is provided in Table 11. The projection is based on Fiscal Year 2009-10 operating costs and staff counts for the Operations Department, which is specifically tasked with patrolling Preserves, maintaining existing facilities, and conducting ongoing resource management activities to protect the natural resources and ensure safe and appropriate use of District lands.

The operating costs for the Operations Department shown in Table 11 include salaries, benefits, services (such as emergency dispatching costs), supplies, and equipment expenses; non-operating costs are not included. The values projected for Fiscal Year 2039-40 assume full implementation of the Master Plan. Inflation is not factored into future costs since the purpose of the table is to compare maintenance and management costs prior to and following Master Plan implementation (i.e., status quo versus completion of all Master Plan projects). Values are rounded to the nearest thousand. Absent a fiscal modeling analysis and given the many assumptions that underlie these calculations, this information is only intended to provide an order of magnitude estimate of the potential increase in maintenance and management costs.

Table 11 considers current and future costs with and without expenses that are associated with ongoing resource management activities, to attempt to isolate costs that primarily reflect public safety and facility maintenance. The values without resource management expenses exclude both resource management project costs and the portion of salaries and benefits in the Operations Department that are allocated to resource management activities.

Table 11: Comparison of Maintenance and Management Costs for Current Conditions versus Full Master Plan Implementation (in 2009 Dollars)

Description	District Conditions Pre Master Plan (FY 2009-10)	Master Plan Only Conditions	District Conditions Post Master Plan (FY 2039-40)
Miles of Trail Open to Public Use	226	26	252 <i>(excludes future new trails at other Preserves)</i>
Total Rangers	23	3	26 <i>(9.8 miles of trail per Ranger)</i>
Total Ranger Staff Cost <i>(assumes midrange salary and benefits)</i>	\$2,246,000 <i>(\$98,000 per Ranger)</i>	\$293,000 <i>(13% increase)</i>	\$2,539,000
Total Maintenance Staff	29.7 <i>(includes part time seasonal staff)</i>	~3	33 <i>(7.6 miles of trail per Maintenance Staff)</i>
Total Maintenance Staff Cost <i>(assumes midrange salary and benefits)</i>	\$2,650,000 <i>(\$89,000 per Maintenance staff)</i>	\$294,000 <i>(11% increase)</i>	\$2,944,000
Operating Cost Including Resource Management <i>(Operations Dept.)</i>	\$6,503,000 <i>(\$29,000 in operating cost per mile of trail)</i>	\$749,000 <i>(11.5% increase)</i>	\$7,252,000
Operating Cost Excluding Resource Management <i>(Operations Dept.)</i>	\$4,566,000 <i>(\$20,000 operating cost per mile of trail)</i>	\$525,000 <i>(11.5% increase)</i>	\$5,091,000

Funding Sources

The District's primary revenue source is a share of the annual total property tax collected within its jurisdiction with the exception of the Coastside Protection Area. Other revenue sources may include federal and state grants, interest and rental income, donations, land gifts, and note issues. (The District does not collect general use or parking fees at any of its preserves.) When Master Plan project costs are considered in the context of total District operations, it is assumed that new funding sources, including grants and potentially a funding measure, will need to be secured before most elements of the Plan can be implemented. Additional sources of revenue will be especially critical to ensure steady progress in implementing the Master Plan should the District be faced with reduced or depleting net revenues.

VI. PHASING PLAN

Overview

The District intends to implement the Master Plan incrementally over the next 30 years. Master Plan actions are prioritized and grouped into one of five phases based on their relative importance, critical need, and sequencing (when certain projects must precede others) to implement the Preserve's vision. While the *Phasing Plan* provides a general direction for implementation, flexibility is needed to accommodate future unknown conditions, such as available funding, emergency situations, and the identification of higher priorities located on other District lands. For example, grant funding may allow certain facilities to be built sooner than expected. Or conversely, District budget constraints or the absence of new funding sources may necessitate delays in implementation.

Phase I

\$2.1 Million - \$2.7 Million

Phase I actions are essential to protecting critically sensitive resource areas and will allow the District to open new areas of the Preserve to the public. Phase I actions will be initiated within five years following Master Plan approval, and include:

High Priority

- Designate Conservation Management Units
 - Prepare a Pond Management Plan (complete as of 2010)
 - Implement water infrastructure improvements and conservation grazing in central/northern portion of the Preserve
 - Amend Williamson Act Contracts on affected Preserve properties to permit open space and recreational uses compatible with agriculture
 - Identify and implement measures to reduce cattle impacts to water quality
 - Prepare the Red Barn Area Site Plan
 - Complete emergency maintenance repairs to the White Barn and Redwood Cabin
 - Establish two interim parking areas: one off Sears Ranch Road and the other across from the Driscoll Events Center
 - Implement Phase I road and trail erosion treatments
 - Implement Phase I trail improvements
 - Improve trail off the Allen Road permit parking lot as an easy access trail
 - Replace or repair bridge near Gate LH08
 - Prepare a Wildland Fire Response Plan
 - Contain contaminated areas; complete required remedial actions (complete as of 2011)
-

Moderate Priority

- Complete a springs and water infrastructure inventory
- Develop forest management practices
- Complete historical and structural assessments of the White Barn and Redwood Cabin
- Non-renew Williamson Act contracts
- Make updates to the open space dedication status of Preserve parcels

Low Priority

- Cleanup existing debris sites
- Identify former logging features and incorporate as part of the trail experience

Phase II

\$3.5 Million - \$4.4 Million

Phase II actions focus on more extensive resource management and habitat enhancement projects, as well as the expansion of recreational amenities and trails. Phase II actions are anticipated to be initiated within years six through ten of the Master Plan, and include:

High Priority

- Restore watershed and in-stream salmonid habitat
- Construct the Red Barn parking area
- Implement Phase II road and trail erosion treatments
- Replace or repair the bridge near Gate LH04

Moderate Priority

- Complete forest assessments
- Prepare a maintenance plan for the Red Barn
- Implement Phase II trail improvements
- Construct the Sears Ranch Road parking area
- Complete Allen Road permit parking area improvements
- Remove dilapidated structures
- Prepare a Road Maintenance Plan

Low Priority

- Implement additional interpretation projects (White Barn and Redwood Cabin areas)
- Establish picnic areas

Phase III

\$2.3 Million - \$2.8 Million

Phase III focuses on actions that may have a longer timeline due to funding constraints or where implementation should be based on future demand that is not yet demonstrated. Some Phase III actions (such as the environmental education facility) may become part of Phase II if grant funding becomes available. Phase III implementation is planned within years 11–20, and include the following actions:

High Priority

- Implement Phase III road and trail erosion treatments
- Decommission abandoned roads

Moderate Priority

- Prepare a management plan for King's Mountain manzanita and other rare plants
- Develop maintenance plans for White Barn and Redwood Cabin
- Construct permanent parking area near the Driscoll Events Center
- Implement Phase III trail improvements
- Underground utility lines

Low Priority

- Identify and inventory wildlife corridors
- Evaluate the Red Barn garage for use as an environmental education facility

Phase IV

\$1.2 Million - \$1.7 Million

Phase IV includes the lowest priority actions. Some Phase IV actions (such as the Red Barn pond restoration) may become part of Phase III if grant funding becomes available. Phase IV implementation is planned to occur within years 21–30, and includes:

High Priority

- Construct Red Barn area easy access trails

Moderate Priority

- Implement Phase IV trail improvements

Low Priority

- Assess the Red Barn for nomination on historic registers
- Restore Red Barn pond
- Complete archeological surveys; document historic logging area features
- Complete historical research and interpret past oil exploration
- Assess expansion of parking areas (based on demand)

Ongoing Projects (Phases I-IV) Cost Apportioned to Each Phase; See Above
The following are not tied to a particular phase and instead will be ongoing:

High Priority

- Expand the preserve
- Update natural and cultural resource and infrastructure inventories
- Complete periodic resource surveys
- Monitor and modify fish barriers
- Implement pond habitat enhancements
- Manage invasive plants
- Implement resource protection measures
- Monitor Sudden Oak Death
- Revise brochures and website information
- Implement Best Management Practices
- Manage fuels; maintain defensible space clearances; construct fuel breaks
- Maintain important structures

Moderate Priority

- Monitor and treat channel bank erosion
- Manage brush encroachment
- Monitor rare plants
- Prepare interpretive signs and displays, schedule docent-led hikes and educational events

Low Priority

- Install memorial benches
- Install horse troughs

Summary of Project Costs

The following are estimated capital costs (in 2012 dollars) to implement the Master Plan, broken by phase and priority with the grand total provided at the end.

Phase I = \$2.1 Million - \$2.7 Million

High Priority Projects = \$1.6 Million - \$1.9 Million
Moderate Priority Projects = \$620,000 - \$710,000
Low Priority Projects = \$20,000

Phase II = \$3.5 Million - \$4.4 Million

High Priority Projects = \$1.42 Million - \$1.9 Million
Moderate Priority Projects = \$2 Million - \$2.4 Million
Low Priority Projects = \$68,000

Phase III = \$2.3 Million - \$2.8 Million

High Priority Projects = \$850,000 - \$1.1 Million
Moderate Priority Projects = \$1M - \$1.2 Million
Low Priority Projects = \$400,000 - \$450,000

Phase IV = \$1.1 Million - \$1.5 Million

High Priority Projects = \$500,000 - \$700,000
Moderate Priority Projects = \$200,000 - \$360,000
Low Priority Projects = \$540,000 - \$620,000

GRAND TOTAL = \$9.2 Million - \$11.7 Million

Phasing Plan Review

The phasing component of the Master Plan and resulting implications for capital and long-term operations costs will be reviewed as part of the District's annual budget process that is undertaken by the Board of Directors during the first quarter of each calendar year.



VII. NEXT STEPS

Adoption of the Master Plan is the first major step towards realizing the full vision for La Honda Creek OSP. Many subsequent actions remain to implement this plan, some of which are noted below.

Phase I Implementation

High priority Phase I improvements, for which funding is available, will begin following Board approval of the Master Plan and certification of the Mitigated Negative Declaration. Initial Phase I resource protection projects and public access improvements will protect critical sensitive resources and enable the District to open the southern area of the Preserve to the public.

Design Development and Continued Public Input

Some actions identified in Phases II, III, and IV of the Master Plan are very conceptual. More detailed design studies and construction documents will need to be prepared for each phase of implementation. In Phases II, III and IV, design development will need to be closely coordinated with the financing strategies for capital improvements and long-term operations, along with more detailed project-level environmental review as needed. It is anticipated that the Phase II Design Development process will include public review through Use and Management Committee meetings and public Board meetings, to provide ample opportunity for continued public involvement in the design process.

Approval of Future Budgets to Support Master Plan Implementation

While funding is available for high priority Phase I actions that are scheduled to be initiated during the 2012-13 Fiscal Year, which extends from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013, funding sources for work in subsequent years have not yet been finalized. At this time it is anticipated that future projects will be funded with a combination of general District funds and grants. In view of the current economic climate and the uncertainties of longer term project costs, new sources of District funding, such as a funding measure will likely need to be secured to ensure full implementation of this Master Plan.

The District develops, reviews, and approves detailed budgets for each fiscal year on a yearly basis. As such, budgets to support future Master Plan implementation will be developed by District staff and reviewed and approved by the District's Board of Directors each year. La Honda Creek OSP Master Plan projects will compete with projects located on other Preserves for funds, which will require the District to prioritize and consider the following factors to determine which projects will receive funding each year:

- Was the project identified in an adopted document?
- Are natural resources at risk?
- Does the project provide new public access opportunities?

- Does the project ensure regulatory compliance?
- Does the project eliminate health and safety hazards?
- Does the project protect investment in existing infrastructure?
- Does the project replace or upgrade a building or facility?
- Are staff and fiscal resources available?

Natural Resource Monitoring

The Master Plan calls for regular monitoring of the Preserve's environmental resources to evaluate the success of resource protection and restoration efforts. Regular monitoring is an integral aspect of "adaptive planning," where decisions for future management and use take into account the current status of the natural resources. For example, future trail alignments or seasonal use may be adjusted based on natural resource conditions, including erosion and habitat value.

Periodic Master Plan Review and Updating

The Master Plan has been developed based on a number of assumptions about the future, including recreation trends and environmental and financial conditions. The Master Plan is designed to be flexible so that future conditions can be addressed as they arise. With this in mind, in addition to the annual capital budget review and regular resource monitoring, the Master Plan should be reviewed on an approximately 10 to 15 year basis to determine if its goals are being implemented successfully and if changes are needed to address actual conditions. Periodic reviews with opportunities for public input will be accomplished during Use and Management Committee meetings and Board meetings. Updates to the Master Plan may require subsequent environmental review.

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IX. GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS

Ad Hoc Committee	A committee of three of the seven elected Board members that were assigned the responsibility of working with District staff and the public to draft the Master Plan. The Ad Hoc Committee included Director Larry Hassett (Chair), Director Mary Davey, and Director Curt Riffle.
Anadromous	Anadromy is the migration of fish, as adults or subadults, from salt water to fresh water. Anadromous fish are born in fresh water, migrate to salt water for their adult lives, then turn around and migrate back to fresh water to spawn.
BART	Bay Area Ridge Trail
BMPs	Best Management Practices
Board	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Board of Directors
CalFire	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CalTrans	California Department of Transportation
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CMU	Conservation Management Unit
CRLF	California red-legged frog
CRPM	Cultural resource protection measure
Ecosystem Services	The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. Ecosystem services include: provisioning services, like the delivery of food and fresh water; regulating services, like carbon sequestration, erosion control, and pollination; cultural services, like recreation and environmental education; and supporting services, like nutrient cycling and soil formation.
Endemic	Restricted or peculiar to a locality or region
Estivate	Enter a dormant state
Invasive Species	A plant or animal species that is not native to the local ecosystem, takes over large areas, and reduces biodiversity in ways that often cause economic or environmental harm
Late-Seral	Old and mature
MROSD	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Multiple-use	Hiking, equestrian, and bicycle use
OSP	Open Space Preserve
RI	Remedial Investigation
ROSS	Regional Open Space Study

SFGS	San Francisco garter snake
SMP	Soil Management Plan
SOD	Sudden Oak Death
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WPT	Western pond turtle

APPENDIX A

District Overview

The purpose and mission of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is to purchase, permanently protect, and restore lands forming a regional open space greenbelt, preserve natural areas, wildlife habitat, watersheds, view sheds, and fragile ecosystems, and provide opportunities for low-intensity recreation and environmental education. The mission statement reads as follows:

“To acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity; protect and restore the natural environment; and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.”

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a public agency formed by voter initiative in northwestern Santa Clara County in 1972 out of a desire to protect the irreplaceable natural resources found in the foothills and baylands. In 1976, voters expanded the District’s boundaries to include southeastern San Mateo County. In 1992, the District further expanded by annexing a small portion of Santa Cruz County. Following the 2004 approval of the District’s Coastside Protection Program, the District’s boundary was extended to the Pacific Ocean from the City of Pacifica to the northern Santa Cruz County line. The District covers an area of 550 square miles and includes 17 cities (Atherton, Cupertino, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Menlo Park, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Carlos, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, and Woodside) and numerous small towns (including La Honda, Pescadero, San Gregorio, and Skyllonda).

An elected Board of Directors governs the District; each Director represents one of seven geographical wards. District staff is headed by a General Manager and includes permanent and seasonal employees that report to one of three offices, two of which are in the field. District administration staff members include professionals in open space planning, resource management, real property, public affairs (including volunteer and docent programs), environmental analysis, finance, and administration. Field staff members provide patrol, maintenance, and visitor services, and also implement resource management and public access projects. (Refer to Table 1: Overview of District Organization and Staff Resources for more information.) The District’s primary source of revenue is a share of the annual total property tax collected within District boundaries, with the exception of the Coastside Protection Area (San Mateo County coastside). Other revenue sources include federal and state grants, gifts, bargain sales of land, and private donations.

Since its inception, the District has permanently preserved over 60,000 acres of mountainous, foothill, and bayland open space, creating 26 open space preserves (24 of which are open to the public). The District works to form a continuous greenbelt of permanently preserved open space by linking its lands with other public parklands. The District also participates in cooperative efforts such as the

Bay Area Ridge Trail, which is a regional trail system in the Bay Area that extends partially through District lands.

Table 1: Overview of District Organization and Staff Resources

Department	Principal Tasks	Staff Resources
Operations	Day-to-day management, patrol, and maintenance of District lands; visitor contact on the preserves; trail building and resource management; emergency medical response and fire suppression; administration of special use permits	Operations Manager, Area Superintendents, Support Services Supervisor, Management Analyst, Supervising Rangers, Rangers, Maintenance/Construction Supervisors, Maintenance/Resource Supervisors, Lead Open Space Technicians, Open Space Technicians, Equipment Mechanic Operators, Farm Maintenance Worker, Seasonal Open Space Technicians, Administrative Assistants
Planning	Long range planning; site design and development of construction plans and specifications; securing of permits; construction of capital improvements; strategic resource planning; creation of graphics, brochures, and signage; administration of GIS information	Planning Manager, Senior Planners, Planners I, II, and III, Planning Technicians, GIS Coordinator, GIS Intern, Administrative Assistant
Natural Resources	Designs, plans, and implements projects to protect and restore natural resources on District lands; stewards working landscapes to provide sustainable agricultural uses; works with partners to obtain funding to protect natural resources; conducts environmental review.	Natural Resources Manager, Senior Resource Management Specialist, Resource Management Specialist, Planner III, Planner II, Slender False Brome Coordinator, Natural Resources Intern
Public Affairs	Coordination of volunteer, docent, and school programs; organizing and publicizing events; communicating with media sources; web administration	Public Affairs Manager, Volunteer Coordinator, Docents Programs Coordinator, Public Affairs Specialist, Communications Specialist, Web Content Coordinator, Assistant Program Coordinator, Administrative Assistant
Real Property	Purchasing new properties; protection of District lands and property rights; managing rental program; property management; addressing encroachments	Real Property Manager, Senior Real Property Planner, Real Property Specialists, Administrative Assistant

Department	Principal Tasks	Staff Resources
Administration	Representing the District; managing Board interactions; responding to public inquiries; developing legislation; legal support; hiring; personnel administration; payroll and billing processing; office management	General Manager, General Counsel, Controller, Administration and Human Resources Manager, Assistant General Counsel, Principal Management Analyst, Management Analyst, Deputy District Clerk/Office Manager, Human Resources Technician, Training and Safety Coordinator, Network Specialist, Senior Accounting Specialist, Accounting Clerk, Receptionist/Administrative Clerk, Administrative Assistants

The evolution of an open space preserve spans several years and begins with the purchase of the first parcel. Any new preserve project typically follows a series of steps from conceptual idea to on-the-ground implementation. These steps include: initiation of a detailed public planning process, environmental review, Board review and approval, preparation of plans, specifications, and designs, obtaining required permits, and construction/implementation.

Open space preserves are inherently different from city and county parks; preserves are intended to remain in as close as possible to a natural state to protect the integrity of their natural and cultural resources. Preserves offer a few minor site improvements, including unpaved trails, gravel parking areas, restrooms, and an occasional bench to accommodate low-intensity recreational use that is ecologically appropriate. Most of the lands purchased by the District are open to hiking, equestrian, and mountain bicycling use. Through its Trail Use Policies, the District seeks to balance multiple-use recreation with opportunities for tranquil nature study and appreciation. City and county parks, on the other hand, allow for a much higher intensity of use and greater site development with a primary focus of providing high-intensity active recreational facilities such as tennis courts, swimming pools, playgrounds, and day use areas. By preserving acres of natural landscapes in the foothills, on the ridgelines, and along the bay, the District also contributes to protecting the region’s scenic beauty and spectacular viewsheds that have come to represent the Bay Area.

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APPENDIX B

Public Participation Process

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MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT



*Come share
your ideas
about the
La Honda
Creek Open
Space Preserve!*

The Use and Management Committee of the MROSD invites you to attend:

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan Community Workshops

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is developing a Master Plan for the 2,042-acre La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. The Master Plan will incorporate the community's vision and goals for the future of the Preserve, and will address visitor parking and access; trail use and regional trail connections; agricultural preservation; and natural and cultural resource management, among other topics. The community workshops will form the basis of the Master Plan, and will allow you to:

- Understand the opportunities and constraints that exist in the Preserve.
- Contribute to a comprehensive vision for the future management of the Preserve.
- Collaborate with other community members on alternatives for future uses in the Preserve.

The first two workshops will be held on:

Wednesday, November 3, 2004

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

"Issues Identification, Vision and Goals"

Monday, December 6, 2004

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

"Alternatives Development"

Both workshops will be held at:

La Honda Elementary School cafeteria

450 Sears Ranch Road, La Honda (map and directions on reverse)

Future workshops will take place in the spring and summer of 2005 to refine alternatives and finalize the Master Plan. Each meeting will build on the work and ideas explored at the previous workshop.

For more information, please visit <http://www.openspace.org>. Click on the **Preserves** link and navigate to La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. Or contact Matt Freeman, Senior Open Space Planner at (650) 691-1200.





MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

c/o Design, Community & Environment
1600 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 222
Berkeley, CA 94709



Directions to the Workshops:

From the north:

Take I-280 to the 84/Woodside Rd. exit and exit toward Woodside. Head south 12.7 miles on State Route 84/La Honda Road and turn right on Sears Ranch Road, just before the intersection with Pescadero-Alpine Road.

From the south:

Take I-280 north to the Sand Hill Road exit. Take the Sand Hill Road West ramp and turn right onto Sand Hill Road. Travel 0.7 miles and turn right on Portola Road. Turn left onto State Route 84/La Honda Road. Travel 9.6 miles and turn right onto Sears Ranch Road, just before the intersection with Pescadero-Alpine Road.

La Honda Elementary is approximately 1/2 mile down Sears Ranch Road on the right.

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan
Community Workshop #1: Issues Identification, Vision and Goals

AGENDA
November 3, 2004

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| I. Opening
Chair, Use and Management Committee | 7:00 pm |
| II. Introduction to MROSD
Matt Freeman, Senior Planner, MROSD | 7:10 pm |
| III. La Honda Creek OSP Master Plan Process
David Early, Design, Community & Environment | 7:20 pm |
| IV. Presentation: Existing Conditions
Matt Freeman, MROSD | 7:30 pm |
| V. Presentation: Issues Identification
David Early, Design, Community & Environment | 7:45 pm |
| VI. Small Group Discussions | 8:00 pm |
| VII. Small Groups Report Back | 8:45 pm |
| VIII. Summary and Next Steps
David Early, Design, Community & Environment | 9:15 pm |
| IX. Adjournment | 9:25 pm |

Get to Know the La Honda Open Space Preserve!

Please join District staff on a short tour of the southern portion of the Preserve. Following a leisurely walk covering about 3.5 miles, there will be an opportunity to explore the Red Barn. Space is limited!

Please call (650) 691-1200 to RSVP for this event, or to get additional information

When: Saturday, November 20, 2004, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Where: Meet at the Red Barn, approximately 1.5 miles north of La Honda on Highway 84.

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan
Community Workshop #1: Issues Identification, Vision and Goals

November 3, 2004

The following is a preliminary list of issues that the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan is likely to address. These issues will be discussed during tonight's presentation. There will be opportunities to provide input about these issues during the presentation and to discuss them further in your small groups. Please feel free to identify any other issues that you feel should be addressed in the planning process, and to share them in the small groups.

- trail layout and use
- connections to surrounding properties
- staging areas and access
- watershed protection
- protection of special-status species
- exotic and invasive species
- agricultural preservation/grazing
- stream restoration
- historic resources: use, preservation and interpretation
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan

Workshop #1 Summary

On November 3, 2004, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District held the first in series of three community workshops as part of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan. The Master Plan will define the long-term vision for the 2,042-acre Preserve, and will provide management guidelines for the Preserve's natural resources and facilities. Workshop notices were sent to over 1,300 area residents and property owners and over 50 local organizations.

Approximately 45 people attended Workshop #1. The purpose of the workshop was to provide an introduction to the Preserve, and to receive input from the community members regarding their vision for the future of the Preserve. The workshop began with roll call and an introduction by Deane Little, Chair of the MROSD Use and Management Committee. Next, Matt Freeman of the MROSD explained the District's mission and its goals in developing a Master Plan for the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. Mr. Freeman stressed the importance of receiving input from the community in developing the Master Plan. He introduced the lead consultant for the planning process, David Early of Design, Community & Environment, who gave a brief overview of the Master Plan process and reviewed the evening's agenda.

Mr. Freeman then presented a summary of existing conditions at the Preserve, including images and descriptions of the Preserve's location, geography, biological resources and existing facilities. Mr. Early, the consultant, then presented key issues to be considered in the master planning process. These issues included: trail layout and use, connections to surrounding properties, staging areas and access, watershed protection, special-status species, exotic and invasive species, grazing and the use and preservation of potentially historic resources. Mr. Early then asked participants to respond to the key issues and suggest additional issues they felt the Master Plan should consider. Participants suggested the following additions to the list of issues:

- Dogs
- Horses and horse trailer parking
- Cooperation with surrounding property owners
- Addition of new land (Driscoll Ranch)

Respect for private property
Fire protection

Following the presentation, participants broke up into five small groups to identify additional master plan issues and discuss their visions for the future of the Preserve. Each group was led by a trained facilitator from the consultant team or the District, and all group comments were recorded on large sheets of paper. After 45 minutes of small group discussion, participants reconvened as a large group and heard five “reports back” by one spokesperson selected from each group.

Small Group Results

All groups expressed a desire for trails to accommodate a variety of users, and that efforts should be made to manage conflicts regarding trail use. Suggestions for managing multiple uses included alternate days for different uses and developing different trails for different uses. Several groups specifically mentioned the desire to create a north-south connection with trails on the Preserve. Most groups supported equestrian access, and a few groups mentioned their support of bike access. One group did not support bike access to the Preserve. Although most groups recognized the need for multiple access points and staging areas, they also expressed a high level of concern about the safety of providing access along Highway 84. Four of the five groups expressed the need to respect private property near the Preserve, and some suggested that trails be located away from neighboring private properties. Several groups mentioned a desire to create connections to adjacent parks and public properties, such as Pescadero Park, El Corte de Madera Open Space Preserve and Driscoll Ranch.

All groups expressed their support for grazing at the Preserve, provided it is carefully managed. All groups also expressed a desire to make the Preserve’s facilities available for public use. The most common suggested uses were an environmental education center at the Log Cabin, and an equestrian center or a location for community events at the Red Barn and adjacent corrals. Two groups suggested the possible use of the corrals by local 4-H groups. Other uses suggested by a smaller number of groups included a youth hostel or hiker’s hut.

In regard to natural resources, all groups expressed a desire for

careful land management in order to protect sensitive resources. Specifically, several groups mentioned the need to protect riparian areas, the need to manage fire fuel and the need to control invasive species. Other suggestions included minimizing stream crossings and enhancing the existing fisheries.

Following the reports back from the small group spokespeople, Mr. Early summarized the small group feedback and announced a walking tour of the Preserve on Saturday November 20, 2004 at 10 a.m. Interested parties should contact Matt Freeman at (650) 691-1200. Mr. Early also announced Workshop #2, which will focus on alternatives development and will be held on December 6, 2004 at the La Honda Elementary School. At Workshop #2, additional information on opportunities and constraints will be presented, and participants will again have the opportunity to work in small groups, this time focusing on developing alternatives for the Master Plan.

###

SPECIAL MEETING
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
USE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FIELD TRIP

**The field trip will begin at 10:00 A.M. at the Red Barn
150 La Honda Road (Highway 84), La Honda, CA**

AGENDA

10:00 A.M.
Saturday, November 20, 2004

Committee Members

Director Larry Hassett

Director Ken Nitz

Director Deane Little

- | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00 | ROLL CALL |
| | INTRODUCTIONS |
| | COMMITTEE BUSINESS |
| 10:10* | Field trip of the southern portion of La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, including a 3.5 mile walk and an informal tour of the Red Barn. |
| 1:30* | ADJOURNMENT |

Please call (650) 691-1200 to RSVP for this field trip.

Access to the Red Barn is via the white gate at 150 La Honda Road (Highway 84), located directly across the Highway from Old La Honda Road, approximately 2.8 miles southwest of Skyline Boulevard.

* *Times are estimated and items may appear earlier or later than listed. Agenda is subject to change of order.*

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE DISTRICT CLERK AT (650) 691-1200. NOTIFICATION 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING WILL ENABLE THE DISTRICT TO MAKE REASONABLE ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY TO THIS MEETING.

**330 Distel Circle • Los Altos, CA 94022-1404 • Phone: 650-691-1200
Fax: 650-691-0485 • E-mail: mrosd@openspace.org • Web site: www.openspace.org**

**La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan
Community Workshop #2: Alternatives Development**

**AGENDA
December 6, 2004**

I. Opening Chair, Use and Management Committee	7:00 pm
II. Introduction to MROSD Matt Freeman, MROSD	7:10 pm
III. Introduction to La Honda Creek OSP Master Plan Process David Early, Design, Community & Environment	7:20 pm
IV. Presentation: Issues Identification David Early, Design, Community & Environment	7:30 pm
VI. Small Group Exercise	8:00 pm
VII. Small Groups Report Back	8:45 pm
VIII. Summary and Next Steps David Early, Design, Community & Environment	9:15 pm
IX. Adjournment	9:25 pm

Master Plan Process Overview

- ◆ Community Workshop #1 November 3, 2004
- ◆ Opportunities and Constraints Analysis Nov. – Dec. 2004
- ◆ Community Workshop #2 December 6, 2004
- ◆ Alternatives Development January – February 2005
- ◆ Community Workshop #3 February 15, 2005
- ◆ Draft Master Plan February – April 2005
- ◆ Environmental Review February – April 2005
- ◆ Presentation of Draft Plan to Board April 2005
- ◆ Public Comment on Draft Plan May 2005
- ◆ Final Master Plan June '05

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan Workshop #2 Summary

On December 6, 2004, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District held the second in a series of community workshops as part of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan. The Master Plan will define the long-term vision for public use and access to the 2,042-acre Preserve, and will provide management guidelines for the Preserve's natural resources and facilities.

Approximately 50 people attended Workshop #2. According to a show of hands, roughly half of the attendees had been at Workshop #1, and about half were new to the Master Plan workshop process. The workshop began with roll call and an introduction by Deane Little, Chair of the MROSD Use and Management Committee. Next, Matt Freeman of the MROSD briefly reviewed the District's mission and its goals in developing a Master Plan for the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. Then David Early of Design, Community & Environment, the lead consultant for the Master Planning process, gave a brief overview of the Master Plan process and reviewed the evening's agenda.

David Early summarized a number of issues that will be addressed in the Master Plan:

- The Master Plan will identify potential trail connections to surrounding properties, including the Driscoll Ranch to the south, a potential segment of the Bay Ridge Trail, and possible alignments for both north-south and east-west trails traversing the Preserve itself.
- There will likely be no change in the current 10-car permitted limit for parking at the Allen Road entrance. This is a private road and the District has made a commitment to the area's residents to bring in no more than 10 round-trips per day.
- The Master Plan will implement the District's mission to protect and restore sensitive resources and special-status species, through a variety of strategies including educational opportunities, resource conservation areas, fuel management, and management of invasive and exotic species.
- The Master Plan will also incorporate specific measures to protect water quality, with a particular focus on preventing or minimizing erosion and siltation in Preserve creeks.

To provide context for planning future trail use, David Early explained the District's existing Trail Use Policy for La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (as well as six other District Preserves), which was adopted by the District's Board of Directors in 2000. This policy states that the Preserve's trails will be used for solely for hiking and equestrian use; however, bicycle use will be considered on regional trails—such as the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Following the presentation, workshop participants broke up into seven groups to review and discuss options for addressing dog access, equestrian use, staging areas, grazing issues, protection of sensitive resources, and use of historic structures on the Preserve. As at Workshop #1, each group was led by a trained facilitator from the consultant team or the District. Facilitators recorded their group's policy suggestions on large sheets of paper. After 45 minutes of small group discussion, participants reconvened as a large group and heard seven "reports back" by one spokesperson selected from each group.

Small Group Results

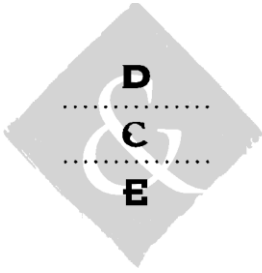
There was a strong consensus among the seven groups about several issues: Specifically, all groups favored some limited amount of on-leash dog access, and a smaller number of groups suggested allowing off-leash dogs in fenced areas only. In addition, all groups supported reintroducing grazing to the Preserve, but also cautioned that it should be carefully managed to avoid impacts to sensitive resources such as riparian areas. All groups also agreed that equestrian use of Preserve trails would be appropriate, and also equestrian use should be limited to certain trails and/or seasons to avoid conflicts with hikers and damage to wet or steep trails. Another area of broad agreement was the desire to see the restoration and use of the Log Cabin, although groups suggested different uses ranging from a hikers' hut to an environmental education center. All groups expressed a desire for a north-south trail connection within the Preserve, and two groups also specifically identified the need for an east-west connection. Finally, there was general consensus among the groups that the District should offer minimal signage or information about the locations of sensitive areas such as the albino redwoods or Native American sites on the Preserve, in order to prevent damage or vandalism.

Regarding potential staging area locations along Highway 84, the Red Barn and/or Gate LH 07 emerged as the most feasible locations if improvements were made. However, other groups had

strong concerns about the safety of both of these locations.

Mr. Early summarized the small group feedback and described the next steps in the Master Plan process. During December and January, the consultant team will review the input from the community workshops and will analyze this information in conjunction with the Preserve's natural resources to develop Master Plan alternatives. These alternatives will be presented at a future community workshop, to be held in the Spring. In response to a request from workshop participants, the District will schedule a walking tour of the northern part of the Preserve some time in the spring of 2005. Interested workshop participants signed up for the tour during the workshop, and other interested individuals should contact Matt Freeman at (650) 691-1200.

###



1625 SHATTUCK AVENUE
SUITE 300
BERKELEY, CA 94709
TEL: 510 848 3815
FAX: 510 848 4315

MEMORANDUM

DATE December 13, 2004
TO Matt Freeman
MROSD
FROM Isabelle Minn and Joanna Jansen
RE **La Honda Creek OSP Master Plan
Stakeholder Interview Summaries**

This memo summarizes the feedback DC&E has received from the six stakeholder interviews conducted to date for the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan. This feedback (and additional input from the two stakeholder interviews to be conducted when the District identifies appropriate interviewees) will be incorporated into our work on creating, refining and analyzing a Preferred Alternative as the Master Plan process moves forward.

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council Representative, interviewed 11/29/03

- Both MROSD and BARTC have conceptual plans for a regional trail through the Preserve, but neither organization has clear plans for where the trail will go or how it will get there.
- Existing BARTC segments end in Windy Hill to the south, on the opposite side of El Corte de Madera to the north. There are no BARTC dedications yet in El Corte de Madera.
- Existing ranch roads don't necessarily represent good trail design, but could be used as Ridge Trail components depending on allowed users. There would be more pressure to redesign the existing roads/trails if mountain bike are allowed.
- BARTC advocates for multi-use trails in all cases but works with each agency on case-by-case basis to determine how policies are implemented.
- There are 2 ways to do successful multi-use, and a trail can include both methods: 1) very wide trails with long sight lines, combined with lots of signage and patrol 2) narrow, more technical trails that don't allow mountain bikers to pick up speed
- Equestrians sometimes feel "jealous" of trails because they were here first, in many cases they built the trails.

Peninsula Open Space Trust Representative, interviewed 11/29/04

- POST has said from the beginning that putting Driscoll in MROSD possession would be the best ultimate outcome for the property. Expects MROSD to acquire Driscoll within the next 2 to 3 years, so POST would like to see the Ranch incorporated in this Master Planning process to the extent possible, realizing that MROSD has not yet made any firm commitments.
- Driscoll Ranch will play a key role in tying La Honda into regional connections, especially by providing a connection to Sam MacDonald Park.
- Visitor-serving facilities and staging areas are very problematic on La Honda and may be more easily provided on Driscoll Ranch land.
- There are two existing connections between La Honda and Driscoll: the green gate at La Honda's western boundary and an existing ranch road along southern boundary that follows the ridgeline.
- Grazing will be a major issue when planning for Driscoll Ranch. There is an existing 35-year non-transferable lease with the former owner, which MRSOD will have to maintain.
- Grazing is subject to conservation plan with strict guidelines on numbers of cattle, native grassland management, protecting resources.
- The current grazing plan was a joint effort between Rana Creek consultants, who conducted the research, and Ray Budzinski, the former East Bay Regional Parks District rangeland manager, who worked on the implementation component and monitoring plan. The final plan is not yet completed but all work on the grazing plan to date has already been forwarded to a Consulting Rangeland Specialist for review.
- POST is maintaining the property in its current condition and has no plans for change any uses or conditions prior to transferring the property to MROSD.
- POST doesn't currently allow public access to their properties but would allow MRSOD or other agency to determine access policy after transfer of ownership.
- POST's particular concerns are scenic value and natural resources protection. Therefore, POST would not want to see future changes in use on the property that would allow high-impact recreation, such as off-road vehicles. POST would be fine with continued grazing, row crop agriculture, and biking and hiking.
- The Master Plan should keep in mind that Driscoll is downstream of La Honda. Driscoll Ranch is bisected by Harrington Creek
- The Driscoll Ranch manager is doing a good job of managing star thistle. However, Driscoll Ranch is already experiencing problems with feral pigs and POST expects these pigs will likely spread north onto La Honda.
- Driscoll Ranch does include an old barn on the west side of the ranch, but no surveys have been done regarding bat species or historic significance.

Equestrian, interviewed 11/29/2004

- The biggest strike against MROSD is that they don't open properties soon enough and land that used to be in beautiful condition (i.e. La Honda Preserve) is allowed to go fallow.
- Equestrians' number-one concern is a regional connection. They would eventually like to be able to do a skyline-to-sea connection (2-day ride). However, on the other hand, has advertised offering to lead a regional ride and has received no response.
- Equestrians would be interested in a possible horse camp on the Preserve.
- Is happy to hear that grazing is a possibility since Driscoll and La Honda were formerly working ranches.
- There is a huge need for public, covered arenas where people can work their horses
- A 3-horse trailer (aka "rig") needs 42 to 45 feet of flat space to maneuver. Thinks self and other horse owners could get a trailer down Allen Road. Does not see 84 as that dangerous compared to other roads that self uses with trailer (i.e. 92). It's currently hard to do horse patrols on MROSD properties because there is not sufficient parking
- Equestrians don't want lots of infrastructure - no paving, no troughs (because they encourage mosquitoes). Only a spigot is needed to water the horses.
- Safe multi-use trails need a minimum 100-foot sight line, especially on steep hills. Would advocate separate trails (especially in steep areas with limited visibility) for bikers and horses.
- Four- to five-foot wide trails are sufficient for multi-use. But equestrians really like single-track trails and would like as many as possible.
- A horse only needs a path 18" wide.
- Horses have no problem with steep uphill climbs.
- It's easy to ride 10 to 20 miles in a day, so long loop trails are really nice.
- Examples of good single track, multi-use facilities in the area include Peters Creek and White Oak in Monte Bello Ridge.
- Best guess is that there are about 2,000 trail horses in San Mateo County (excluding pets and show horses), and only 1/3 of these (600 to 700) have rigs.
- Most riders go in small groups of 10 or less because larger groups tend to excite the horses' herd instinct and make them more difficult to control.
- Predicts no more than 10 horses per weekend day would use any Preserve that has trailer-only access. However, lots of La Honda locals (a smaller number of users) could and would likely ride directly onto the Preserve.

Local business owner and member of Coastal Habitat Committee, interviewed 11/30/2004

- Is discouraged because has received no response to previous communications to MROSD, such as comments on the Annexation DEIR and the California red-legged frog (CRLF) report by Dr. Dan Holland.

- CHC believes that MROSD property should be managed for species first, then people, only if possible within needs of species. CHC disapproves of managing properties for recreation first. Visitors to the Preserve love nature, but they love it to death.
- MROSD should identify sensitive areas then designate them as off-limits and enforce these restrictions through fencing or planting poison oak. The correct process would be to:
 - 1 Identify where species are.
 - 2 Identify where habitat is, where species used to be or could be in the future.
 - 3 Make areas 1 and 2 off-limits, and allow trails/access only outside those areas.
- Don't build trails through sensitive areas, and close trails that go through or near sensitive areas.
- CHC would love to see the concepts of "sanctuary" and "corridor" in the Master Plan, backed up by concrete policies.
- Protecting corridors is particularly important to allow genetic variety. The Holland report outlines specific ways to protect CRLF on Preserve. The report estimated that only about 5 percent of the Preserve would need to be closed off to protect species.
- Grazing is a good thing if done correctly, but it has rarely been done responsibly in the past.
- Bicycles are a major threat, especially for snakes.
- It is very important to prohibit or severely limit access to water because frogs and snakes live in/near water and are most fragile species. Horses should never be allowed to walk directly through creek. Bridges are very important to keep people, horses, bikes out of creeks. In addition, MROSD needs to establish larger setbacks from creeks and ponds to protect amphibians and fish.
- Picnics and kitchens are bad because they bring food and trash, which attracts scavengers like blue jays and raccoons, which kill sensitive species. CHC recently stopped a proposed environmental education center in Pescadero because it included a kitchen.

San Mateo County Farm Bureau Representatives, interviewed 12/1/04

- Farm Bureau membership represents 98% of agriculture in San Mateo Co. and encompasses all varieties of agriculture in the County.
- The Farm Bureau has an existing MOU with MROSD to ensure that agriculture has a voice in MROSD planning.
- Grazing would be the best PR tool that MROSD could do. The removal of cattle from La Honda has been big black eye.
- Grazing is the best way to control invasive non-native species.
- There are very valuable resources for good grazing plans in Alameda and Contra Costa County, and MROSD should take advantage of these resources. The Farm Bureau can provide connections to these individuals if desired.

- The grazing plan should consider ways to move cows around for benefit of other species, such as utilizing fencing, or using solar power to pump water to different areas.
- The Farm Bureau is very active in San Mateo County weed management and feels that MROSD is doing a good job managing invasives. Keep up the good work. The Master Plan should publicize and make explicit the good things MROSD is already doing, such as invasives management.
- The Master Plan should integrate County Weed Management Plan. Yellow star and distaff thistle are the worst problems in the area. The Master Plan will need diverse approaches to invasives corresponding to the diverse areas of Preserve.
- Some landowners surrounding the Preserve are not doing needed work to control invasives, not participating in existing weed management programs.
- The Master Plan should also incorporate forest management principles for disease suppression, particularly to protect against sudden oak death and pine pitch canker. The plan should include policies that will allow MROSD to close/quarantine an area to prevent the spread of disease or allow application of chemicals. Establishing these policies in the Master Plan will allow flexibility so the District can respond quickly if/when disease arises.
- The Grazing Plan for La Honda should include brush management for fire prevention.
- The San Mateo County Sheriff takes rural crime very seriously. The Farm Bureau works closely with County Sheriff on trespassing and agri-theft issues. For example, they helped create a tear-off postcard format for owner-applied citations for illegally-parked cars/trespassers. The property owner fills out the card, leaves one copy on the windshield and mails the other in to the Sheriff's Department. Cattle rustling is a problem in Santa Clara County but not in San Mateo County at this point.
- The Farm Bureau is affiliated with UC Extension to offer water quality courses specifically targeted at rangeland water quality management and would be interested in offering MROSD staff a course.
- MROSD should monitor water quality on the Preserve. The San Francisco Bay regional Water Quality Control Board has just completed intense 1-year monitoring of San Gregorio watershed and are compiling raw data into report.
- San Gregorio water quality is actually pretty good. The creek is currently listed as "impaired" because of sediment, but this is not based on the more refined standards recently adopted by RWQCB. However, creeks in the Preserve are definitely impacted by their proximity to 84, especially when road work is done.
- MROSD should use the Farm Bureau as a resource - they are tied into a huge local, state and national network, both public and private sector.
- The Farm Bureau believes most of their members are either participating directly in Master Plan process or have communicated their input to Jack and Tim. In addition, the Farm Bureau board will meet in January and may have additional input into process at that time. The Farm Bureau would appreciate the opportunity to review the Draft Master Plan when it is available.

California Native Plant Society Representative, interviewed 12/3/04

- Trails should avoid disturbance of King's Mountain manzanita and leatherwood. In order to avoid the plants, accurate mapping of existing communities is needed.
- However, mature King's Mountain manzanita plants may require some disturbance in order to revegetate. Therefore, more detailed managements techniques should be included, based on current literature.
- CNPS State Guidelines are available on their website at www.cnps.org and include detailed information such as appropriate setbacks. These are minimum guidelines and should always be increased if possible.
- MROSD already has lots of good information on managing invasives. Invasives in particular need good buffer zones, so trail alignments should consider the potential for spreading invasives.
- Does not deal with grazing very much and does not have any specific input regarding grazing. Specializes in natural resource inventories, including identifying and delineating communities and looking for rare and endangered species. Would be happy to do this kind of work for MROSD if needed.
- Is unsure of the best approach to sensitive resources such as the albino redwoods. In some locations, such as Edgewood Park, not building a trail to a desirable location only means that people create 4 or 5 informal trails, which causes more damage than one formal trail. Maybe use a low barrier along the trail.

###

Driscoll Ranch Hiking Tours

October 13th and 14th,
10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

As part of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan, the District is hosting public hiking tours to help familiarize the public with Driscoll Ranch (purchase pending), its resources, vistas, and roads. Driscoll Ranch is a 3,600 acre property located adjacent to Hwy. 84 near the town of La Honda. Tours are available on a first-call, first-serve basis. These tours are open to adults only and involve hiking for almost three miles on unpaved roads and trails.

To reserve a space, please call the District at 650-691-1200, and ask for Jeannie. For more information about the tours, please refer to our Master Plan web page at <http://www.openspace.org/lahonda>



MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
www.openspace.org

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve
MASTER PLAN
 MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT FALL 2006

OVERVIEW

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is developing a resource protection and visitor use plan for its La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve and the adjoining Driscoll Ranch, soon to become a part of the Preserve. These lands together comprise more than 5,800 acres of tall redwoods, expansive grasslands, and spectacular coastal views. The Preserve and working landscape of Driscoll Ranch extend nearly five miles downhill along La Honda Road, from Skyline Boulevard/Highway 35 almost halfway to the Pacific coast.

This newsletter is designed to provide an update on the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan project. Through the master planning process, the District aims to provide the public with greater opportunities for low-intensity recreational access, interpretation, and education, while protecting the natural, cultural, and historic resources of these areas.

INFORMATION GATHERING

The master planning process for La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve began with two public workshops in the fall and winter of 2004. At these workshops, members of the public and the District's project team developed ideas for trail use, cultural resource protection, vegetation management, and many other important aspects related to the management and public use of the Preserve.

In spring 2005, the District began negotiations with Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) to acquire Driscoll Ranch, located just southwest of the Preserve. With the addition of Driscoll Ranch, the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve will encompass over 5,800 acres, and become the District's largest preserve in San Mateo County. This expanse of open space brings myriad possibilities to the Master Plan process. Some key issues that the Plan will address include the potential introduction of conservation grazing at La Honda Creek, continued ranching operations at Driscoll Ranch, and the restoration or enhancement of endangered species habitat throughout the Preserve. Other considerations include regional trail connections, historic facilities, public staging and parking areas, and many more opportunities and challenges.

PLEASE JOIN US

Thursday, November 16, 2006

6:30 p.m. at La Honda Elementary School

The next public workshop will be held at La Honda Elementary School, located at the doorstep of Driscoll Ranch. At this workshop, the District's Master Plan project team will present existing conditions



information on Driscoll Ranch, as well as the new challenges and opportunities resulting from the addition of a working ranch to the Preserve.

Public input collected at the upcoming workshop will be used to help develop conceptual master plan alternatives, which will be presented to the public in 2007. At that time, the project team will assemble additional comments on the alternative plans to help identify a single preferred plan for La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.

NEXT STEPS

- November 2007..... *Issues & Opportunities Public Workshop*
- Spring-Summer 2007 *Develop Plan Alternatives*
- Summer 2007 *Plan Alternatives Public Workshop*
- Fall-Winter 2007-8..... *Prepare Draft Preferred Plan*
- Spring 2008..... *1st Public Hearing on Draft Plan*
- Summer 2008 *Final Plan & Environmental Review*
- Fall 2008..... *2nd Public Hearing & Plan Adoption*

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions or comments, email lahondamasterplan@openspace.org, visit the Web site www.openspace.org, or call Ana Ruiz, Project Planner, at (650) 691-1200.

Regional Open Space

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan

You're invited to attend the upcoming workshop:

Thursday, November 16, 2006
6:30pm – 9:30pm
La Honda Elementary School
450 Sears Ranch Road
La Honda, CA 94020



Restoring the historic Red Barn at La Honda Creek O.S.P. while protecting pallid bat habitat.



A ridgeline view from Driscoll Ranch



Public participation is key
to a great plan!

The mission of the MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT:
"To acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in
perpetuity; protect and restore the natural environment; and provide
opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education."

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
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MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

**EQUESTRIAN
FOCUS GROUP MEETING
FOR
LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE
MASTER PLAN**

Friday, November 2, 2006
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
330 Distel Circle, Los Altos
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm.

Meeting Outcomes

- Allow equestrian stakeholders to relay ideas and issues of interest related to the master planning process at La Honda OSP and Driscoll Ranch.
- Identify options for equestrians to stay involved.

5:00-5:10 pm Sign-In and Introduction

5:10-5:30 pm Brief Update and Project Status

- Master plan process & timeframe
- Next public workshop
- Information available for public review

5:30-6:30 pm Stakeholder Interview

- Group Overview/ Questions & Answers
- Highlight key topics
- Prioritize issues of interest to equestrians.

Adjourn

LA HONDA CREEK MASTER PLAN

Equestrian Stakeholder Meeting

Meeting Summary

The stakeholder meeting for equestrians was held Friday, November 2, 2006 at the District Administrative Office. Four members of the public attended. All identified themselves as avid equestrians and some as docents for the District. The agenda of the meeting and a brief summary of their comments and ideas are recorded below.

Agenda:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5:00-5:10 pm | Sign-In and Introduction |
| 5:10-5:30 pm | Update and Project Status: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Master plan process & timeframe 2. Previous and upcoming public workshops 3. Information available for public review & District Trail Use Policies |
| 5:30-6:30 pm | Stakeholder Interview: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group Question & Answer Session 2. Highlight key topics 3. Prioritize issues of interest to cyclists. |

Equestrian's Comment:

- All attendees noted that they have ridden their horse in upper La Honda, through Driscoll Ranch, and in the past at El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve; some have also hiked these properties
- Three attendees are local residents of La Honda, one lives in Redwood City
- There is a yearly horse ride that is done with the mounted search and rescue group where riders are allowed to travel through Djerassi and into Driscoll Ranch to reach Sam McDonald County Park – please continue to allow for these epic yearly rides.
- Strong desire expressed to see a North-to-South trail connection, equestrians are optimistic that a trail alignment can be found
- Consider improving the Allen Road permit parking area to better accommodate horse trailers; equestrian use would surely increase with better facilities; Bear Gulch Road/Allen Road not a problem to travel on with a horse trailer
- High priority connections: Driscoll Ranch to the Town of La Honda/Sam McDonald Ranch County Park via Sears Ranch Road, North to South connection from the former Dyer Ranch to the Red Barn area, Wunderlich County Park to upper La Honda, La Honda/Driscoll to the coast
- Medium priority connections: La Honda/Red Barn area to Windy Hill Open Space Preserve, upper La Honda Creek to Driscoll Ranch
- Low priority connection: El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve to upper La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve
- Desired destination sites: White barn area (former Dyer Ranch), Red Barn area, redwood cabin, radio transmitter hilltop at Driscoll, Ray's Peak, Driscoll Events Center, horse camp in Sam McDonald Park, Town of La Honda, Alice's Restaurant/Skylonda market

- Desired horse trailer parking areas: permit lot off Allen Road, Red Barn area, off Sears Ranch Road, and near Driscoll Events Center
- Loop trails are strongly desired
- Novice riders prefer 5 mile loop trails, 10-mile loop trails ideal for more experienced riders, and 20+ loop trails desired by advanced riders
- Horses travel on average 3-4 miles an hour at a walk
- Long loops makes it worth the drive, especially for out of town folks who need to bring in their horses on a rig
- Through trails are okay, in this instance riders drop their rigs at the destination site after they leave their horses at the starting point.
- Note: not aware of any stile that allows horses and does not allow cattle to get through, will need actual gates rather than stiles to let equestrians through and keep cows in pastures
- No known issues regarding horses and cattle coexisting; cattle at Driscoll Ranch are likely not fearful of horses since horses are already on the property, more likely to have horses afraid of the cattle with equestrians needing to ride their horses around the cattle
- Consider providing some type of interim access to the Red Barn area and Driscoll pending new trail construction and new parking/staging areas
- Equestrians seek both weekday and weekend access
- Through trail connections onto other neighboring public lands are of higher priority than loop trails, especially if these are short loops
- Typical horse trailer rig is 45 feet long
- Prefer to have a hose bib as a source of water for horses or a circulating water trough (no standing water)
- Horses can ride for 5-6 miles without water
- Think about using the redwood cabin as a horse camp facility
- Equestrian groups may be willing to donate infrastructure to create a horse camp; consider contacting the horsemen's associations
- Volunteer trail patrol horse riders should have an integral part in helping to patrol the preserve; these folks can also assist with leading organized rides through the preserve

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MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP 3 AGENDA
FOR THE
LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE MASTER PLAN
Thursday, November 16, 2006**

La Honda Elementary School
6:30 pm – 9:30 pm.

- 6:30-6:45 pm Sign-In**
- 6:45-6:50 pm Welcoming Remarks and Introduction**
- Master plan purpose
 - Driscoll Ranch addition
 - Committee and project team introductions
- 6:50-7:05 pm Master Plan Process and Public Feedback**
- Planning process and project timeline
 - Additional public outreach: stakeholder interviews, public land tours, stakeholder focus group meetings
 - Summary of public feedback
- 7:05-7:25 pm Driscoll Ranch Introduction**
- History
 - Grazing/ranching operations and other current uses
 - Existing conditions and resource information
 - Opportunities and challenges for natural resource management and public access
- 7:25-9:00 pm Break-out Groups**
- Break-out group purpose, activity, topics of discussion
 - Disperse and begin break-out group activity
- 9:00-9:15 pm Break-Out Session Summaries**
- Presentations of break-out group discussions
- 9:15-9:25 pm Group Roundtable**
- Public comment/Q & A period
- 9:25-9:30 pm Conclusions & Next Steps**
- 9:30 pm Closing Statement**

BREAK-OUT GROUP ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

Purpose: Review and confirm main themes that have emerged from the public for La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve; discuss goals for public use and natural resource conservation at Driscoll Ranch; discuss trail use options; identify other options for consideration

Outcome: Provide input that can be considered when developing the Draft Master Plan.

7:45 p.m. Facilitator Welcome and Group Introductions

8:00 – 9:00 Break-out Group Activity

- Review material
- Select a group speaker
- Begin activity: please respond to each question:
 1. Aside from what is already shown on the map and discussed in the presentation, what other public access and resource conservation topics should be considered for the Master Plan (e.g. other trail connections, natural or cultural interpretation, special uses)?
 2. Given the ongoing cattle grazing operation and the high quality habitat for sensitive species at Driscoll Ranch, it may be more appropriate to primarily offer through trail connections with a few loop opportunities rather than have a highly dense system of trails. If that is the case, what other opportunities can the District provide to enhance the public's experience and knowledge of a working ranch and understanding of the area's resources?
 3. Big picture recreational goals that the District has heard from the public include multiple-use regional trail connections (multiple-use includes hiking, equestrian use, and mountain biking). What are your thoughts about including multiple-use east-to-west and north-to-south regional trail connections? Should there be areas open to hikers only? The District has also been asked to consider opening new areas to dogs. What are your thoughts about opening upper La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve to dogs on leash and maintaining other areas closed to dogs?
 4. Are there other issues or ideas that you would like to raise? Are any important ideas or useful information missing?
 5. Please identify the major topics or priorities that received group consensus and the topics or ideas with differing opinions.

8:55 p.m. "Parking Lot" Questions

9:00 p.m. Reconvene at the main hall

LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE MASTER PLAN PROJECT

Public Workshop #3: Driscoll Ranch

Meeting Summary

This meeting summary briefly describes the workshop presentation and the themes from the breakout group sessions held during the La Honda Creek Master Plan Project Public Workshop #3 on November 16th, 2006.

Introduction

On November 16th 2006, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) held a community workshop at the La Honda Elementary School to incorporate the recently purchased Driscoll Ranch property into the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan. With the addition of Driscoll Ranch, the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve will encompass over 5,800 acres of land, becoming the District's largest preserve in San Mateo County. The Master Plan will define the long-term vision for public use and access to the Preserve and will provide management guidelines for the Preserve's natural resources and public access facilities. The workshop covered topics addressed at the first two workshops, as well as other key issues on Driscoll Ranch, such as the ongoing ranching operations, public parking and staging area locations, and the protection and enhancement of endangered species habitat. Approximately 50 people attended the workshop to provide input for the planning process. The final Master Plan and appropriate environmental documentation that will meet California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements are targeted for completion in Summer/Fall 2007, with adoption in winter 2008.

Workshop Overview

Welcome Remarks and Introduction

Following the sign-in of workshop participants, Ana Ruiz, the Project Planner with MROSD, opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and giving a short presentation. In her presentation, Ruiz provided an overview of the Master Plan purpose, which aims to provide the public with greater opportunities for low-intensity recreational access, interpretation, and education, while protecting the natural, cultural and historic resources of the area. Ruiz went on to discuss the addition of the Driscoll Ranch property with the Open Space Preserve and then introduced the Committee and project team consisting of District and Planning Consultant (DC&E) staff, who are assisting with workshop facilitation and the preparation of the Master Plan.

Master Plan Process and Schedule

The Master Plan process for the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve began with two public workshops in the fall and winter of 2004. These workshops obtained public input on important aspects related to the management and public use of the Preserve. In spring 2005, the District began negotiations with Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) to acquire Driscoll Ranch, located just southwest of the Preserve. The required time to obtain this property delayed the planning process. However, it was felt that it was more important to incorporate Driscoll Ranch into the Master Plan as the lands together created one contiguous Preserve. Following the Workshop #3: Driscoll Ranch, which focused on issues and opportunities for the Master Plan, the District expects to develop a Draft Plan with a few alternative components, which will be presented at a public workshop to be held in the late summer of 2007. During the fall and winter of 2007-2008, the Draft Revised Plan will be prepared and the first Public Hearing held. The Final Plan and Environmental Review are expected to be completed by early 2008, when a second Public Hearing and Plan Adoption are also scheduled to take place.

In addition to public workshops, the District and Planning Consultant (DC&E) are conducting additional public outreach in the form of stakeholder interviews, public land tours and stakeholder focus group meetings.

Driscoll Ranch Introduction

Kirk Lenington, Resource Planner with the District, presented an introduction on Driscoll Ranch. Driscoll Ranch is a working ranch of over 3,700 acres located to the south of upper La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. The property boasts expansive grasslands, important wildlife habitat and spectacular coastal views. It also poses unique circumstances to public access with respect to the planning process. These include the existence of a 50-year cattle operation lease with the former owner Rudy Driscoll, privacy issues for tenants who remain on the site, and the presence of hydrocarbons in the soil from former oil exploration activities.

Planning Issues to Consider

The District continued its presentation by summarizing public feedback received thus far during the planning process, including information obtained from the first two workshops held in 2004. Opportunities and challenges for public access were shared and topics of discussion for the current workshop were outlined.

Small Break-out Group Summary

Workshop participants broke up into five groups to review and discuss options on how to incorporate Driscoll Ranch into the Master Plan process. Using maps of

the Preserve to guide the discussion, participants were asked to answer questions regarding trail use (dogs on leash, hiking, biking and equestrian access), staging areas, grazing issues, and protection of sensitive resources. As with the previous two workshops, each group was led by a trained facilitator from the consultant team or the District. Facilitators recorded their group's suggestions and questions on large sheets of paper. After 1 hour of small group discussion, participants reconvened as a large group and heard five "reports back" by one spokesperson selected from each group.

Several themes emerged from each group, which are described in detail below. Major topics included trails use, grazing, education, sensitive resources, preserve access, parking, and fire risk.

Trails

All groups expressed a desire for multiple-use trails that accommodated hikers, bicyclists, equestrians and dogs. The sentiment was that legitimate access for all uses was necessary to prevent illegitimate use in inappropriate areas. However, the importance of safety was mentioned by all groups in regards to multiple-use trails. Concerns were raised over interactions between horses, bicycles and dogs; many expressed the need to design trails that help prevent user conflicts. Possible suggestions for safety considerations included signage and clear line of sight in trail design so that blind corners are minimized. The many wide existing roads on Driscoll Ranch seemed ideal to accommodate multiple-use access. A desire for a variety of trail types that allow specific uses, such as single-track trails for hiking only, was also indicated. Other suggestions regarding safety included limiting bicyclists on steep trails to uphill travel only and timing different uses to avoid conflicts caused by various user types being on the same trails at the same time.

An extensive trail network with temporary closures when necessary was preferred over restricted access to a few trails with heavy use. Many groups expressed a desire for loop trails within the Preserve, as opposed to trails that passed through the property, which would necessitate equestrians and bicyclists to drop off and pick up horses and bicycles, respectively, at two different areas. Loop trails facilitate use by those who rely on parking for access by allowing people to return to their parking origin. In addition to trails along the ridge tops and in open grassy areas, other trails in riparian areas were requested if they could be managed to prevent resource damage. Several groups mentioned the desire for trail access to Ray's Peak. Other sentiments expressed included having bicycle access through Driscoll Ranch including the southern areas where the topography is flatter and easier to ride so that bicyclists could avoid Highway 84, which has high traffic speeds. Regional connections were supported, especially

those that permitted “skyline to the sea” access. The following adjacent areas were mentioned multiple times for possible connections to the Preserve:

El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve
Sam McDonald County Park
Windy Hill Open Space Preserve
Wunderlich County Park
Mindego Hill
Elkus Ranch
Long Ridge Open Space Preserve
Portola Redwoods State Park
Pescadero Creek County Park

Grazing

All groups supported the activity of grazing on the property, but a number of questions were raised about the details of the cattle and grazing management operation. These questions asked about the number of cows, where they would be located and when, how they would be rotated throughout the property, what role they played in fire management, how were dead cows dealt with, and if other ruminant species such as elk could be considered for a role in land management practices. How cattle would respond to interactions with people, horses, bikes and dogs was not well understood by the groups, and it was suggested that Rudy Driscoll’s input should be obtained on these matters to inform the planning process. Other suggestions included the use of spring gates, similar to those found in Marin County, and that cattle could be limited from accessing certain areas to protect sensitive resources such as riparian areas and native plant habitat. Timing of public access was stressed as important in order to meet the ranch operation needs while limiting conflicts with public use.

Education

All groups supported the opportunity for the public to learn about ranching and grazing operations as well as the history of the site. It was especially stressed as an opportunity for the La Honda Elementary School given its proximity to the Preserve. Groups expressed a number of ideas for different educational programs involving students. These included learning opportunities involving sensitive resources such as steelhead trout, native plants, and streams in addition to curriculum surrounding ranching activities as well as the possibility of an overnight camp experience. General information available to the public could be presented on signage, but it was suggested that signs should be concentrated in already developed areas or in existing structures and not distributed throughout the Preserve. Several groups also suggested other community involvement programs involving stewardship and education about sensitive resources.

Sensitive Resources

Several groups expressed the sentiment that access and use of the property should be balanced with resource management and wildlife protection. Sensitive areas identified included ponds and riparian corridors, which offer habitat to steelhead, turtles and frogs, as well as native plants. There was a concern over possible negative impacts from cattle to water quality and native plants. Suggestions to facilitate protection included creating buffers around important habitat and allowing only seasonal access in sensitive areas. Cultural resources such as the Indian Grinding Stone were also desired to be protected, but more from human threats such as vandalism. Groups also desired to have community participation in the restoration of sensitive resources.

Access

All groups were unanimous to the idea of gaining access to the Preserve as soon as possible. Priority was given for staging areas and trails needing minimal alteration before they could be functional and open to the public over building new facilities.

Other access issues mentioned the development of an ADA-accessible area adjacent to the Red Barn and the possibility of access to hang gliding in the Preserve. Some groups asked whether or not overnight and after-hour use for all user groups was being planned, and what this would mean for safety and patrol of the Preserve. All groups felt that public access should be planned for so that it didn't interfere with ranching activities. It was also expressed that policy regarding public access and activities in the Preserve should be made based on scientific evidence and not conjecture or assumptions.

Dogs

Most groups expressed the desire to have dog access in the Preserve. Generally, on-leash access was felt to be better than no access at all, but the possibility of designating an off-leash area, perhaps adjacent to the Red Barn or in the northern section of the preserve near Highway 35, was strongly encouraged. The example of a dog park in Napa, Alston Park, was given as a successful precedent. Some groups were uncertain about what kind of interaction dogs would have with cattle, so it was suggested that limiting dogs to non-cattle areas would be best. Again, the need for a legitimate area where dogs could run was stressed so that illegitimate use could be deterred. The other suggestion of steeper fines for off-leash offenders was also expressed.

Parking

The flat area adjacent to the Red Barn was identified as a possible staging area. However, concerns were raised over the site's level of service (LOS) and the length of time needed to involve CalTrans to approve the access. The area across

from the event center was also identified and given priority because of the minimal amount of alterations needed for it to function as a staging area. In general, establishing many smaller lots to serve a variety of different functions was preferred over one single large lot. There were safety concerns raised by parents about the possibility of a staging area being located near the La Honda Elementary School. However, having some direct access from the Town of La Honda was desirable. Because of safety, the speed of traffic on Highway 84 and the difficulty to see people especially at night, informal parking along the roadside was discouraged. The “bull pen” near Gate LH07 was another possible location identified for parking. The desire to install restroom facilities at parking areas was expressed by several groups.

Finally several groups mentioned a concern for fire safety and support for grazing as a fire management tool.

The workshop ended with an explanation of the next steps (see Master Plan Process and Schedule above) and an appreciation from the Project Team and the District for the public interest and ongoing participation in the master plan project.

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MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

**BICYCLIST
FOCUS GROUP MEETING
FOR
LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE
MASTER PLAN**

Thursday, February 8, 2007
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
330 Distel Circle, Los Altos
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm.

Meeting Outcomes

- Allow bicyclist stakeholders to relay ideas and issues of interest related to the master planning process at La Honda OSP and Driscoll Ranch.
- Identify options for bicyclists to stay involved in the master planning process.

4:00-4:10 pm Sign-In and Introduction

4:10-4:30 pm Brief Update and Project Status

- Master plan process & timeframe
- Previous and upcoming public workshops
- Information available for public review
- Existing trail use policies

4:30-5:30 pm Stakeholder Interview

- Group Question & Answer Session
- Highlight key topics
- Prioritize issues of interest to bicyclists

Adjourn

LA HONDA CREEK MASTER PLAN

Bicyclist Stakeholder Meeting

Meeting Summary

As a part of public outreach efforts within the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan process, the Master Plan staff team identified stakeholder groups to meet with and gather focused input from. These groups include equestrian users, bicyclists, and neighbors/nearby community members.

The stakeholder meeting for bicyclists was held Thursday, February 8th at the District's Administrative Office. Thirteen members of the public attended. All identified themselves as avid mountain bikers, and all were in favor of opening La Honda Creek to bicycle use. About two thirds of the group had attended the most recent workshop (November 2006). The agenda of the meeting and a brief summary of their comments and ideas are recorded below.

Agenda:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4:00-4:10 pm | Sign-In and Introduction |
| 4:10-4:30 pm | Update and Project Status: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Master plan process & timeframe 5. Previous and upcoming public workshops 6. Information available for public review & District Trail Use Policies |
| 4:30-5:30 pm | Stakeholder Interview: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Group Question & Answer Session 5. Highlight key topics 6. Prioritize issues of interest to cyclists. |

Bicyclists' Comments:

The preference of the attendees for bike access to both upper La Honda Creek and the Driscoll Ranch area was extremely clear. They were unanimous in urging the District to open the Preserve to bike use, emphasizing regional connections and environmentally sound trail construction.

1. Regional trails

The majority of the group identified their ideal trip length as 10-20 miles or 2-3 hours. They favored both regional trail connectivity and interior loops. The potential connection that garnered most interest was to El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve; the vast majority of attendees indicated that they have previously ridden at this preserve. Other interests included a route running from the ridge down toward the Pacific coast, and the completion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail as a multiple-use route. Local residents indicated interest in a connection to regional trails from the Town of La Honda, possibly near the La Honda Elementary School.

2. Single track trails

The participants repeatedly indicated that fire roads and steep, wide trails are not ideal for bicyclists or for the natural environment. These conditions contribute to high speeds and increased trail erosion. Many attendees noted that, where possible, single-track trails are their strong preference. The International Mountain Bicycling Association trail building guidelines were cited as a useful framework for enjoyable, challenging, and environmentally responsible trail construction. Participants also noted that some area mountain biking organizations have volunteer trail building and maintenance capabilities.

3. Local access

A number of cyclists that are also local residents were in attendance. These participants displayed a high level of interest in bike use connectivity with the Town of La Honda in particular, emphasizing Sears Ranch Road. Ideas included easy loops near La Honda Elementary, connections to regional trails, and a possible route from the school toward the Driscoll Event Center.

4. Cyclists and Cattle

Not all of the attendees had ridden near cattle, but those who had indicated no direct conflicts. A few stile designs were noted for their flaws or good features. All agreed that separation of recreational use and livestock infrastructure such as barns, water troughs, and salt licks is preferable for their user group.

5. Other Comments

Participants noted that most bike users prefer parking on the downhill side of a round trip. All were in favor of web-published and well-signed trail closures when necessary. Some were in favor of long-term changes in allowed uses at Pescadero County and Portola Redwoods State Parks. Santa Clara County's recent trail work at Harvey Bear Park was commended for its bike-friendly design. Attendees also commented that demographically, potential mountain bike users outnumber equestrian users.

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MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

**NEIGHBORS
FOCUS GROUP MEETING
FOR
LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE
MASTER PLAN**

Wednesday, February 21, 2007
La Honda Elementary School, Library
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm.

Meeting Outcomes

- Allow neighbors to relay ideas and issues of interest related to the master planning process for the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (including Driscoll Ranch)
- Identify options for neighbors to stay involved.

4:00-4:10 pm Sign-In and Introduction

4:10-4:30 pm Brief Update and Project Status

- Master plan process & timeframe
- Next public workshop
- Information available for public review

4:30-5:30 pm Stakeholder Interview

- Group Overview/ Questions & Answers
- Highlight key topics
- Prioritize issues of interest to neighbors

Adjourn

LA HONDA CREEK MASTER PLAN

La Honda Neighborhood Stakeholder Meeting

Meeting Summary

The stakeholder meeting for local neighbors was held Wednesday, February 21st at the La Honda Elementary School. Ten members of the public attended. All identified themselves as neighbors to La Honda Creek and/or Driscoll. The agenda of the meeting and a brief summary of their comments and ideas are recorded below.

Agenda:

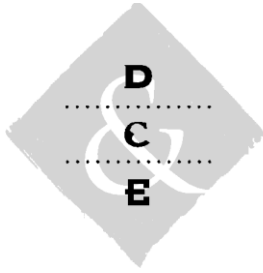
- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4:00-4:10 pm | Sign-In and Introduction |
| 4:10-4:30 pm | Update and Project Status: <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Master plan process & timeframe8. Previous and upcoming public workshops9. Information available for public review & District Trail Use Policies |
| 4:30-5:30 pm | Stakeholder Interview: <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Group Question & Answer Session8. Highlight key topics9. Prioritize issues of interest to cyclists. |

Neighbor's Comment:

- Some members have in the past ridden on the old McDonald Ranch (Red Barn Area)
- Many have hiked most of all areas
- People have accessed the Driscoll property through Djerassi/Smith lands, from the main Driscoll Event Center, off Allen Road and Sears Ranch Road
- Impacts to La Honda Elementary School were noted, particularly regarding parking. Some voiced concerns about preserve visitors parking on school grounds and having access to views of the schoolyard from the Preserve (a particular concern for parents)
 - Some asked if it is possible to have a separation between the school and visitors use, for example: locate trailheads and trails away from the school or facing opposite direction.
- Parking in or near Cuesta is desirable for equestrian access up Sear Ranch Road
- Ideas for interpretation:
 - Offer docent programs that interpret the ranching operation, natural environment
 - Offer programs, facilitate use by YMCA or other camps
 - Offer outdoor programs – interpretive hikes, signs, brochures
- Trail network – how does density compare to other open space areas?
- High interest in using roads, new trails other than just the ranch roads already in existence
- Desire for more short loops, loops near the Town (local trailheads) – not only regional trail access
- Multi-use – discussion of hiking & off trail use for bikes, horses
- Sensitive biological communities need areas with minimal recreational use

- District volunteer trail patrol – new opportunity for La Honda residents at Driscoll
- Sensitive areas – single point access/vistas
- Plan for/mitigate user conflicts
- Short funds = > opportunity for community involvement
- Note sensitive plants & fungi, especially near trails
- Different set of guidelines at Driscoll/Upper La Honda
- Dogs – cattle – interaction can be problematic
 - Potential for dogs trying to herd cattle; poor leash compliance
 - Dog access not needed at all access points
- Is a trail campground possible/planned? (BART access?)
- Lone madrone is a local landmark, located NE of Gate LH10
- School is seeking permission to place a water tank at the property boundary on Driscoll, elevation will aid gravity feed to water school vegetable garden
- Desire for neighbor access into Driscoll as soon as possible
- San Mateo County Trails Plan calls out an East to West & North to South regional trail – one potentially possible that can proceed through Sam McDonald County Park
- Is the North to South trail connection feasible from a resource perspective? Build only if maintainable.
- Neighbors want informal (no-parking) access before formally opening property to use with formal parking – can neighbors be allowed access prior to constructing formal parking and formal trailheads?

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1625 SHATTUCK AVENUE
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BERKELEY, CA 94709
TEL: 510 848 3815
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MEMORANDUM

DATE July 18, 2007
TO Ana Ruiz
MROSD
FROM Shay Boutillier
RE **Driscoll Ranch Stakeholder Interview Summary**

The memo summarizes our stakeholder interview on Friday, November 3rd, 2006 on Driscoll Ranch as part of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan. This information along with additional input from District meetings with Rudy Driscoll and Bob Meehan of Driscoll Ranch, will be incorporated into information we will present to the public during our first Driscoll Ranch public workshop to be held 11/16/06.

La Honda Fire Brigade Representative

1. Introduction and description of the Master Plan Project

Question by interviewee: Is the Master Plan Process legally required?

2. What is stakeholders' relationship or interest in the Preserve?

- The La Honda Fire Brigade is a volunteer company providing the first emergency response to the planning area.
- All of Driscoll Ranch and a large portion of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve fall under the Brigade's jurisdiction. As one moves east, jurisdiction is shared with the County Fire Station in Skylonda.
- California Department of Forestry (CDF) is the wildland fire jurisdiction for the planning area, where as the local La Honda Fire Brigade is responsible for rescue, emergency response and injury as well as structural fires.

3. What are Key issues that should be addressed during the Master Planning Process, particularly in regard to the organization or agency goals and stakeholder interests?

In no particular order:

- The District should continue to maintain existing roadways and bridges to the extent that they exist today. The existing Driscoll Ranch roadway is currently the minimum to permit access to a Type 3 Wild-land fire engine.
- The Brigade would like the District to adopt the 911 system as the public access to emergency services over other district telephone numbers to request assistance. In this area, 911 is faster.
- There is no reliable cellular service in the planning area. The Brigade would like to see the District equip trailheads, staging points and one or more strategically placed locations in the preserve with wired 911 phones.
- The District's LAFCO requirements necessitate the maintenance of perimeter fuel breaks to help prevent the spread of fire if it may occur.
- As much as possible, the Brigade would like that the public stay on identified roadways and trails so as to facilitate access for emergency response if needed, rather than searching the preserve.

4. Any information on the History of Driscoll Ranch or suggestions of other individuals or sources we should contact?

- No personal information, but recommends contacting POST and PG&E as they might go on to property for some official activity.

5. Have you in the past or currently still visit Driscoll Ranch? And if so, what roads or paths have you traveled or routes that you would like to retain and made open to public use?

- Last visit was in 2000 or 2001 so has familiarity with existing roadways, which seem reasonable but wants to ensure there is adequate access for both a Type 3 Wildland Fire Engine and an Off-Road Rescue Vehicle to most areas of the ranch.
- No comment on public uses other than to have people stay on established trails.

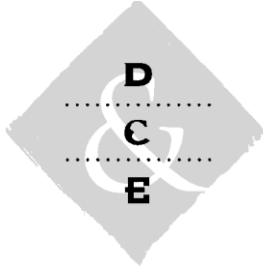
6. Are there any concerns over introducing public use to a working Ranch? And, if so, what are these concerns or are there certain uses that are of a particular concern (e.g. dogs, horses, mountain bikes on trails etc.)?

- Expects an increase of emergency calls with any kind of public access or increase in agricultural use. Currently the Brigade responds to emergencies in State Parks and other open space lands. A standard composition of calls includes but is not limited to motorcycle accidents, injuries related to horseback riding and injuries related to mountain bike riding. It is not up to the Brigade to decide land use.

7. Are there any other concerns or issues that you would like to raise or any existing resources or existing conditions on the property that merits special attention?

- Wants to invite District Ranger staff in a partnership with the Brigade to be participants in providing service to the planning area. This should be a true partnership where both entities aren't working in conflict with each other but rather working together in a way that makes both agencies' jobs easier.
- Asks that Brigade be kept posted with everything that happens from now until the end of the planning process.
- La Honda is an increasingly high use area.

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MEMORANDUM

DATE July 18, 2007
TO Ana Ruiz
Midpeninsula Open Space District
FROM Shay Boutillier
RE **Driscoll Ranch Stakeholder Interview Summaries**

The memo summarizes two stakeholder interviews DC&E conducted to obtain information about Driscoll Ranch as part of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan. Information obtained along with additional input from District meetings with Rudy Driscoll and Bob Meehan of Driscoll Ranch, will be incorporated into information we will present to the public during our first Driscoll Ranch public workshop to be held 11/16/06.

San Mateo Resource Conservation District Representative

Introduction and description of the Master Plan Project

What is stakeholders' relationship or interest in the Preserve?

- Formerly worked at POST with the District on the Driscoll Ranch land transfer. Worked to set up the monitoring program for grazing on Driscoll Ranch, managed the lease for the ranching tenants, was involved with determining which structures to keep on site.
- Personal interest in resource issues on the property, its adjacency to other protected lands that are either purchased or protected through conservation easements.
- Currently Executive Director with the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (RCD). The RCD bridges the gap between public and private resource conservation. It is closely associated with agriculture and ranching, traditionally working closely with farm bureaus. It is involved with local agricultural practices and farms as well as government agencies to promote conservation.

What are Key issues that should be addressed during the Master Planning Process, particularly in regard to the organization or agency goals and stakeholder interests?

- Finding a balance between the conservation objectives, recreation objectives and economic feasibility of the property. Hoping that new use doesn't place unnecessary

burden on the existing ranching activities. This is an opportunity for the District to continue its work to be perceived as more friendly towards agriculture.

- The San Gregorio watershed just received funding for assessment for the first stage in developing an integrated watershed management plan. This plan should be taken into consideration during the planning process for the Open Space Preserve. Matt Freeman from the District is already aware of this funding for the watershed. This acquisition makes the District a more substantial owner of land in the watershed and means the District might play a large role in the watershed planning.
- From experience working at POST, anticipates dogs are going to be an issue. There will be people who want them and those who don't. This is also true for mountain bikes and horses.
- An issue raised by the public is the loss of tax revenue for the school district. Doesn't know if the District is already addressing that.

Any information on the History of Driscoll Ranch or suggestions of other individuals or sources we should contact?

- While working at POST, all available information was handed over to the District's Real Property Manager.
- For contacts in the District suggests: Real Property Manager, Senior Real Property Planner, and the Operations Manager.
- For contacts at POST suggests: Director of Stewardship who would have access to all information when POST acquired the property.
- Contact the Farm Bureau who may know properties well.

Have you in the past or currently still visit Driscoll Ranch? And if so, what roads or paths have you traveled or routes that you would like to retain and made open to public use?

- Has spent lots of time on Driscoll Ranch when was the property manager for POST. Has not been recently but has been to Red Gate Ranch which is an adjacent property.
- The Ridge road is nice to maintain for public access.
- Suggests that a trail could pass by the Indian Grinding Stone, which is an interesting archeological feature located in the back of property.
- Suggests a trail to access Ray's Peak, the main peak or point on the property.
- Wherever trails end up being placed, ensure that public uses are restricted enough so agricultural operations are not impeded.

Are there any concerns over introducing public use to a working Ranch? And, if so, what are these concerns or are there certain uses that are of a particular concern (e.g. dogs, horses, mountain bikes on trails etc.)?

- This issue was covered above. No particular use is a concern but wants to make sure the planning process maintains the economic viability of the business. Driscoll Ranch should not just be a demonstration project that looks rural and quaint but continue as an active working ranch.
- Currently, the Ranch uses herbicides as an essential component of their operation. Herbicide is mainly applied in disturbed areas like roads and trails, which are the same areas people would be using.
- Currently, Driscoll Ranch is a very tight community. The displacement of any member of this community from the property/residence will create a public relations nightmare for the District. Given prior working experience with many of the people in this area, be aware that one's perception of the relationship with the community is not necessarily the same as reality.

Are there any other concerns or issues that you would like to raise or any existing resources or existing conditions on the property that merits special attention?

- People should be kept away from the ponds as they are for the cattle and provide good wildlife habitat.
- As mentioned before, an existing archeological resource is the Indian grinding stone.
- One potential condition that currently isn't existing but could pose a future problem is road erosion. Bob Meehan is a good tenant and runs a good ranch. Erosion is dealt with before it becomes an issue. The District might not be aware of how potentially significant of an issue erosion might be because Bob is managing it so well.
- There are spectacular wildflower displays in the spring and pretty healthy native plant communities on the property because of conservation grazing practices. For more information on grazing practices, contact the District's Senior Resource Planner or POST.

Cuesta La Honda Guild Representative

Introduction and description of the Master Plan Project

What is stakeholders' relationship or interest in the Preserve?

- Cuesta La Honda Guild is a common interest development/homeowners association that also runs a mutual water company containing .3 reservoirs to provide water to 300 homes.
- Generally people who live around this area are bad stewards of the land so the Guild is in favor of Government authorities taking over and preserving Driscoll Ranch as open space; otherwise, it will be sold and not retained as open space.

- The Guild is against converting land to commercial use to increase tax revenues. The idea for one large city on the coast does not match with the vision of the Guild.

What are Key issues that should be addressed during the Master Planning Process, particularly in regard to the organization or agency goals and stakeholder interests?

- To make sure that the land remains as open space and is not developed

Any information on the History of Driscoll Ranch or suggestions of other individuals or sources we should contact?

- On the Driscoll Ranch webpage, there is a section that details the History of the site or contact Grazing Tenant directly.

Have you in the past or currently still visit Driscoll Ranch? And if so, what roads or paths have you traveled or routes that you would like to retain and made open to public use?

- Only visited the site for the Rodeo. No other comment on the second part of the question.

Are there any concerns over introducing public use to a working Ranch? And, if so, what are these concerns or are there certain uses that are of a particular concern (e.g. dogs, horses, mountain bikes on trails etc.)?

- No concerns over introducing public use to a working ranch. People hardly ever come up here. There are no worries about people wanting to walk their dogs and doubts that we will be overrun by people with bikes and dogs. These issues do not diminish support for open space.

Are there any other concerns or issues that you would like to raise or any existing resources or existing conditions on the property that merits special attention?

- Bottom line the Guild is against development in that area. The guild wants to protect it as such and will be happy if it is.
- One additional person to contact to ask these questions are former Board Members of the Guild

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La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan Project

Summary of Written Public Comments Through October 2007 (not including workshop comments)

1. Trail Use

- Allow mountain bikes/open trails to multi-use/families with kids would like to ride LH from the Town*
- Open trails to bikes on equal basis as horses
- Consider one-way trails that are open to bikes
- Consider alternate days for bike use
- Open some trails to hiking only use
- Designate trail use based on percentage of user types
- Open trails to bikes and horses - only means of travel that can allow people to explore far reaches
- Close the area to bikes; poor compliance; cause erosion; threat to reptiles and amphibians
- Restricting bikes to only a few preserves will create more stress on those trail systems; best to spread
- Erosion and safety concerns may preclude ability to open trails to hikers, bikers, and equestrians
- Concern about desires to open preserve immediately; consider opening first to VTP to test waters
- Public use of coastside properties likely to be much less than that experiences on the bayside
- Best to open trails officially/formally to bikes than deal with illegal bike use
- Consider separate trails to separate users
- Multiple use only on wide fire roads
- Limit bicycle use
- Open preserve ASAP
- Open trails to hikers and horses
- Research does not conclude that bikes are a sig/major source of erosion
- Grazing can coexist with bicycles; EBRPD an example
- Include 5-mile loop for hikers only

2. Trails Connections; Trail Construction

- Require bridges over all drainages/gullies where horses are allowed
- Before identifying North to South route, need to propose route & construction methods to address erosion concerns
- Add loop trail for equestrians and hikers
- Loop trails of 5-10-20 miles fro equestrians and hikers in Driscoll
- Trails can be placed appropriately to respect environmental sensitivity
- Connections to other open space lands are important
- BART connection is important
- Narrow primitive trails keep bicycle speeds down
- North to south, east to west connections would add greatly to the Peninsula park experience
- Graded path next to Hwy 84 would improve safety for bicyclists below LH
- Include 2 north to south trails for one large preserve loop trail

- Locate trails in wooded areas and near ponds to provide access to diversity of habitats

3. Interpretation

- Do not clutter land with signs; prefer to see notes in trail maps with references to other sources of info
- Important to educate public about native plants and need to close areas to access for habitat protection
- Educate public on working cattle ranches and how to behave; install info at trailheads

4. Resource Management

- Close areas to use to protect habitat, wildlife corridors
- Consider limiting use in designated CDFG critical habitat areas
- Establish setbacks to protect sensitive areas (e.g. 100 ft buffer to streams, water bodies)
- Restore degraded habitat; reroute trails away from sensitive areas
- Consider reintroducing Tule elk, native grazers to the area
- Consider using prescribed burns as a resource management tool to restore grasslands
- Limit access (maybe only to summer months); preserve habitat
- Ensure protection of Kings Mtn. Manzanita (endemic to Santa Cruz Mtns.)
- Do not increase access at a risk to the environment
- Needs of plants, wildlife, and preservation of agriculture in the Coast are great

5. Facilities

- There is a shortage of trail camps; consider adding one at LH
- Important to maintain grazing lease; needs of grazing operation should be met before allowing public use

6. Dogs

Consider allowing off trail dog use at Driscoll for training and testing dogs to track (Nov-April, on leash)

- Mixing dogs and cattle a major concern
- Dogs on leash only in areas away from cattle
- Limit access; concerns re: mixing dogs with horses, wildlife, small children

7. Parking/Traffic

- Provide sufficient parking for horse trailers
- Staging areas are needed; Driscoll and Red Barn
- Concerns regarding dangerous sections of Hwy 84

8. Operations and Management

- Safety should be of highest concern
- Consider desires of coastal residents; may influence future interactions as District purchases more land
- Recommend that MROSD pursue endowment of a maintenance program for all preserve trails

- Reintroduce cattle in other areas of the preserve
- Bicycles can scare cattle

* Also received 130 signed petitions supporting bicycle access

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La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

MASTER PLAN

WINTER 2007

OVERVIEW

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is developing a resource protection and visitor use plan for its 5,759-acre La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, which includes the newly purchased Driscoll Ranch. The Preserve is known for its tall redwoods, expansive grasslands, and spectacular coastal view, extending nearly five miles downhill along La Honda Road, from Skyline Boulevard/Highway 35 almost halfway to the coast.

This newsletter is designed to provide an update on the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan project. Through the master planning process, the District aims to provide the public with greater opportunities for low-intensity recreational access, interpretation, and education, while actively grazing the land and protecting the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Preserve.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2007, 4:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
THE MOUNTAIN TERRACE (SEE REVERSE FOR DIRECTIONS)**

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is pleased to announce the release of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Draft Master Plan! We invite members of the public to come learn about and study the Draft Plan recommendations in preparation for an upcoming Public Hearing. The recommendations are true to the District's mission and incorporate

many of the comments and ideas the District heard from neighbors, agencies, Preserve users, and local organizations. Please join us at this informal event where members of the Project Team will be present to answer your questions. This is an opportunity to preview the Draft Plan and provide early input.

NEXT STEPS

DECEMBER 4, 2007	DRAFT PLAN OPEN HOUSE
DECEMBER 21, 2007	RELEASE OF THE FULL DRAFT PLAN DOCUMENT
JANUARY 2008	1ST PUBLIC HEARING ON DRAFT PLAN
MARCH 2008	FINAL PLAN & ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
SPRING 2008	2ND PUBLIC HEARING & FINAL PLAN ADOPTION

CONTACT INFORMATION

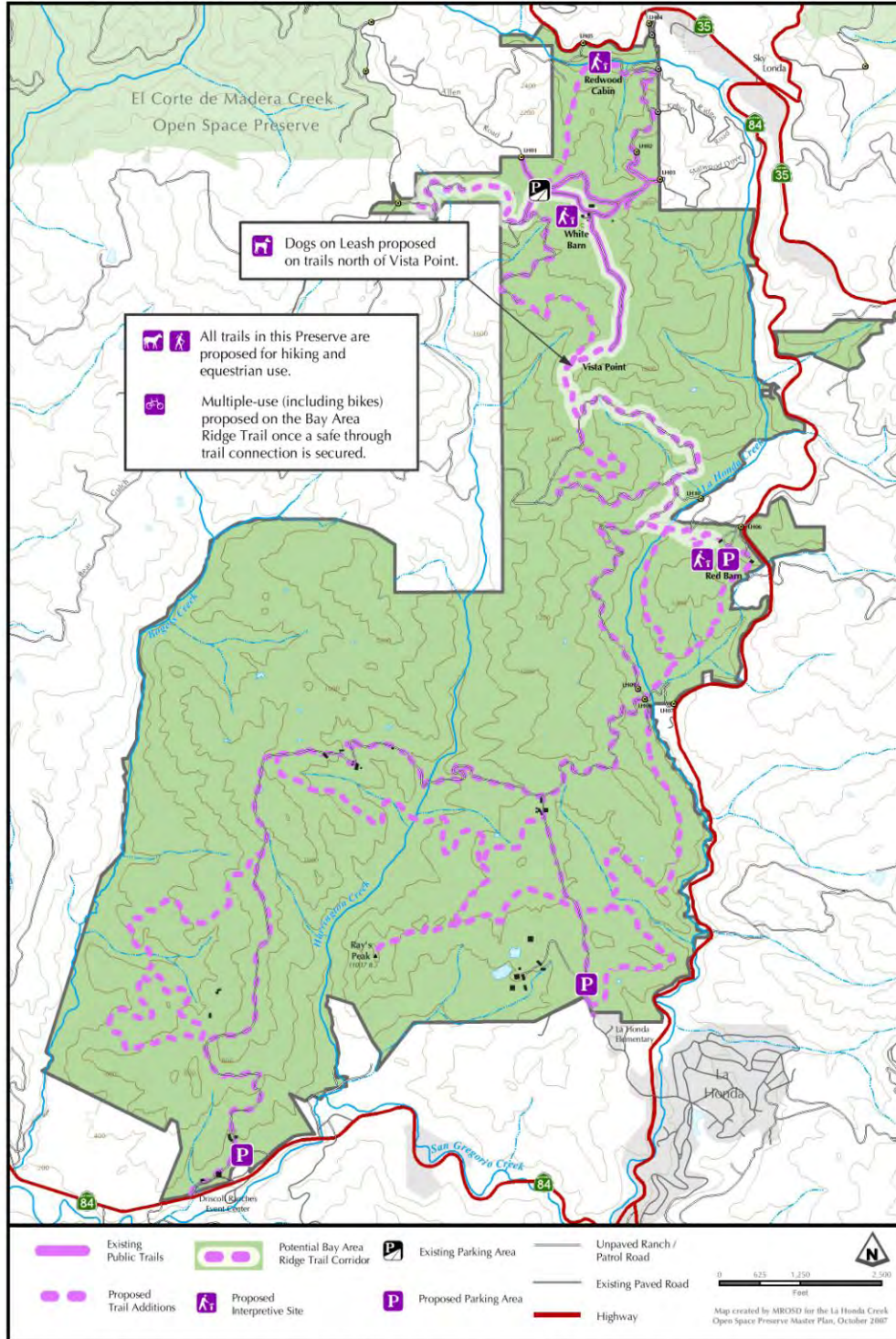
If you have any questions or comments, please email lahondamasterplan@openspace.org, visit the Web site www.openspace.org, or call Ana Ruiz, Project Planner, at (650) 691-1200. Information, including handouts, public feedback from previous workshops, and maps, can be found on the project Web site.

Draft Master Plan Recommendations

The list below and the enclosed maps represent a few key recommendations of the Draft Plan.

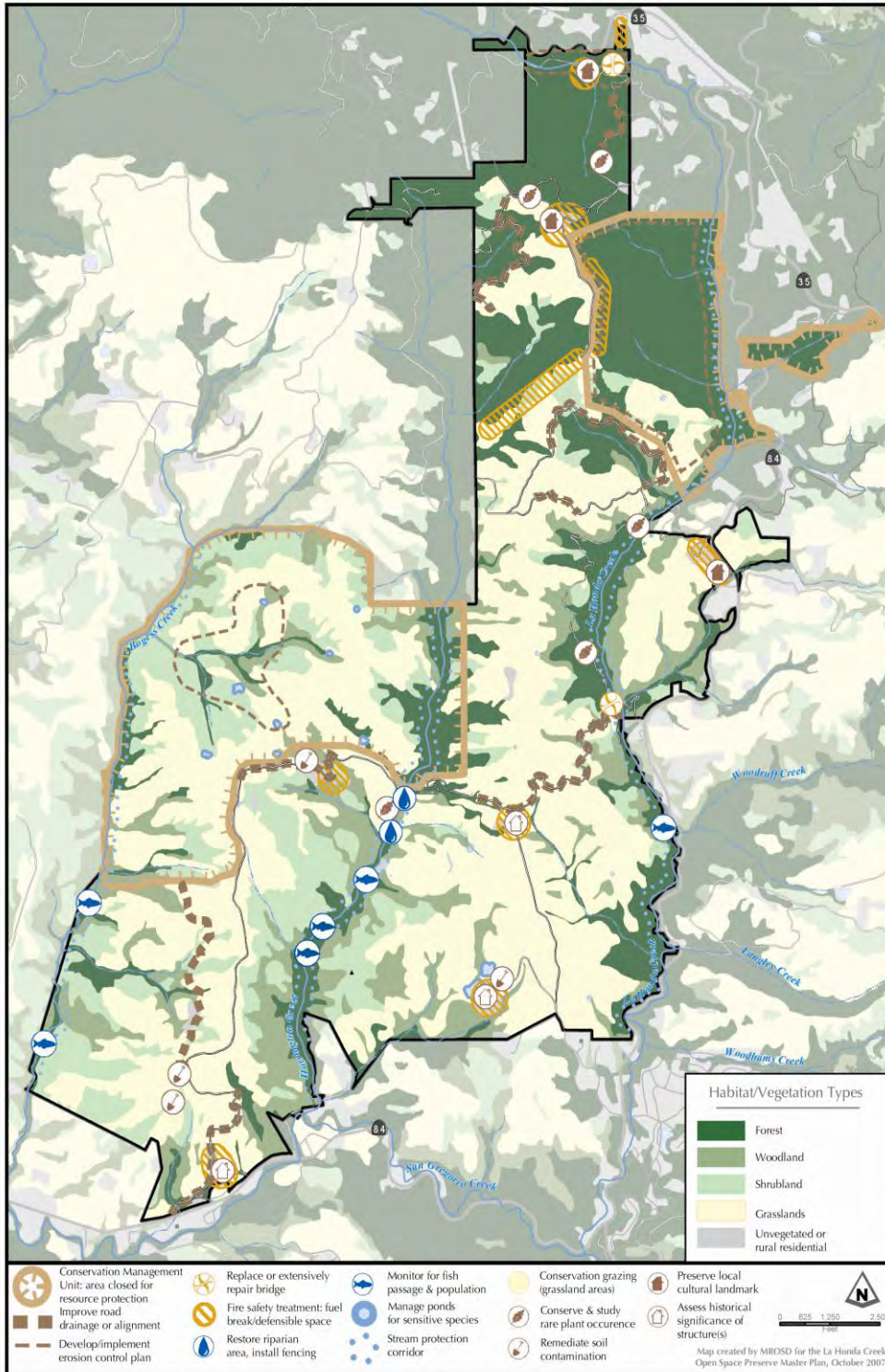
<p>PONDS, STREAMS, WATER QUALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor, modify fish barriers Repair road related erosion Restore denuded riparian areas Exclude cattle with added fencing Prepare Pond Management Plan Conduct San Francisco garter snake surveys; reintroduce if absent 	<p>CULTURAL RESOURCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feature Red Barn, White Barn, & Redwood Cabin, prepare maintenance plan for each Develop interpretive materials Preserve rural character and historic structures Update District inventory as new information becomes known 	<p>VEGETATION MANAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue/expand conservation grazing Implement rangeland monitoring Inventory & protect landmark trees Develop forest mgmt practices Focus weed control along roads & former building sites Monitor & protect rare plants Monitor Sudden Oak Death, follow best management practices
<p>PARKING AND STAGING AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve layout of Allen Road permit parking lot New parking areas near the Red Barn Area and Driscoll Events Center with ample room for equestrian parking New parking area off Sears Ranch Road 	<p>INTERIOR AND REGIONAL TRAILS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open 30 miles of new trails and existing ranch roads Numerous loops off Allen Road, Red Barn area, & Sears Ranch Road Easy access trail off Allen Road Designate Ridge Trail corridor Trail connection between upper La Honda Creek OSP & Red Barn area Develop Road Maintenance Plan 	<p>PUBLIC USE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As staging areas & new trails are constructed & existing trails improved, open new areas of the Preserve to hiking & equestrian use Open Ridge Trail alignment to multi-use (includes bikes) once a safe through trail connection is secured Open trails near the Allen Road entrance to dogs on leash

PUBLIC ACCESS



NOTE: These maps are for planning purposes only. They are not intended as guides to public lands, trails or facilities. See Preserve maps and brochures for existing access information. Proposed public access facilities are general in scope and scale; these maps are intended to help guide the development of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



NOTE: These maps are for planning purposes only. They are not intended as guides to public lands, trails or facilities. See Preserve maps and brochures for existing access information. Natural resource data is general in scope and scale; these maps are intended to help guide the development of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan.

Open House

LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE MASTER PLAN



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE UPCOMING OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2007

4:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

The Mountain Terrace
17285 Skyline Boulevard
Woodside, California 94062

Located at the corner of Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35) and Woodside Road (Highway 84), across the street from Alice's Restaurant.

Participation is key to a great plan! Please join us at this informal event to preview the Draft Plan.

Please contact us if you would like to be removed from the Master Plan mailing list.

The mission of the MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity; protect and restore the natural environment; and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
330 Distel Circle • Los Altos, California 94022-1404
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Web site: www.openspace.org

**Summary of Open House Public Comments
La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan
December 4, 2007**

Comments from the Cultural Resources/Interpretation Table:

- I would like to get a copy of the history of the Weeks Ranch. I have submitted a lot of information that probably is part of this document
- I would like MROSD to come talk to LHPUSD board & staff regarding access and educational opportunities
- What color is considered the “historic” color for the red barn? It was re-painted a gaudy, bright red in the 1980’s, which was not the original color. What color are you using?
- Please send me a copy of the History of the Weeks Ranch – La Honda pamphlet. I’m a history buff.
- Would hope you continue with plans for public access (hikes & equestrians) for possible overnight facilities at the Redwood Log Cabin
- Glad to hear preservation of the cabin is high priority
- Think about including pond interpretation from the earliest stages of the pond management planning
- I would like to visit these historical buildings on a week day (Tue or Wed)

Comments from the Resource Management Table:

- Please do not base this decision entirely upon the precedent of Skegg’s; Skegg’s has a very specific history and geography that is largely different from this one. It is a small percent of bikers that ride illegally and disrespectfully. The rest of us are more than willing to help in every way
- Enlist cyclists to build trails, or their own legal trails
- Try a new approach of odd/even days access for bike and hiker/horses
- Look at Mission Peak area for learned lessons concerning cattle and bike access
- Equal trail access for all users. If there are issues involving costs to manage mountain bikers, please have us (mountain bikers) involved in resolving the issues and distribute the costs to us (tickets, fines, etc). Limiting trail access is not a desirable solution.
- Kudos for making a beautiful, safe place to hike and ride horses!
- Please consider that one’s support for the management of natural resources is directly related to their experiences in the area. Not only does expanded bike access promote such use, it will also promote conservation mindedness of those users. My concern for natural resources is due completely to my extensive experience in nature. I ride bikes - participate in District pig abatement plan; provide Allen Road neighbors with gate access code or emergency fire escape
- Enlist local volunteers for trail-building/maintenance
- Involve Sierra Club – get their input and support
- Require public comment at time of likely opening of Bay Area Ridge Trail links. Link will drive dangerous public use of Bear Gulch West
- Build a network of multiuse trails (dogs, too) near the town of La Honda!

- Open the Ridge Trail Alignment to bikes ASAP. Please don't wait until connector segment opens. Open the Ridge Trail to multi-use for the town of La Honda to the Ridge (Bear Gulch elementary school)
- Carbon Dioxide impact; e-coli – crypto – invasive grasses
- MTB riders can maintain trails too!
- Think outside the box –
 - Encourage mountain bikers to self police – provide info on incidents to make it possible
 - Encourage volunteers to trail patrol
 - Use Vocal to build trails
 - Look to other organizations such as State parks, OSA for ideas on how to manage mountain biking with less staff
- Preserve the integrity of the Vista Point!
- Spreading out the increasing numbers of cyclists on to more trail miles, such as are available in La Honda Creek OSP is a more sustainable plan. Allow bicycle access in this preserve; The San Mateo Parks District has historically been anti-bicyclist; please do not continue this ethos in LHCOSP; we need more miles of trails simple as a way to spread use; We can dramatically decrease hike-cyclist conflict by creating bypass trails for the first mile or so from major trailheads. Bicycles can travel long distances with no problem, and this would get them out of the way of most hikers, who don't go nearly as far – especially parents with strollers and little kids or the aged.

Additional Comments

- The more accessibility there is to the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, then the greater the emotional attachment will be that the community has for the space. This will help to ensure the preservation of this land for our children and future generations. Re-opening the trails and creating new trails for bicycles will provide greater access to far more people than hiking or horseback riding alone. Horseback riding is an activity that is open to only a small part of the community. Hiking limits accessibility because there are constraints of time and distance and health. Exploring areas deeper in the preserve is difficult hiking without committing a full day or large portion of the day. Mountain biking provides a way to explore and enjoy many areas of the preserve and enjoy the peaceful serenity of nature- in the space of a few hours. It is also an activity that can be enjoyed by a large spectrum of the population. Young children can bike with families. Biking can be enjoyed by senior citizens. It is much less threatening than riding along busy highways and provides much better scenery. I'm concerned that the policy draft is so strongly favoring hikers over multi-use and that the multi-use trail policy is favoring horseback riding over biking. I believe the policy's support of education for trail etiquette is an adequate enough measure to ensure that all trail users will be able to enjoy the open space preserve. It is our use of the trail, our enjoyment of the trail and our emotional attachment to the trail that will ensure its preservation.
- Construct trail to bypass horse trails along western park boundary to Bay Area Ridge Trail for bikes from Driscoll Ranch parking lot. Could be built by bike community to ease budget issues and designate as bike only in turn

- Open more trails to mountain bikes, we will help keep trails clean and help with maintenance. Have adequate parking & toilets
- Multi-use trails should be open to bicycles – hiking only is ok, but allowing horses but not bikes is nonsensical. We want to help build and maintain trails, but only if we can ride them! Ps: think about what happens when you get old and arthritic or need a hip replacement – you won't be able to hike but you can still ride...
- Bikes belong – they're green, quiet and benefit a nation of obese people. Humane. Some trails should be hiking-only or slow-speed use. Many people come for natural history; stop often to look at flowers, birds, insects, "quiet enjoyment" etc. Also keep trails foot-only in muddy weather to avoid increasing erosion.
- More bike trails will likely lead to fewer illegal trails being built. Bike trails built by/with MidPen are safer and more erosion friendly. Bike sales are on the rise for the last 15 years. More cyclists need more trails. Don't create a density problem by reducing the number of bike trails. That only leads to rogue people taking situations into their own hands. None of us wants that.
- Smokers = fires
- Restrooms – where do they go?
- Trash at parking areas?
- Banning all bikes = only "outlaw" bikers. Need to enlist local biking groups to help out so bikes can be allowed responsibly (and this is from an equestrian!)
- Highway 84 is the only way for cyclists to travel this area with some out of the way exceptions. Since the preserve has a trail that runs parallel to this highway, it would be nice to have legal access via bicycle. It will keep a few bikes off that dangerous highway, anyway. Please consider opening one trail/fire road open for this purpose.
- Dog access area from Sears Ranch & Gate LH07
- MROSD should commit (you participated last time and we appreciate it) to maintenance & repair of Allen Road (private road) due to increased traffic use (not allowed under easement).
- Equal access for all users. If need be, separate trails for bike use – work with advocacy groups (IMBA) on trail building/maintenance.
- Connection from ECdM at Lawrence Creek Trail, CM06 to La Honda, LH## (on Bear Gulch Rd) is already in place for bicycles – they can use the paved Bear Gulch Rd. until a trail corridor in ECdM is acquired. Do not need to wait for some "future connection". Can open this gate LH##, NOW.
- Also need a loop for bicycles off Allen Road (even short) for family use, kid appropriate roads already exist @ White Barn and under power lines AND off Sears Ranch Rd near school in La Honda. Kids need safe place to bike ride near town of La Honda.
- Install "Park Boundary" signs where park trails cross trails to/from private property. Do not wait for through connection to dedicate Ridge Trail.
- No need to wait for through connection to other preserves before opening trails to all users.
- Please form a trail from Sears Ranch Road for mountain bike use for the La Honda community.
- Note no parking on private roads

- Limitations of bicycle use need to be re-thought. Enforce laws/regulations for abuse, not limit because pre-existing ideas about cyclists.
- Hiking only trails near the La Honda School. For kid safety on group nature hikes.
- If there are any hiking only trails, can we open them up (for MTB) at least on one weekend day? Some La Honda Residents also hope to be able to ride into the preserve from their houses.
- Please reconsider bicycles ban from the property. Cycling community should be allowed on the trails that can accommodate horses.
- Bay Area Ridge Trail is NOT THE ONLY REGIONAL trail Corridor that should be opened to bikes. Bicycle access to Sears Ranch Road. Need to connect to Old Haul Road (?) in Pescadero County Park.
- Prune occasionally along trails to expose the magnificent views that are available.
- Comfortable wooden benches are a godsend along the various trails. Easy to place them inconspicuously.
- It is wonderful to have a safe place to hike and ride horses after actively supporting open space for 25 years. Thank you!
- It's fantastic to finally have a safe place to hike and ride horses. Thanks a thousand times
- As a hiker and cyclist, I am looking forward to these extensive additions to our trail system. I would really like to have one full east-west bicycle path and one full north-south path to allow safe and beautiful off-road connectivity.
- Thank you for your consideration towards cyclists. Allowing us to use this land will bring into the space a group predominately concerned with the enjoyment and maintenance of our beautiful land
- Thanks for the mountain bike access you currently provide. But it is clearly less than the user community would like. La Honda is a great opportunity for cyclists of all skill levels and ages. Cycling is compatible with other multi-use activities and makes the lands you are protecting accessible to the people you are protecting them for.
- One of the participants was disappointed that the Draft Implementation Plan wasn't presented in a formal setting, as the night of the Open House was the first time many or all of the participants had a chance to see and review the material. Participant was able to get some good information from staff at the stations, but this was after having to review all of the materials that night in order to know what questions to ask.
- Control and/or manage feral pig population in the preserve as much as possible
- Make habitat/vegetation resource maps available on web for other preserves
- Coordinate restoration and management programs with PG&E program development as feasible
- Analyze feasibility of burn management with grazing rotation
- Skeptical of out slope roads
- Make Google Earth overview of preserve available on-line (for all preserves, not just La Honda)
- We would like to see more mountain bike trails in La Honda OSP. It seems with so much land, there could be more equal use and allow for the mountain bikes in the local community of La Honda. The Master Plan as it stands, does not address the needs of the closest community to the park, but we are

impacted the most. Please allow us a little more room in your development plans. Give a safe place to ride.

- I know you have already considered it, but equestrian (rig) parking is such an important element for us. Safe areas to pull into – and turn around in – are the key to being able to fully utilize these wonderful lands. Thank you for the wonderful work you are doing on this huge project
- I'm a 59 year old San Mateo County resident who has appreciated the bike access provided in the past by Mid-Pen. The La Honda Preserve is a huge open space area, and I am saddened and totally don't understand why there is no access for bicyclists. Our reasons for riding in the preserves are not that different from hikers, joggers, and equestrians. I do not understand why our use is not as legitimate as these other users... I know that the trail situations are complex. But just because there are a lot of us is not a reason to deny access; it is a reason for access. Thank you for considering changing the initial proposal to shut out bicyclists.
- Hiking-only trails are great, and I support them as a hiker. However, multi-use trails should be open to bicycles as well as horses. There are hundreds of times more cyclists than equestrians, and they have less environmental and trail impact (when have you last seen a cyclist taking a dump on the trail?) Banning cyclists is an insult to me as a taxpayer, especially when your long public input process demonstrated strong local support for bicycles. Please incorporate bicycle access into a revised Master Plan. Note: tentative future access does not count- sorry.
- As a cyclist, I have two goals. Please provide a full east-west and full north-south connector paths open to cyclists. This would fulfill my first goal. My second goal is to have new, beautiful places to cycle, and the above-mentioned trails would also address that goal. As a hiker, I look forward to these extensive additions to our beautiful local trails.
- Strongly support adding bicycle access ASAP, particularly in the Ridge Trail corridor and parallel to Hwy 84. Curious about revenue implications of cattle grazing on District lands – can it produce revenue to offset costs of managing other cattle-related impacts? Otherwise, I am impressed with the plan. I am eager to see this area in person.
- Would like to be able to access Google maps that were displayed at the meeting. Very informative. See many other comments, which I have written on the board.
- I love to hike, mountain bike and ride horses. I grew up in the Midwest, and since relocating to the Bay Area, I find I just can't afford to ride horses anymore. For exercise now, I hike or ride my bicycle. Cyclists can and do help maintain trails, are polite to hikers & know to yield to horses. I believe the La Honda Creek OSP could greatly benefit by opening this trail up to a larger community (which includes volunteers). I've been run off trails here by horses when I've been on foot, but I realize that one bad apple does not spoil the bunch. Please give cyclists a chance to use these trails. Thank You!
- Like interpretive center at Arastradero, including signage; Rancho San Antonio preserve signage; low, subtle signage – a plus
- Include bicycle access, however limited it may be; water fountain/restrooms at Redwood Cabin & wet bar open sunrise to ½ hr after sunset.

- The Red Barn would make a great interpretive center. This was once (and still is) a RANCH – so thanks for making it horse safe!
- Vertical post-based signs indicating trail names; primitive, narrow trails ok.
- Consider moving the calving operation away from the town of La Honda/Sears Ranch to facilitate trails for bikes and dogs near the town of La Honda.
 - Consider raising money to make it possible (Bikes Belong, transportation grants).
- Please consider the concept of separating “competing” users, particularly cyclists and equestrians, by allowing use on alternate days (odd = cyclists/even = equestrian)
- Thank you for continuing to consider MTB access. MTB riders are eager to help make this a fantastic land opportunity. Trail work, alternating day use, volunteer support...just ask! Please remember that the history of Skegg’s is not necessarily the history to consider for this preserve. Consider the different terrain, land composition and maturity of today’s MTB riders vs. the riders of yesteryear.

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**SPECIAL MEETING: FIRST PUBLIC HEARING ON THE LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE
PRESERVE DRAFT MASTER PLAN
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Alvin S. Hatch Elementary School

Multipurpose Room

490 Miramontes Ave

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

6:30 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

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ROLL CALL

** ADOPTION OF AGENDA

6:35 BOARD BUSINESS

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- 1 **Welcoming Remarks – N. Hanko**
- 2 **La Honda Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee Remarks**
- 3 **Purpose of the Public Hearing – S. Abbors**
- 4 **Meeting Procedures – A. Jatczak**
- 5 **[Presentation of the Draft Master Plan](#) – A. Ruiz and K. Lenington**
- 6 **Additional Remarks of the General Manager – S. Abbors**
- 7 **Public Comment**
- 8 **Board Discussion**
- 9 **Motion to Close the Public Hearing**

ADJOURNMENT

* TIMES ARE ESTIMATED AND ITEMS MAY APPEAR EARLIER OR LATER THAN LISTED. AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE OF ORDER.

** **TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:** *The Chair will invite public comment on agenda items at the time each item is considered by the Board of Directors. . . Each speaker will ordinarily be limited to three minutes. Alternately, you may comment to the Board by a written communication, which the Board appreciates.*

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

MAY 19, 2009

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

President Nonette Hanko called the Special Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. She gave introductory comments and thanked all who were in attendance. She then asked for the Roll Call.

Members Present: Nonette Hanko, Jed Cyr, Mary Davey, Larry Hassett, Cecily Harris, Pete Siemens and Curt Riffle.

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: S. Abbors, S. Schectman, A. Ruiz, D. Sanguinetti, R. Jurgensen, A. Jatczak, M. Williams, K. Lenington, M. Manning, G. Basson, L. Maze, T. Hugg, E. Simmons, C. Cleve, A. Christenson, B. Hsieh, G. Basson, B. Malone

The Special Meeting took place at the Alvin S. Hatch Elementary School, 490 Miramontes Avenue, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Cyr moved adoption of the Agenda. Director Hassett seconded the motion. The motion passed 7 to 0.

III. BOARD BUSINESS

Director Hassett gave opening remarks as the chair of the La Honda Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee, and he said that this is the largest and most comprehensive plan the District has undertaken. He acknowledged all of the departments and staff involved in the preparation of the Master Plan, and he gave special recognition to A. Ruiz. He said the committee members included himself, Directors Davey and Riffle and former Board member Deanne Little. He also acknowledged former District Planning

Manager, Matt Freeman, who was in attendance. He said that their overall goal was responsible stewardship of La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.

S. Abbors welcomed the guests and thanked District staff. He read the area-specific mission statement for the coastal protection area. He pointed out that the master plan spans a 30-year horizon and that funding is a key constraint.

- A. Agenda Item 5 – Public Hearing on the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Draft Master Plan; Receive Comments on the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Draft Master Plan (Draft Master Plan); Schedule a Second Public Hearing in the Vicinity of the District’s Administrative Office (located in Los Altos, CA) to Receive Additional Public Comment, Consider Public Access Option 1 and Option 2 and Whether to Tentatively Approve the Draft Master Plan – (Report R-09-71)**

Staff Presentation:

A. Ruiz gave a PowerPoint slide presentation. She said the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Draft Master Plan (LHCOSPDMP) process began July 2004, and she showed the major milestones of the Master Plan process. She also showed a map of the preserve and its relation to other open space lands.

K. Lenington reviewed the natural and cultural resource management for the preserve. He spoke about the goals and public input process. He reviewed the parts of the preserve, including information about the incorporation of the Driscoll Ranch property as part of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (LHCOSP). He discussed the two Conservation Management Unit areas and what they meant regarding public access. He also reviewed the grazing management and fire land management recommendations.

A. Ruiz discussed the public access recommendations and the public comments the District has received regarding allowed uses on LHCOSP. She reviewed the possibility of integrating public access with existing uses, such as grazing. She showed possible uses for the different areas of the preserve, including educational opportunities around the Red Barn area. She discussed and showed slides of improvements to the existing parking area, which will add up to three new parking areas at key locations of the preserve. She summarized the public access and trail use options. Finally, she reiterated that all of the plans would be phased into implementation in four phases over 30 years, and she showed a chart showing the long-term operating costs.

Public Comment:

Bern Smith, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council (BART), thanked the Board and staff for coming to the coast. He said that BART supports Option 2 because it is more rational and easier for staff to manage. He suggested that a multi-use trail be accessible to the vista point.

Jim De la Riva, Foster City, said he supported Option 2 and that it was critical that the Board choose Option 2. He also supported docent-led bicycle rides.

Faye Brophy, Los Altos Hills, thanked staff for an excellent document. She referred to livestock on page 82 and offered a clarifying paper. She said that horses are not defined as livestock and that horses are not associated with the exchange of diseases with humans.

Patty Ciesla, Los Altos Hills, said she was a District docent and bicyclist. She spoke about the long lead-time in scheduling docent-led bike rides and that the District cannot provide a level of docent led rides to the La Honda community and that the most they could schedule is one ride per quarter. She said it was a different experience riding alone compared to riding with a docent led group. She discouraged Option 1 and said it should be a priority to allow bikes to ride along the Ridge Trail. She said the Trail to the Sea should also allow bicycles. She suggested that the District use an Even Day / Odd Day system to allow certain trail users' access on specific days.

Mei Xi, La Honda, thanked the staff and Board. She said she and her husband were mountain bikers. She said the neighbors were okay with mountain biker use on the preserve, and she gave a recent bicycle experience she had riding along the road to meet up with a docent led bicycle ride at El Corte de Madera. She said it would be great if bicycles were allowed to ride through the preserve and stay off the roads away from the car traffic. She said she supported Option 2.

David Crane, La Honda, said he was a bike user and that he has been following the Master Plan options. He said Option 2 was great and supported having bike access to landmarks on the preserve.

Frank McMillan, San Jose, said he was a mountain biker and a multi-use trail user. He said he supports Option 2 and to allow

bike access to the vista point. He said he has never had a situation with horses. He suggested that Phase I and Phase II be reversed. He also supported the alternate day suggestions and he gave examples of parks where the alternate day approach worked.

Ross Finlayson, Mountain View, said he was a member of ROMP and said he was glad the District meeting was on the coast. He said there should be responsible bike usage, especially in the Driscoll Ranch area of the preserve. He said that the District should not place emphasis on percentages and reducing bike access District-wide, because over time the District will get more land. He supported adopting Option 2 with a modification that mountain bikes have access to Driscoll Ranch and the vista point.

Mark Tiernan, Milpitas, said his family has owned the Tichenor Ranch for five generations. He said he appreciated the process since the District came to the coast and that he wants to be good neighbors. He said his property was located on both sides of Highway 84. He thanked the Board for keeping their commitments to the coast.

Neil Panton, San Gregorio, said he was president of the San Gregorio Environmental Resource Center. He read a statement to the Board. He thanked the Board and said the District's primary responsibility was for the grazing lease, in addition to supporting the preserve and protecting the resources. He discussed the order of priorities. He said there needed to be buffer zones. He said this was a wonderful, comprehensive plan.

Craig Haupt, Sunnyvale, said he supports bicycle access, he wants to participate in using the preserve and he supports the alternative day use idea.

George Catterwole, San Gregorio, said he was a member of the Coastside Habitat Coalition and that he had concerns for the red-legged frog and California garter snake. He said they should be protected and that the District needed to outline areas and corridors for non-humans. He suggested that there should be a 500 foot setback, and he gave examples. He said the District needed to think about corridors for wildlife.

Henry Pastorelli, Los Altos, said he rode his mountain bike two to three times per week. He said he supported what the District is doing. He said he liked the idea of the alternate day access. He said he supported Option 2 and that the District should recognize bike user groups.

Lyndall Erb, vice president of the Coastside Horse Council, Montara, said she supported opening up trails to horse use. She spoke about horse trailer parking. She said that she often rides in small horse groups. She said she supported alternative days for bikes.

Josh Moore, president of ROMP, Woodside, thanked the Board and said both options showed progress for bike usage. He said there were interesting cultural and geologic areas on the preserve. He said that Option 1 should allow docent led rides throughout all of the preserve. He said he supported Option 2. He said it had been 10 years since the trail guidelines had been adopted and suggested that these guidelines be updated to increase bicycle access. He said the Conservation Management Units were great.

Severo Ornstein, Woodside, asked if there were any plans to connect El Corte de Madera to La Honda Creek. He said he was worried about fire and concerned about exits from the preserve. He asked if grazing would be less intense. He said the District was aware of the needs of the area, but that it needs access to buy or obtain an easement, requiring the cooperation of its neighbors. He expressed concern about over-grazing. He said he was a hiker and that he was in favor of the alternative day approach.

Sean Gordon, San Jose, thanked the Board and staff. He said he was a mountain biker. He said he understands the fears people have about bikers and he gave an example of riding with a child. He said he was in favor of Option 2 and the alternative day approach.

Joyce Halpin, La Honda, said she was a member of the Los Viajeros Riding Club, the San Mateo County Horse Association, and ETRAC. She thanked the Board for considering all users and she thanked A. Ruiz. She said she supported Option 2 for bike access. She asked about horse trailer parking and she asked for access to Sears Ranch Road.

Jerry Pickering, Half Moon Bay, said that bike access was a wonderful way to experience the outdoors. He thanked the Board. He gave examples of where alternative days works well (Tahoe, Henry Coe State Park). He said that dog access is disappearing and said that allowing on-leash dog access would be nice. He said the Board should consider one-way trail access.

Katie Haddox, Skyline, said she participated in horse patrol in San Mateo County and that she was also a bike rider. She suggested one-way use and that bikers and horse users should be directed in the opposite direction. She said that 95% of the time all users get along without any problems. She said that the alternate day approach might be a problem to enforce.

Board Comments:

President Hanco asked about the location of the 2nd hearing and S. Abbors said that the location had not yet been determined, but that it would be on the bayside and that the final meeting would be at the District's Administration office.

Director Cyr asked about siltation on existing road and trail structures. K. Lenington said that staff had a road and trail inventory that gave a ranking of high, medium and low for trail sites. He said it could take a few years to remedy the siltation issue.

Director Davey thanked the public for attending the meeting. She remarked on the Advisory vote to annex the coastal area and noted that there was no tax issue in the initial annexation, and she asked the audience if they would think about ways to raise money to pay for the projects and to let the District know if they had suggestions.

Director Hassett expressed concern about being set up for failure, regarding allowing bicycle access. He gave examples of grazing area surface and how much management the District will need to do to maintain trails. He asked for feedback from the bicycle community about that.

President Hanco asked about keeping bicycles separate and how staff might propose to keep mountain bikes off hiking trails. A. Ruiz said that they would use signage, brochures, stiles, trail users/patrol and education about trail use. She said mountain bike use was limited to the southwest area of the preserve.

Director Siemens asked how the regional trail might get to the coast if Option 2 is chosen. A. Ruiz said there was a gap between the coast and the property at this time, but that the plan allows for a review every ten (10) to 15 years. Director Siemens said he drove Highway 84 to the meeting and noted that where the Driscoll property ends there are better lines of sight along the road. He said that if a trail connected with Highway 84 that might be a safe way to go.

Director Harris asked what alternative day access would look like and she gave some possible examples. D. Sanguinetti said there were difficulties with the alternate day idea. He said the District is unique in that there was not one controlled entrance to any preserve. He said his biggest concern would be compliance and that it may involve more staffing to gain compliance.

Director Riffle asked how it might work if a portion of trail were on an alternate day schedule. D. Sanguinetti said that anything could be done, but staffing levels would need to increase to control the process. Director Riffle asked for staff to check with other agencies. D. Sanguinetti said that most have a single entrance where people could be turned away.

Director Davey asked if there is a conflict between users. She said that based on the comments tonight there are little or no conflicts. She asked if signage would help limit the conflict.

Director Hassett said he was looking forward to the next hearing.

President Hanko expressed concern about safety for mountain bikers. She said there might be a cross between Option 1 and 2 and said she had looked at an option of a trail ending at Driscoll Ranch. She asked where bicycles go when they leave the preserve and if there is a safety issue.

Director Riffle asked staff if some trail alignments are out of District hands. K. Lenington said that the California Department of Fish and Game had concerns about the red-legged frog and California garter snake. He said that they were not permitted to allow use that could harm wildlife and added that the CEQA document would address these issues.

President Hanko asked if there were any agreements with funding of a proposal like this. S. Abbors said that the services the District provides in this preserve couldn't affect services on the bay side where the funding comes from. He said that was one reason the planning process is spread over 30 years.

President Hanko asked for written documentation from the Good Neighbor Policy and the Coastal Policy regarding funding.

President Hanko asked if staff would have answers to all of the questions brought up at tonight's meeting. S. Abbors said they would.

The Board received the staff report and presentations and thanked the staff and the public for sharing their information and comments.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:04pm, President Hanko adjourned the Special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Lisa Zadek,
Recording Secretary

**SPECIAL MEETING: SECOND PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE DRAFT MASTER PLAN
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Hiller Aviation Museum
601 Skyway Road
San Carlos, CA 94070

6:30 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

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ROLL CALL

** ADOPTION OF AGENDA

6:35 BOARD BUSINESS

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- 1 **Welcoming Remarks – N. Hanko**
- 2 La Honda Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee Remarks
- 3 **Purpose of the Public Hearing – S. Abbors**
- 4 [Presentation of the Draft Master Plan](#) – A. Ruiz and K. Lenington
- 5 **Meeting Procedures – A. Jatczak**
- 6 **Public Comment**
- 7 **Board Questions and Comments**
- 8 **Motion to Close the Public Hearing**

ADJOURNMENT

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** **TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:** *The Chair will invite public comment on agenda items at the time each item is considered by the Board of Directors. . Each speaker will ordinarily be limited to three minutes. Alternately, you may comment to the Board by a written communication, which the Board appreciates. Written comments can be mailed to 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA 94022 or emailed to lahondamasterplan@openspace.org.*

Meeting 09-19

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

JUNE 16, 2009

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

President Nonette Hanko called the Special Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. She gave introductory comments and thanked all who were in attendance. She then asked for the Roll Call.

Members Present: Nonette Hanko, Jed Cyr, Mary Davey, Larry Hassett, Cecily Harris, Pete Siemens and Curt Riffle.

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: S. Abbors, S. Schectman, A. Ruiz, D. Sanguinetti, R. Jurgensen, A. Jatczak, M. Williams, K. Lenington, M. Manning, G. Basson, L. Maze, T. Hugg, E. Simmons, C. Cleve, A. Christenson, B. Hsieh, B. Malone, A. Duong, S. Sommer, M. Baldzikowski, N. Perez, G. Laustsen, D. Simmons

The Special meeting took place at the Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Road, San Carlos, CA 94070.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

R. Jurgensen told the Board how the public notification was handled. President Hanko thanked people for attending the meeting. She called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion: Director Hassett moved adoption of the Agenda. Director Cyr seconded the motion. The motion passed 7 to 0.

III. **BOARD BUSINESS**

Director Hassett gave opening remarks as the chair of the La Honda Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee and he stated the goal of the meeting. He acknowledged all of the departments and staff involved in the preparation of the Master Plan, and he gave special recognition to A. Ruiz, the new Planning Manager. S. Abbors welcomed the guests and thanked District staff. He read the area-specific mission statement for the coastal protection area. He pointed out that the master plan spans a 30-year horizon and that funding is a key constraint. A. Jatczak reviewed the public comment process.

A. Agenda Item 1 – Second Public Hearing on the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Draft Master Plan; Receive Additional Comments on the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Draft Master Plan (Draft Master Plan); Schedule a Third Public Hearing at the District’s Administrative Office to Receive Additional Public Comment, Consider Public Access Option 1 and Option 2 and Whether to Tentatively Approve the Draft Master Plan – (Report R-09-85)

Staff Presentation: A. Ruiz gave a PowerPoint slide presentation. She said the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Draft Master Plan (LHCOSPDMP) process began in July 2004 and she showed the major milestones of the Master Plan process. She showed a map of the preserve and its relation to other open space lands.

K. Lenington reviewed the natural and cultural resource management for the preserve. He spoke about the goals and public input process. He reviewed the parts of the preserve, including information about the incorporation of the Driscoll Ranch property as part of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (LHCOSP). He discussed the two Conservation Management Unit areas and what they meant regarding public access. He also reviewed the grazing management and fire land management recommendations.

A. Ruiz discussed the public access recommendations and the public comments the District has received regarding allowed uses on LHCOSP. She reviewed the possibility of integrating public access with existing uses, such as grazing; and she showed possible uses for the different areas of the preserve, including educational opportunities around the Red Barn area. She discussed and showed slides of improving the existing parking area and the addition of up to three new parking areas at key areas of the preserve. She summarized the public access and trail use options. Finally, she reiterated that all of the plans would be implemented

in four phases over 30 years and she showed a chart showing the long-term operating costs.

Public Comment:

Ken Nitz, Redwood City, said it was a great report and he liked the prioritization within the document. He said that \$10 million was a lot of money and that it could be spent better in areas with greater public use such as Rancho San Antonio or the farm area. He said the public safety problem at Fremont Older should be handled first. He suggested using “Z” gates to eliminate the need for self-closing gates and he said the fencing in the riparian area should be done by the rancher. He asked if the school parking lot would be used for overflow parking at the Sears Ranch parking area. He said the permit parking should be left as it is. He said he would rather see an interpretive center at Rancho San Antonio because the La Honda location is too remote. He suggested flipping Phase I with Phase II because restoring the water habitat is more important. He said he liked the new parking lot ideas and suggested installing them one at a time. He asked why the white barn was not being added to the historical registry. Finally, he said that the CMU should be defined in the document.

Mei Xi, La Honda, said she is a mountain biker and that she supported Option 2 and indicated that she spoke at the May 19 meeting. She asked the Board to consider opening access to bikers at the Sears Ranch area to allow access to Driscoll Ranch and the vista point. She said that complaints sound louder than compliments and she wanted the Board to know that she had a 100% positive experience on District trails. She said she was in favor of the alternate day use access and said that the majority of the biking community would abide if they are educated. She said that creativity may be necessary to keep all user groups satisfied. She said the District could reduce trail maintenance costs on remote trails as bicyclists like the uneven surface.

Arend Sidow, Palo Alto, hikes and bikes on trails regularly. He said mountain biking is a healthy activity and he enjoys the trails at El Corte de Madera. He said he has had friendly encounters with other users and has experienced no adversarial confrontations. He suggested making multi-use trails a default in all master plans. He asked why there are no mountain biking only trails.

Walter Gloskowski, Belmont, said he was representing SMCHA and LAH. He said he was a horse rider and that he rides at Purisima Creek Redwoods. He said in the past two weeks he encountered situations that could have resulted in serious accidents

on single track trails with bicycles and he said both cases were due to excessive speed on the bicyclists' part. He asked if the road near gate 1 at La Honda Creek could be used to connect it to El Corte de Madera and he suggested adding a horse trail along the road. He suggested requiring a speed limit control and suggested a device to limit speed to 15 m.p.h.

Ernst Meissner, Menlo Park, said he was a horse rider and that he keeps his horse near Arastradero and that he rides on many District preserves. He said he works on trail crews and said that all users are able to celebrate the outdoors together. He said that all user groups are aware of each other and look out for each other. He said that many users are unaccustomed to interacting with new user groups. He compared single track trails to wider trails and said that sharing single track trails could cause major problems because certain trails are not compatible with multi-use. He said it is okay to share trails where it is safe to do so.

Joyce Halpin, La Honda, said she was representing ETRAC. She said that ETRAC fully supports Option 2 and that she had viewed the road and toured the area, especially the area around the Red Barn, with A. Ruiz. She said she would like to have two rig parking spaces at the Sears Ranch parking lot area. She referred to the pathogen report and said she contacted experts and was pleased with the result of the report that there were no major pathogens caused by horses.

Paul Wendt, Belmont, said he was a member of the Sierra Club and that he was a lifelong conservationist. He enjoys biking and hiking trails at Purisima Creek Redwoods and El Corte de Madera. He said he was in favor of Option 2 and that he was pleased that the District was moving forward with public access and the La Honda Master Plan.

Lynn Belingheri, La Honda, and said she is a neighbor of the Red Barn area. She thanked the Board for their good direction. She spoke in favor of dog access and said she knows the necessity for on-leash use. She asked the Board to enlarge the area for dog users around the Sears Ranch access and said it would be beneficial for everyone because it will be a well used area. She said she was also in favor of the alternate day use idea. She said it works well in Washington state and Oregon.

Board Comments:

Director Hassett asked about the albino redwood area and asked if there was going to be any additional protection. A. Ruiz said that

there would not be any identification of the location on preserve maps and that the area was off road and trail access. The only way to access the site would be by a docent led hike.

Director Cyr asked about access to the preserve and if there would only be on-trail access allowed or if people could hike off trails. A. Ruiz said that hiking only can occur on trails.

Director Riffle asked if there will be opportunities to update the Master Plan once it is adopted. A. Ruiz said that there will be periodic reviews if new data or information becomes available and modifications are needed. She said she anticipated the review of the plan to be in ten to fifteen years.

President Hanko asked if another question and answer sheet would be compiled as a result of this meeting, similar to the May 19 meeting. A. Ruiz replied affirmatively.

President Hanko asked staff to look at the trail alignment to have a route to go down to the Driscoll Ranch area and if it is possible to have a trail for hiking only so there would not be any encounters with bicycles.

Director Riffle asked what the difference in cost was between Option 1 and Option 2. A. Ruiz said that the main difference is the operational costs and that the majority of the costs for either option are the up-front costs. There would need to be additional patrol and maintenance costs, but basically the two options cost about the same.

Director Riffle asked about wildlife corridors and commented on plans to connect areas and allow wildlife passage. K. Lenington said that there were no large issues regarding connectivity to other preserves and that the master plan does not create a barrier. Director Riffle asked if the trail layout causes a problem regarding corridors and K. Lenington said it does not at this time.

Director Hassett asked if there were any problems in switching the order of phase 1 and phase 2, other than cost. K. Lenington said that they would need to look into that to give an adequate answer.

Director Siemens asked if there was evidence of salmon and steelhead trout. K. Lenington said that steelhead trout were located in all three water sheds and that salmon was located in one. Director Siemens asked if there was low fish population and K. Lenington said there was. Director Siemens asked if it was

possible to increase the fish population to historic levels. K. Lenington said that it is a monumental task to restore fisheries to historic levels, but they would look at ways to keep sediment out and look at habitat in creeks and increase habitat components in ponds. Director Siemens asked if the District is constrained by what happens down stream. K. Lenington replied yes, and that it is a very large watershed area with lots of complicating factors. The District cannot do the work alone and will need to develop partnerships with land owners and local groups.

Director Davey asked about the possibility of a trail connection between El Corte de Madera and La Honda Creek and if it were possible to have a multi-use trail. A. Ruiz said that currently it was not possible because there was private land separating the two preserves. She said the District will need to work with neighbors to either purchase land or create trail easements and without that happening it would be impossible to connect the two preserves. Director Davey clarified and asked if there was no connection at present. A. Ruiz said that Bear Gulch Road did connect, but it is a very narrow and windy road with steep slopes. Director Davey said it was important to find an easement and asked if there were any willing owners. S. Schectman replied that the Real Property Department staff is actively working with two property owners, but there was no definite timeline.

President Hanko commented on the permit parking lot and asked if it were possible for bikes to be driven in and then the cars parked at the Allen Road parking lot to allow access for bicycles in the upper area of the preserve. A. Ruiz said that there were no “bicycles allowed” trails connecting to the permit lot. She said the neighbors along Allen Road are concerned about bikes riding down the road. She did remind the Board that there would be a new parking lot off Skyline Boulevard for El Corte de Madera.

Director Hassett said it was the committee’s intent to identify a ridge trail connection and its desire to have multi-use trail function. However, it was originally not intended to open the trail to multi-use until there is a connection on both sides. He asked if they could amend that to allow for multi-use if only one end was open.

Director Davey asked if there were any prospects to connect trails at the Red Barn. A. Ruiz said that there could be a one-way trail, but no connections were anticipated beyond that at this time. She said the eventual goal was to connect to Windy Hill Open Space Preserve, but that would be a longer-term project.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20pm, President Hanko adjourned the Special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Lisa Zadek,
Recording Secretary

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

Thursday, November 12, 2009

CLOSED SESSION FOR MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT BEGINS AT 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC SESSION FOR LA HONDA MASTER PLAN BEGINS AT 7:00 P.M.

**330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, California**

AGENDA

**6:00 ROLL CALL
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA
REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT - CLOSED SESSION**

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

Significant Exposure to Litigation - California Government Code Section 54956.9(b)(1) - One Potential Case

**7:00 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT-
* PUBLIC SESSION**

ROLL CALL

REPORT ON RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION (The Board shall publicly state any reportable action taken in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1)

**** ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC**

**** ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

7:10 CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1 Approve Minutes - None
- 2 Approve Revised Claims Report
- 3 Approve Written Communications – None

7:20 BOARD BUSINESS

- 4 [Third Public Hearing on the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Draft Master Plan](#) – A. Ruiz

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS – Written or oral reports on compensable meetings attended. Brief reports or announcements concerning activities of District Directors and staff; opportunity to refer public or Board questions to staff for factual information; request staff to report back to the Board on matter at a future meeting; or direct staff to place a matter on a future agenda.

- A. Committee Reports
- B. Staff Reports
- C. Director Reports

SPECIAL MEETING CLOSED SESSION RECONVENED (IF NECESSARY)

REPORT ON RETURN FROM RECONVENED CLOSED SESSION (IF NECESSARY) (The Board shall publicly state any reportable action taken in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1)

ADJOURNMENT

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 12, 2009

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING CLOSED SESSION

I. ROLL CALL

Secretary Jed Cyr called the Special Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. He asked for the Roll Call.

Members Present: Pete Siemens, Jed Cyr, Cecily Harris, Larry Hassett and Curt Riffle.

Members Absent: Nonette Hanko, Mary Davey

Staff Present: Steve Abbors, Sue Schectman, Ana Ruiz, Tina Hugg, David Sanguinetti, Rudy Jurgensen

II. CLOSED SESSION

Secretary Cyr announced that the Board was holding a Closed Session to discuss Agenda Item One. The Closed Session commenced at 6:03 p.m. and concluded at 7:00 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING PUBLIC SESSION

I. ROLL CALL

Secretary Cyr called the Special Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m., and asked for the Roll Call

Members Present: Pete Siemens, Jed Cyr, Larry Hassett, Cecily Harris and Curt Riffle

Members Absent: Nonette Hanko, Mary Davey

Additional Staff Present: K. Lenington, E. Simmons, S. Sommer, N. Perez, , S. Babcock, B. Congdon, C. Beckman, D. Simmons

Motion: Director Cyr presented a motion to elect Director Hassett as President Pro Tem. Director Siemens seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Closed Session Report: Director Hassett stated that there were no reportable actions from the Closed Session.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Cyr moved adoption of the Agenda. Director Riffle seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 0.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

David Crane, La Honda, asked the Board what it was doing to be a good neighbor in La Honda. Director Hassett said that the staff report would address that question.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Riffle asked about Revised Claims numbers 11411 and 11412 that staff answered to his satisfaction.

Motion: Director Riffled moved approval of the Consent Calendar, included Revised Claims number 09-18. Director Siemens seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 0.

V. BOARD BUSINESS

Director Hassett gave opening remarks as the chair of the La Honda Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee and he reviewed the procedure of the meeting.

- A. Agenda Item 1 – Third Public Hearing on the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Draft Master Plan; Receive Additional Public Comment on the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Draft Master Plan (Draft Master Plan); Identify a Preferred Public Access Option and Tentatively Approve the Draft Master Plan to Serve as the Project Description for the Environmental Review Process; Schedule a Fourth Public Hearing at the District’s Administrative Office to Receive Additional Public Comment, Consider Certification of the Environmental Review Document in Accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and Consider Approval of the Final La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan – (Report R-09-105)**

Staff Presentation: S. Abbors said that they are nearing the end of the planning process. He reviewed the District's mission and how it relates to this draft master plan. He said that it would take about four years before the public will be able to use the land, and he reviewed the cost of preparing the preserve for public use.

A. Ruiz gave a PowerPoint slide presentation. She focused on the public use portion of the Master Plan. She reviewed the public comments and desires regarding parking, trail uses and said that they needed to balance the public desires with the District's mission to protect the land. She said that 30 miles of trails are proposed and that they include short, medium and long trails. She reviewed trail plan Option 1 and Option 2.

K. Lenington reviewed the resource protection of the preserve and he discussed the recommendations for the two CMU's (Conservation Management Unit), the road upgrades, and the protection of the ponds. He said the road upgrades would include installing drainage to reduce sediment. He said that staff had finished drafting the Wool Ranch pond management plan in 2008. He noted that the highest quality habitat for the California garter snake would be found in the Wool Ranch area.

A. Ruiz reviewed the four phases, based on level of priority, that cover the next 30 years. She showed a slide that gave the costs for each phase. She reviewed the public access improvements, the operation costs, and discussed additional funding needed to cover costs. She reviewed the next steps.

Board Comment:

Director Siemens referred to Option 1 and asked if docent-led events would be on the entire trail system. A. Ruiz said that staff will look at that issue to determine if these could be on more trails.

Director Riffle asked K. Lenington for a scenario of what action the District needs to take if a San Francisco garter snake is found on the preserve. K. Lenington said that if this snake is found, staff would need to look at all activities on the preserve; they would talk with the Department of Fish and Game; and develop a plan to mitigate any impacts to the species.

Director Riffle asked when grazing would be reintroduced in the new area. A. Ruiz said it would not be right away, but sooner than Phase 2. Director Riffle asked for more information regarding the school's concern about the parking lot. A. Ruiz said the school was concerned about the public using their lot, toilets, etc. She

said that the proposed parking lot at the Sears Ranch Road entrance would be set back from the road by about 30 feet and that this would resolve the school's concerns.

Director Siemens asked if it is possible to actively reintroduce the garter snake into a CMU. K. Lenington said he had spoken to US Fish and Wildlife Service staff who said they lacked the resources to pursue a reintroduction of the species.

Director Hassett reviewed the Committee recommendations. He complimented staff on the complex and elaborate Master Plan work. He said that the Committee was split on the recommendations and that is why two options are being brought forward. He said that Director Davey supported Option 1 because the historic use of the land was ranching, and she would like trails restricted to hiking and equestrian, except for the Ridge Trail portion.

Public Comment:

Frank Crossman, Palo Alto, said he has been a District Trail Patrol volunteer for ten years. He said his dream is to hike from the top to the bottom of La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. He said he does not want to have to wait until a future phase. He said he thought it would be feasible to build the trail for \$300,000.

Theresa Martin, La Honda, thanked the District for its commitment. She said the La Honda community is actively involved in the process. She said she is concerned about the trail use plan. She said she attended the meetings over the past five years. She said she supports dog access and multi-use trails. She said that Option 2 is the most justified option.

David Crane, La Honda, said that this was a frustrating issue. He said he is bewildered by the fact that trails are open to walkers and equestrians, but not to bikers. He asked why equestrians have full access, but bikers need to beg for trails to ride on. He noted that the biking community has been respectful of the process. He said he is in favor of Option 2.

Chuck Fry, Sunnyvale, said he is a member of ROMP and in favor of Option 2. He said he has a concern that there is no connecting trail in the Ridge Trail corridor and that there is a gap until a connection is built and made available. He asked the Board to open up more ranch roads to bikes. He said bikers prefer single-track trails, but there are a lot of ranch roads in this preserve that would be fine to ride on.

Patty Ciesla, Los Altos Hills, who is a ROMP member and a District docent, said she is impressed with the District's purchase of the Driscoll property. She said both Option 1 and Option 2 are deficient and asked the Board to consider amendments. She said that Option 1 is a dis-service to the La Honda neighbors. Cycling should be allowed in phase 1 at Sears Ranch and she suggests that trail construction be moved to Phase 1. She said that the District should provide a way for the La Honda neighbors to use the preserve at the Sears Ranch Road entrance. She said some access for bikes should be allowed through Driscoll Ranch. She supported opening access to the Preserve right away.

Neil Panton, Director of San Gregorio Resource Center, San Gregorio, said he has been involved in the project since the beginning and that he is very impressed with the process. He said he agrees with the previous speaker; however, he is concerned with bike use. He said there should be access to the preserve from La Honda. He asked if it is possible to allow bike use and monitor it to see how it goes. He said he supports minimizing construction and maintaining buffers to minimize bank erosion.

Sean Gordon, San Jose, said he supports Option 2. He said he is in favor of biking throughout the preserve and that he would like to see bike use allowed in the Driscoll Ranch area.

Cathy Switzer, Sunnyvale, said she is new to the process. She said she supports Option 2 and asked if it was possible to look at even/odd day use. She said it is important to allow access to the locals in La Honda.

Josh Moore, Director of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, Woodside, said he is happy to see that the trail alignment for the Ridge Trail is in the Master Plan. He said he encourages the District to build an alignment in Phase 1, and asked that the District amend the plan so that the Ridge Trail would be opened to multi-use. He asked if bikers could ride the Ridge Trail without a docent (referring to Option 1), and A. Ruiz nodded. He said that Trail #1 should be opened to multi-use. He suggested raising revenue and cutting costs in order to begin working on the trails.

Frank McMillan, San Jose, said he does not want to wait to ride from top to bottom at the preserve and that he supports Option 2. He said the District should consider even/odd day use, and he gave examples of that use working in the Sierras. He said that bikers like fresh air and respect and protect the environment.

Theral Mackey, Burlingame, said he is a ROMP member and said he is frustrated by the lack of bike trails. He asked why the existing fire roads were left out of Option 2.

Steve Binder, La Honda, said he supports Option 2. He said it is dangerous for bikes to ride on the road and said he hopes there would be trails bikers could use to ride on instead of riding on the road.

Ted Fong, Palo Alto, asked why some segments of users were looked at differently. He said they all know that preserving nature is the priority. He said people are respectful of each other. He asked that the Board listen to the public.

Russ Haines, La Honda, said he is in favor of Option 2. He said his wife and he ride bikes, horses and hike the trails.

Public Comment concluded.

Board Discussion:

Director Riffle said that La Honda is a gem and that he has toured it eight to ten times. He said he is a hiker, biker, equestrian and dog walker. He noted that there are a lot of trade-offs and that staff has done a good job. He said he supports Option 2 because it allows the District to achieve its two top priorities, it allows for ecological education and enjoyment, it is sensitive to the land, and it allows the work to be done in phases in a financial prudent way. He said the financial model does not allow a faster way to open the preserve. He ended saying that this will be the first preserve to be opened in the coastal protection area.

Director Harris thanked the public for attending the meeting. She said she has had a tough time deciding. She said she worries about the length of time to open trails. She said she would like to see a ridge-to-sea trail available for multi-use. She said she has heard the public, read the e-mails and listened to the La Honda neighbors. She said she would like to see the process happen faster. She said she would support Option 2.

Director Cyr said he wanted to hear President Hanko's suggestions.

Director Hassett said he is in agreement with Director Riffle's comments. He said that he's concerned that the expense over the next several years will be phenomenal at this preserve. He said

that they should be sensitive to the La Honda property owners. He noted that the La Honda and surrounding area property owners are not paying for any of the expenses (through taxes). He said the District needs to temper how fast the work can occur. He said he is in support of Option 2.

Director Hassett said that President Hanko suggested that a motion to adopt the trail plan only be made. The trail plan is the same in both Option 1 and Option 2.

Director Riffle asked for clarification that they would only be voting on the trail plan and not the trail use. Director Hassett said that is correct.

Motion: Director Riffle moved tentative adoption of the trail plan only. Director Cyr seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Director Hassett said that they would next vote on the uses between Option 1 and Option 2 in the upper section of the preserve.

Director Siemens asked about dog access versus proposed grazing. A. Ruiz said that there would be seasonal grazing in the grassland areas near the barn. It was the plan to reintroduce grazing in the area. She explained how the dog access would work in conjunction with the seasonal grazing. Director Riffle asked if the public would need permits to access the trails. A. Ruiz said they would because access is at the permit parking lot. She said that dogs would not need permits. Director Riffle asked if dogs would be allowed in the lower area. A. Ruiz said that dogs on leach would have access to a loop trail off Sears Ranch Road, and she showed the area on the map. Director Siemens noted that compliance is poor with dog access on District preserves.

Motion: Director Riffle moved tentative adoption of the trail use in the upper section of the Preserve. Director Siemens seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Director Hassett explained a motion proposed by President Hanko's suggestion that would create a nearly separate hiking and equestrian-only trail, which is a change to Option 2. He said she wanted a length of trail only available to hikers and equestrians. Director Siemens asked for clarification that Director

Hassett gave. Director Hassett said he could not support this motion, but he did ask for a motion. There was no support for this proposed motion..

Director Hassett explained another motion proposed by President Hanko depicting Sears Ranch Road trails 5-6-1/6/12 as multi-use. Director Riffle said he did not like this. There was no support for this proposed motion.

Motion: Director Riffle said that if there were no other proposed motions, then he would move tentative adoption of Option 2. Director Harris seconded the motion.

Discussion: Director Siemens asked about a mile loop at trail #6 and questioned why there was no multi-use loop trails considered in that area.

S. Schectman clarified the motions and said that the Board was not being asked to approve the Master Plan, but rather to tentatively approve the project description upon which the environmental document would be based and directing staff to include Option 2.

Director Siemens asked if they could amend Option 2 to consider a multi-use loop. A. Ruiz said that at the parking lot locations, the most people would be using the trail system, and staff tried not to concentrate users in that area. Director Siemens withdrew his amendment suggestion.

Director Cyr said that it is obvious a lot of thought had been put into the trail system. He said that he is leaning toward Option 1, but he does not like the docent-led only aspect, so he said he would support Option 2.

Director Hassett said he would support Option 2 with reservations. He said there would need to be strong compliance regarding dogs on leash, equestrians staying on trails; biker's speed and watching for illegal trail building. He said this is a gem of a property and that it needs to be protected. He thanked Mr. Panton for his suggestion of the wetland setbacks and buffers.

Director Siemens said he would support Option 2 and that he, too, has similar reservation like Director Hassett. He said he would like to see a trail to the sea. He noted that this is a 30-year plan showing design for the future, but it could be modified as time goes on. He said he would like to see the preserve provide access

to all user groups. He said the local community needs multi-use loops out of the area. He said they would need additional funding support.

Vote: The motion to tentatively adopt Option 2 passed 5 to 0.

Motion: Director Cyr moved the Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation to schedule a fourth public hearing at the District's Administrative Office to receive additional public comment, consider certification of the environmental review document in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and consider approval of the final La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan. Director Siemens seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Director Hassett adjourned the meeting for a recess at 9:00pm. The meeting reconvened at 9:09pm.

VI. INFORMATION REPORTS

Director Hassett congratulated staff on Agenda Item 4.

Board Committee Reports

Administration and Budget Committee – Director Riffle said that the committee met on November 4 and that they had completed their work. He said the full Board would receive the mid-year budget at their next meeting.

Real Property Committee – Director Cyr said that the committee met on November 5 and toured the Sare property off of Highway 92. He said that the property seemed like it's in the wilderness even though it was just a short distance from civilization. He said he appreciated the staff preparation for this tour.

Director Riffle reminded the Board that the mid-year reviews for the Board appointees was due and that he was looking at December 9 to meet.

Staff Reports

A. Ruiz said that the Cooley Landing Ad Hoc Committee's first meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2009.

N. Perez said that her last day before her leave is November 13, 2009 and that S. Babcock would be filling in temporarily while she is away.

D. Sanguinetti said that the first Operations Use and Management Sub-Committee would meet on November 17, and they would tour Monte Bello and look at a proposed re-routing of a trail.

Director Reports

Director Cyr said he attended the Real Property Committee meeting. He said he had been hiking quite a lot.

Director Hassett said he attended the Real Property Committee meeting and tonight's meeting.

Director's Harris, Siemens and Riffle had nothing to report.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:18pm, Director Hassett adjourned the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Lisa Zadek,
Recording Secretary

APPENDIX C

Environmental Projection Guidelines

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan Environmental Protection Guidelines		
Environmental Impact Area		Activity
Aesthetics		
AES-1.	As required by Mitigation AES-1a of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, trail alignments and their associated facilities shall be sited and designed to be in harmony with surrounding natural and cultural settings and to retain natural appearances and values.	Trail design
AES-2.	As required by Mitigation AES-1b of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, trail alignments across the face of open hillsides and near the top of ridgelines shall be sited to avoid creating new, permanent, noticeably visible lines on the existing landscape when viewed from points looking up at or perpendicular to the trail. Conditions to be considered when siting trails include, but are not limited to, avoiding excessive cuts in slopes that could not be effectively revegetated, and presence of native soil to support revegetation.	Trail design
AES-3.	As required by Mitigation AES-1c of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, screening berms, perimeter planting, and parking area trees that provide a canopy shall be used at major staging areas to visually buffer views into the staging area from sensitive view points.	Staging area design
AES-4.	As required by Mitigation AES-1d of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, all structures proposed that are located in scenic corridors shall be screened using native landscaping with plants indigenous to the localized area.	New structures
AES-5.	As required by Mitigation AES-1e of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, any utilities constructed within a State scenic corridor for District facilities shall be underground.	New structures
AES-6.	As required by Mitigation AES-2 of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, any new lighting as part of the proposed project will have light shields and other devices to ensure that no new light or glare will impact sensitive receptors.	New structures

Agricultural Resources		
AGR-1.	As required by Mitigation AGR-1a of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, no new buildings or staging areas shall be located on prime agricultural lands or on Unique Farmlands or Farmlands of Statewide Importance as shown on Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. To implement this Mitigation Measure the Draft Service Plan should be revised to provide that the ranger office/maintenance facility and the staging areas may not be located on prime agricultural lands or on Unique Farmlands or Farmlands of Statewide Importance as shown on Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency.	Staging area design New structures
AGR-2.	As required by Mitigation AGR-1b of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, trails and habitat preservation areas shall either be located to avoid prime agricultural lands and Unique Farmlands or Farmlands of Statewide Importance as shown on Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency or traverse such lands in a manner that does not result in interference with agricultural activities or substantially reduce the agricultural potential of those lands. Owners and operators of agricultural lands shall be consulted to identify appropriate routes on those lands. The agricultural activities and the agricultural potential of traversed lands shall be protected and buffered from trail user impacts by means of distance, physical barriers (i.e., sturdy fences), or other non-disruptive methods.	Trail design
AGR-3.	As required by Mitigation AGR-3b of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District shall provide private property signs where appropriate and provide trail users information regarding private property rights to minimize public/private use conflicts and trespassing. The District shall clearly sign trails adjacent to active agriculture and provide trail users with information regarding property rights to minimize trespassing and conflicts with agricultural users.	Trail signage
AGR-4.	As required by Mitigation AGL-3c of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, trails shall either be located to avoid prime agricultural lands and Unique Farmlands or Farmlands of Statewide Importance as shown on Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency or traverse such lands in a manner that does not result in interference with agricultural activities or substantially reduce the agricultural potential of those lands. Operators of active agricultural activities on lands owned by or under easement to the District shall be consulted to identify appropriate routes on lands they cultivate. Owners and operators of agricultural lands adjacent to District lands used for non-agricultural purposes shall be consulted to identify routes that will avoid adverse effects on agricultural operations. The agricultural activities and the agricultural potential of traversed lands shall be protected and buffered from trail user impacts by means of distance, physical barriers (i.e., sturdy fences), or other non-disruptive methods.	Trail design
AGR-5.	As required by Mitigation AGL-3d of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District lands or easements upon which trails are sited shall provide width sufficient for management and/or buffer space from adjacent uses so as not to preclude the viability of those uses. Buffers established to separate recreation and other open	Trail design

	<p>space uses from agricultural operations shall be designed and managed in accordance with the following standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffers shall be designed in relation to the nature of the adjoining land use, potential land uses and proposed public access; • Buffers shall be designed in relation to the topography and other physical characteristics of the buffer area; • Buffers shall be designed with consideration of biological, soil, and other site conditions in order to limit the potential spread of non-native invasive species or pathogens onto agricultural lands; • Buffers shall be of sufficient width to allow agricultural use of adjoining agricultural lands including application of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals on all lands needing treatment taking into account the likelihood and extent of potential pesticide drift;. • All lands used for buffers should be on land or interests in land owned by the District; adjoining landowners shall not be required to provide land for buffers. • The District shall be responsible for the management and maintenance of all lands used as buffers. • If a specific buffer fails to resolve conflicts between a recreational use and adjacent agricultural uses the recreational use shall be moved to a different location. • All buffers shall be developed in consultation with the owners and operators of adjoining agricultural lands. 	
AGR-6.	<p>As required by Mitigation AGR-3e of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, where pesticides are used, including pesticides for control of noxious weeds, they must be handled, applied, and disposed of in such a manner that they do not adversely affect adjacent agriculture, including organic agriculture. Pesticide use shall be guided by label restrictions and any advisories published by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) or the County Agricultural Commission. These chemicals shall only be applied by a person who is properly trained in their application.</p>	Vegetation management
AGR-7.	<p>As required by Mitigation AGR-3f of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District shall conduct its land management practices such that they do not have an adverse significant impact on the physical and economic integrity of timberland preserves on or contiguous to properties owned or managed by the District and so that the safety of visitors to District preserves is not compromised by timber harvesting (e.g., establishing appropriate buffers on District lands).</p>	Vegetation management

AGR-8.	As required by Mitigation AGR-3g of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, when acquiring lands in agricultural use, the acquisition shall be subject to continued use by the owner or operator until such time as it is sold or leased pursuant to the use and management plan adopted for the property. All agricultural land which is not needed for recreation or for the protection and vital functioning of a sensitive habitat will be permanently protected for agriculture and, whenever legally feasible, the District will offer for sale or lease the maximum amount of agricultural land to active farm operators on terms compatible with the recreational and habitat use. Lands that do not have significant recreation or sensitive habitat values and which can clearly support productive agricultural operations will generally be offered for sale while other agricultural lands will generally be offered for lease.	Agriculture
AGR-9.	As required by Mitigation AGR-3i of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District shall have personnel and equipment available to manage public access such that: there would be no significant negative impact on existing services; and adequate stewardship to protect natural and agricultural resources will be provided.	Staffing
AGR-10.	As required by Mitigation AGR-3j of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District shall actively work with lessees of District lands and with the owners of land in which the District has an agricultural easement interest to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the provision of farm worker housing on District-owned lands by providing technical assistance in obtaining permits for such housing from the County of San Mateo. • Seek grant funding for the continuation or establishment of viable agriculture through the California Farmland Conservancy Program and other agriculture grant programs. • Provide technical assistance to secure water rights for the continuation or establishment of viable agriculture consistent with protection of sensitive habitats. 	Agriculture
AGR-11.	As required by Mitigation AGR-3k of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District shall actively pursue opportunities to enter agricultural easements and leases with interested farmers and ranchers. All agricultural easements and agricultural leases in the Preserve shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be tailored to meet individual farmers and ranchers needs while respecting the unique characteristics of the property; • Specify uses that are unconditionally permitted pursuant to the easement or lease to provide certainty to the farmer or rancher entering the lease or easement with the District; • Include terms that allow farmers and ranchers to adapt and expand their operations and farming practices to adjust to changing economic conditions; • Include terms that ensure farmers or ranchers may provide farm labor housing as defined and approved by San Mateo County; • Ensure compatibility of resource protection and management, low-intensity public recreation and viable 	Agriculture

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> agricultural operations; and In the case of leases, be for a sufficient period of time to gain a return on the investment in the agricultural operation. 	
Air Quality	
<p>AQ-1. As required by Mitigation: AIR-1 of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District shall insure that the following measures are included in all future construction contracts to control fugitive dust emissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water all active construction areas at least twice daily and more often during windy periods. Active areas adjacent to existing land uses shall be kept damp at all times, or shall be treated with non-toxic stabilizers or dust palliatives; Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand and other loose materials and/or require all trucks to maintain at least two feet of freeboard; Pave, apply water three times daily, or apply (non-toxic) soil stabilizers on all unpaved access roads, parking areas and staging areas for construction sites; Sweep daily (preferably with water sweepers) all paved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites; Sweep streets daily (preferably with water sweepers) if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent public streets; Hydroseed or apply non-toxic soil stabilizers to inactive construction areas; Enclose, cover, water twice daily or apply non-toxic soil binders to any exposed stockpiles (dirt, sand, etc.); Limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph.; Install sandbags or other erosion control measures to prevent silt runoff to public roadways; Replant vegetation in disturbed areas as quickly as possible; Suspend excavation and grading activity whenever the wind is so high that it results in visible dust plumes despite control efforts. 	<p>Construction</p>

Biological Resources		
BIO-1.	As required by Mitigation BIO-1a of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, biological resource assessments shall be conducted during preparation of Use and Management Plans. Assessments shall be conducted by a qualified biologist and will include surveys for sensitive habitats and special-status species in the appropriate seasons. These assessments will include recommendations to align potential trails to avoid impacts to sensitive habitats, special-status species, and heritage and significant trees. If any trail alignment may affect such resources, the District will consult with the appropriate agencies (e.g., CDFG, USFWS, NMFS) to ensure that impacts will be avoided or mitigation is adequate.	Trail design Staging area design
BIO-2.	<p>As required by Mitigation BIO-1b of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District shall protect sensitive habitat areas and other areas where special-status species may be adversely affected when planning trails and other facilities. To the maximum extent feasible, trail alignments and other improvements shall avoid impacts to sensitive habitats, including habitats for special-status plants and animals. All improvements shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by a qualified biologist to identify impact avoidance measures or mitigation measures for biotic impacts. Consideration shall be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocating trails or other improvements • Periodic closures • Revegetation prescriptions • Buffer plantings • Discrete barrier fencing that accommodates wildlife passage • Other appropriate measures <p>Removal of native vegetation shall be avoided as much as possible. The appropriate resource agencies shall be contacted regarding any trail alignments or other improvements that may impact sensitive habitats, special-status species, or their habitat. Plant replacement shall be native to the area and suitable for the site conditions.</p>	Trail design
BIO-3.	As required by Mitigation BIO-1c of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, in special-status species habitat areas, trail use levels shall be limited as appropriate to ensure protection of resources. Techniques for limiting use may include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical access controls • Seasonal or intermittent closures 	Trail use

BIO-4.	As required by Mitigation BIO-1d of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, existing access routes shall be used wherever suitable to minimize impacts of new construction in special-status species habitats. Realignments will be implemented where necessary to avoid adverse impacts on resources.	Trail design
BIO-5.	As required by Mitigation BIO-1e of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, trail design shall include barriers to control trail use and prevent environmental damage. Barriers may include fences, vegetation, stiles, and/or fallen trees or branches.	Trail design
BIO-6.	As required by Mitigation BIO-1f of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, a particular trail or other facility may need to be closed during seasonal periods critical to special-status species, where overuse threatens resource values, or for other reasons to protect biological resources. Where a trail or surrounding habitat warrants special notice limiting trail use, the trail shall be clearly designated and should be equipped with use signs and appropriate barriers to discourage unauthorized use. Missing or damaged signs, gates, fences, and barriers shall be repaired or replaced as soon as possible. Closure notices shall include the reason(s) for the closure, an estimate of how long the facility will be closed, and a telephone number to call for further information.	Trail use
BIO-7.	As required by Mitigation BIO-1g of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, when parallel to a stream or riparian zone, trails shall generally be set back from the top of bank or from the outside edge of the riparian zone, whichever is greater, except where topographic, resource management, or other constraints or management objectives make such a setback not feasible or undesirable. Riparian setbacks may be adjusted on a case-by-case basis based upon advice of a qualified biologist and with the concurrence of reviewing agencies, where applicable.	Trail design
BIO-8.	As required by Mitigation BIO-1h of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, trail crossings of streams and drainages shall be designed to minimize disturbance through the use of bridges, fords, or culverts, whichever is least environmentally damaging. Bridges and culverts shall be designed so that they visually and functionally blend with the environment and do not substantially interfere with the movement of native fish. Sufficient depth and velocity of water through the culvert shall exist in fish-bearing streams for passage of native fish and other native aquatic species during high and low flow conditions. All trail stream crossings shall be restricted at fish-bearing streams during critical times, such as during spawning, unless bridges and culverts are provided.	Trail design Stream crossing
BIO-9.	As required by Mitigation BIO-1i of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, trails and other improvements shall avoid wetlands and other jurisdictional waters, including seasonal wetlands, seeps, springs, and farm ponds, wherever possible. A wetlands biologist will conduct reconnaissance-level surveys of all proposed improvements in areas with potential wetlands. Any improvements adjacent to wetland areas will be constructed so that fills avoid wetland impacts and minimum setbacks are allowed. Where feasible, setbacks	Trail design Staging area design

	from wetlands and other jurisdictional waters shall be a minimum of 50 feet for trails and 100 feet for staging areas and other improvements. A formal wetland delineation will be required for any improvements that may directly impact wetlands.	
BIO-10.	As required by Mitigation BIO-1j of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, revegetation and/or enhancement shall be undertaken where any sensitive habitat or special-status species habitat will be disturbed or destroyed by facility construction. Revegetation work shall be implemented prior to or concurrently with the development. The design of an appropriate revegetation program shall fully compensate for the lost habitat, with no net loss of habitat functions and values. Riparian and wetland habitat impacts will typically be mitigated at a 3:1 ratio for high quality habitat areas and at lower ratios where lower habitat quality justifies a lower ratio. A lower ratio may also be justified if habitat mitigation is implemented and verified as successful prior to the occurrence of impacts. Mitigation shall be based on in-kind replacement of impacted habitat with habitat of equal or better biotic value. The revegetation program shall be designed by a qualified biologist or ecologist and submitted to the appropriate regulatory or trustee agency for approval. At a minimum, the revegetation program shall include a description of project impacts, mitigation calculations, the mitigation site, revegetation techniques, maintenance measures, a long-term monitoring program, and contingency measures. Native plant materials suited to the site will be utilized in all mitigation work.	Construction
BIO-11.	As required by Mitigation BIO-1k of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, periodic monitoring of known sensitive habitats adjacent to trails or other facilities shall be conducted to determine if unacceptable soil compaction or other adverse impacts are occurring. If monitoring reveals that undesirable soil compaction or impact to a sensitive habitat is occurring, barriers or other appropriate measures (such as trail rerouting) shall be employed as needed to discourage off-trail use. Brush or other aesthetically acceptable barriers can be used to cover illegal trails, abandoned trails, or shortcuts to discourage use until natural vegetation returns.	Road and trail maintenance
BIO-12.	As required by Mitigation BIO-1l of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, should sensitive habitat be impacted such that it necessitates permanently closing a trail or staging area, a management program to rehabilitate the area will be developed. Such a program shall include discing and replanting or other techniques appropriate to the habitat type to return the site to a natural condition and sufficiently blocking the trail with barriers to effectively prohibit use. Management shall include monitoring the site to ensure that it returns to a natural condition without the intrusion of invasive exotic plants. Management shall also include design elements, maintenance, and monitoring to ensure that erosion is minimized. Construction and maintenance of trails will require the trimming and/or removal of vegetation along the trail route and staging areas.	Road and trail maintenance
BIO-13.	As required by Mitigation BIO-1m of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, existing native vegetation shall only be removed as necessary to accommodate the trail clearing width. The minimum horizontal clearing	Road and trail

	width from physical obstructions varies based on the type of trail but should be no less than two feet from the outer limits of the trail tread and shall be determined on a case by case basis to protect special natural features. Maximum vertical distance from overhanging branches shall be 12 feet on trails open to equestrian or bicycle use. Maximum vertical distance from overhanging branches shall be eight feet on hiking trails. Clearing shall be determined on a case-by-case basis to protect special natural features.	maintenance
BIO-14.	As required by Mitigation BIO-1n of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, good pruning practices should be followed when vegetation growth must be cleared. Ground cover plants and low shrubs should not be cleared beyond the original construction standard. The construction standard shall be defined as the trail tread width plus 1-2 feet from each side of the edge of the trail tread. Noxious plants (e.g., yellow star-thistle) shall be controlled along trails and the edges of staging areas in a timely manner.	Road and trail maintenance
Cultural Resources—Archeological Resources		
CUL-1	<p>As required by Mitigation CUL-2 of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District will apply the Standard Protocol for Unexpected Discovery of Archaeological and Paleontological Cultural Materials:</p> <p>Protocol for Unexpected Discovery of Archaeological and Paleontological Cultural Materials In the event that any cultural resources are exposed during construction, work at the location of the find will halt immediately within 10 meters (30 feet) of the find. If an archaeologist is not present at the time of the discovery, the District will contact an archaeologist for identification and evaluation in accordance with CEQA criteria.</p> <p>A reasonable effort will be made by the District and archaeologist to avoid or minimize harm to the discovery until significance is determined and an appropriate treatment can be identified and implemented. Methods to protect finds include fencing, covering remains with protective material and culturally sterile soil or plywood. If vandalism is a threat, 24-hour security shall be provided. During this evaluation period, construction operations outside of the find location can continue preferably with an archaeologist monitoring any subsurface excavations.</p> <p>If the resource cannot be avoided, the archaeologist will develop an appropriate Action Plan for treatment within 48 hours to minimize or mitigate the adverse effects. The District will not proceed with construction activities that could affect the discovery until the Action Plan has been reviewed and approved. The treatment effort required to mitigate the inadvertent exposure of significant cultural resources will be guided by a research design appropriate to the discovery and potential research data inherent in the resource in association with suitable archaeological field techniques and analytical strategies. The recovery effort will be detailed in a professional report in accordance with current archaeological standards. Any non-grave associated artifacts will be curated with an appropriate repository.</p>	Construction

CUL-2	<p>As required by Mitigation CUL-3 of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, application of the Native American Burial Plan (NABP) will be applied:</p> <p>Native American Burial Plan (NABP)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of human remains and cultural items during project construction, the field crew supervisor shall take immediate steps, if necessary, to secure and protect any remains and cultural materials. This shall include but is not limited to such measures as (a) temporary avoidance by construction until the remains and items can be removed; (b) posting a security person; (c) placement of a security fence around the area of concern; or, (d) some combination of these measures. Any such measures employed will depend upon the nature and particular circumstances of the discovery. 2. The County Medical Examiner (Coroner) shall be notified by the field crew supervisor or other designated District manager and informed of the find and of any efforts made to identify the remains as Native American. If the remains are identified as a prehistoric Native American by either a professional archaeologist under contract to the District or the Medical Examiner’s forensic archaeologist, the Medical Examiner is responsible for contacting the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours of notification of the find. The Medical Examiner may choose to document and remove the remains at his/her discretion depending on the circumstances of the discovery. The NAHC then designates and notifies a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD has 24 hours to consult and provide recommendations for the treatment or disposition, with proper dignity, of the human remains and grave goods [Note: Other culturally affiliated Native Americans [Indians] may be consulted by the MLD during the consultation and recommendation process to determine treatment of the skeletal remains]. 3. Each burial and associated cultural items shall be stored as a unit in a secure facility, which shall be accessible to the MLD and other Native American representative(s) or their designated alternates upon prior arrangement. 4. The remains and associated cultural items shall be reburied in a secure location as near as possible to the area of their discovery or at an off-site location acceptable to the MLD that has minimal potential for future disturbance. The reburial shall be done in a manner that shall discourage or deter future disturbance. Reburial shall be conducted by persons designated by the MLD, with the assistance, if requested, of the District’s field crew. The location shall be fully documented, filed with the NAHC and the California Historical Resources Information System, Northwest Information Center, California State University, Sonoma and treated as confidential information. 5. If the NAHC is unable to identify a MLD, or the MLD fails to make a recommendation, or the District or designate rejects the recommendation of the MLD and mediation (as per Section 5097.94 subdivision (k)) fails, reinterment of the human remains and associated cultural items associated shall take place with 	Construction
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<p>appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. For security reasons, no news releases, including but not limited to photographs, videotapes, written articles, or other such means that contains information about human remains or burial-related items of Native American origin shall be released by any party during the discovery, recovery and reburial unless approved by the MLD. 7. Any disputes that arise among the MLD and representatives of affected Native American groups and/or between the District or designate and the MLD concerning cultural affiliation or the ultimate disposition of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects and unassociated funerary objects shall be resolved according to the dispute resolution procedures in Section 5097.94 of the State of California Public Resources Code. 8. The Archaeological Data Recovery/Native American Burial Treatment Report(s) shall be prepared by professional archaeologists. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following: project overview; ethnographic section; previous archaeological research in the region and on-site; circumstances of discovery; recovery procedures and techniques; artifact analysis; faunal analysis; osteological analysis and interpretation; and, conclusions. The MLD and other interested Native American representative(s) shall be provided an opportunity to review the report and submit comments within the same time period as accorded any other reviewers. 9. Objects not associated with the human remains and recovered from private land shall be transferred to the District. If curation of any objects is required, curation will be at repository approved by the District. Repositories can include the History Museums of San Jose collections, the Tiburon Archaeological Research Group, San Francisco State University and the Collections Facility, Department of Anthropology, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park. 	
Cultural Resources—Historic Structures	
<p>CUL-3. As required by Mitigation CUL-1a of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR the protocol for determining if structures are of historic value is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The property and building types will be identified and evaluated by a qualified cultural consultant; 2. The cultural consultant will determine if the structures in question are currently included in a local register of historic resources, on the California Register of Historic Resources or on the National Register of Historic Places; 3. If it is determined that the structures in question are not currently included in a local register of historic resources, on the California Register of Historic Resources or on the National Register of Historic Places, a DPR 523 form issued by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will be completed by the cultural consultant and the structural and building data sent to a qualified architectural historian. 	Structural repair/ demolition
<p>4. The following measure applies only to the Southern La Honda Creek Area:</p>	

<p>As required by Mitigation CUL-1a(4) of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, if it is determined that the structures in question are currently on the California Register of Historic Resources or if the building has been determined to be of historic value, there are two options that would mitigate any impact to the historic values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Retain and rehabilitate the building according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (U.S. Department of Interior 1990). New construction near this building should be consistent with its historic character; or b) Move the building to a different location on its current parcel or to a different parcel appropriate to its historic character. 	<p>Structural repair/ demolition</p>
<p>5. The following measure applies only to the Central and Northern La Honda Creek Areas: If it is determined that the structures in question are currently listed on or are eligible for listing on the California Register of Historic Resources, , the District may retain and either mothball or rehabilitate the structure per Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (U.S. Department of Interior 1990). OR the District may move the structure to a different location on its current parcel or to a different parcel appropriate to its historic character and mothball or rehabilitate the structure per Secretary of the Interior's Standards.</p>	<p>Structural repair/ demolition</p>
<p>CUL-4. As required by Mitigation CUL-1b of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR Mitigation, short-term construction activities may impact nearby historic properties. These impacts may include dust accumulation on building facades, and increased noise and vibration from construction equipment. Construction period impacts could be mitigated to a less-than-significant level by implementing the following mitigation measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project specifications should shall require the contractor(s) and any subcontractors to conform to the County's noise control requirements. 2. Project specifications should shall require the general contractor and any subcontractors to control dust and exhaust emissions of particulate through water sprinkling during demolition and excavation activities; covering of stockpiles of soil, sand and other such materials; covering trucks hauling debris, soil, sand and other such materials; street sweeping of the streets surrounding excavation and construction sites; equipment maintenance to reduce emissions; and, prohibitions on idling engines when not in use. 3. Cleaning of the adjacent historic buildings may be necessary after construction activities to prevent long-term damage to the building fabric. The need for cleaning shall be determined by a qualified Historic Architect, shall follow the standards set by the Secretary of the Interior, and shall be completed in consultation with the Historic Architect. 4. A structural engineer should inspect the buildings prior to construction to determine if the noise and vibration anticipated during construction will affect the buildings framework and fabric. The report, with any recommendations and mitigation measures, should be reviewed by a qualified Historic Architect. 	<p>Construction</p>

Geology and Soils		
GEO-1.	<p>As required by Mitigation GEO-1a of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, surveys shall be conducted as part of trail route site planning to identify the occurrence of any potentially hazardous geologic conditions such as unstable slopes in landslide areas. Such areas shall be avoided or necessary construction design measures shall be incorporated into the trail design to assure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users will not be exposed to the identified hazard • Trails would not contribute to increasing the degree or extent of instability • Drainage from the trail would be routed away from the instability <p>In no event shall a trail be routed across an instability that is actively supplying sediment directly into a channel within a watershed known to support anadromous fish species, unless the instability is stabilized.</p>	Trail design
GEO-2.	As required by Mitigation GEO-1b of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District shall routinely monitor trails and provide regular maintenance to avoid public exposure to hazardous conditions.	Road and trail maintenance
GEO-3.	As required by Mitigation GEO-1c of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, where structures are proposed, a geotechnical evaluation shall be conducted to identify engineering methods to reduce the potential for structural failure due to geological hazards. All buildings shall be designed in a manner that reflects the geologic hazards on the site, and shall be consistent with local and Uniform Building Codes.	New structures
Hazards and Hazardous Materials		
HAZ-1.	<p>As required by Mitigation HAZ-1 of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District shall also review local, state, or federal government hazardous sites lists prior to acquiring a property to determine if the area is a hazardous materials site. The following resources and agencies can be consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal and state database information • Water Quality Control Board (San Francisco Bay Region) • San Mateo County Health Services Agency <p>If a parcel is found to contain a hazardous materials site, trails, staging areas, or other facilities will not be constructed on the parcel until plans can be developed and implemented to either remediate the hazard or ensure that the public will not have access to hazardous areas.</p>	Trail design Staging area design New structures
HAZ-2.	<p>As required by Mitigation HAZ-2a of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, during preparation of plans for specific facilities, the District shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review, in conjunction with the local fire protection services, available water resources. In consultation with the County of San Mateo Environmental Services Department and the California Department of Forestry, the District shall determine whether the construction of dry hydrants (as defined in the Annexation 	Fire program

	<p>EIR on page II-32) on specific lands acquired is feasible in order to provide additional remote area water supplies for fire suppression activities. The District shall purchase a 1,500 - 2,000-gallon maintenance - style water truck. The District-owned water truck shall be available for mutual aid calls during fire suppression activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select indigenous plant materials and/or seed mixes utilized at staging areas or along trails for their low maintenance and drought and fire resistant characteristics to minimize additional fuel available to wildland fires to the extent feasible. 	
HAZ-3.	As required by Mitigation HAZ-2b of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, where compatible with other trail characteristics, planners shall locate trail alignments and access points to allow trails to also serve as emergency access routes for patrol or emergency medical transport. Where feasible for more remote areas, emergency helicopter landing sites shall be provided.	Trail design
HAZ-4.	As required by Mitigation HAZ-2c of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District shall coordinate with appropriate agencies, such as the County and the California Department of Forestry to formalize mutual aid agreements.	Fire program
HAZ-5.	As required by Mitigation HAZ-2d of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, in addition to continuing its current fuel management practices, as new lands are acquired, the District shall consult with the San Mateo County Fire Department and the California Department of Forestry in developing site-specific fuel modification and management programs for specific lands acquired, as part of its Use and Management planning process.	Vegetation management
HAZ-5.	The following measure applies only to the Southern La Honda Creek Area: As required by Mitigation HAZ-2e of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District shall limit trail use to low-intensity hiking, bird watching, bicycling, equestrian use, environmental education and other similar low hazard uses, and prohibit smoking, camping, picnic areas, fireworks and off-road vehicle use.	Trail use
HAZ-6.	As required by Mitigation HAZ-2f of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District shall develop and maintain staging areas and trail heads to incorporate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fenced parking areas paved with gravel or asphalt in a narrow configuration to discourage irresponsible vehicle use. • Entrance and road shoulders designed to discourage parking during closure and to facilitate emergency access. • Gates that are at least 12 feet wide constructed of heavy materials with a protected locking system for District and fire access. • 10-foot radiuses paved with gravel around trailheads. • Signage that describes prohibited uses and warns against fire hazards. • Low ignition fuels, such as grasses, will be planted adjacent to trail heads and staging areas, and will be 	Staging area design Road and trail maintenance

	<p>mowed annually as soon as 30 per cent of the light ground fuel is cured.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close trail access points on all predicted high fire response level days (Burn Index of 41, or higher) and post such closures on the District website. • Periodic patrols by District staff. 	
HAZ-7.	<p>As required by Mitigation HAZ-3a of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District shall routinely monitor trails and provide regular maintenance to avoid public exposure to hazardous conditions. Trails or other facilities shall be closed for construction or repair, or when another hazardous condition exists (e.g. landslide during flooding or extremely wet weather) that renders trail use especially hazardous, or where adjacent land uses may present unsafe conditions that could affect open space users. Where use limitations or closures are in place, the area shall be clearly designated and shall be equipped with use signs and appropriate barriers to discourage unauthorized use. Missing or damaged signs, gates, fences, and barriers shall be repaired or replaced as soon as possible. Closure notices shall include the reason(s) for the closure, an estimate of how long the facility will be closed, and a telephone number to call for further information.</p>	Road and trail maintenance
HAZ-8.	<p>As required by Mitigation HAZ-3b of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, District preserve maps for the public shall be kept up-to-date to the extent feasible. Trail maps shall also provide trail use rules, emergency information, trail accessibility, other pertinent safety information and shall be available at all staging areas.</p>	Maps and signage
HAZ-9.	<p>In order to reduce fire ignition risk, the District shall require the following measures for all maintenance and construction activities within the Preserve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All equipment to be used during construction and maintenance activities must have an approved spark arrestor. • Grass and fuels around construction sites where construction vehicles are allowed to be parked will be cut or reduced. • Mechanical construction equipment that can cause an ignition will not be used when the National Weather Service issues a Red Flag Warning for the San Francisco Bay Area. • Hired contractors will be required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide water to suppress potential fires caused by the work performed. ○ Remind workers that smoking is prohibited at the work site and on any District land per contract conditions and District Ordinance. ○ Maintain working ABC fire extinguishers on all vehicles in the work area. ○ Contact both Mountain View Dispatch at (650) 968-4411 and CAL FIRE, Skylonda, at (650) 851-1860 for emergency response in the event of a fire. 	Construction Road and trail maintenance
	<p>Additional required Best Management Practices to reduce hazards due to chemical and materials pollution:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove all trash and construction-related waste to a secured, covered location at the end of each working day to maintain a clean worksite. Dispose of hazardous materials according to all specified regulations. 	Construction

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Store chemicals in a non-reactive container. Store bagged, dry reactive materials in a secondary container. Protect storage areas from vandalism. 3. Mix concrete no closer than 5 feet from any waterway. Concrete shall be mixed in secure containments. Cleaning of tools shall occur in secured containments; no concrete cleaning is allowed in drainages or water bodies. All concrete waste shall be off hauled; concrete is allowed to first evaporate in containments for ease of off haul. 4. Good housekeeping practices shall be followed to minimize storm water contamination from any petroleum products or other chemicals. Maintain spill cleanup materials where readily accessible during use. 5. Conduct proper & timely maintenance of vehicles and equipment. Cleaning or equipment maintenance shall be prohibited except in designated areas located near preserve entrances. If fueling must occur on-site, use designated areas located away from drainages and a drip pan to catch spills. Place drip pans under heavy equipment stored onsite overnight. 6. Instruct all personnel regarding the correct procedure for spill prevention and control, waste disposal, use of chemicals, and storage of materials. 	
Hydrology and Water Quality		
WQ-1.	<p>As required by Mitigation HYD-1a of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, trails shall be sited to minimize potential water pollution and stream bank erosion. Equestrian trails shall not be sited parallel to “blue line” streams (as mapped on USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle maps) and major drainages (determined during the preparation of individual trail design) within 150 feet of the streambank in such watersheds. Where equestrian trails must cross streams or major drainages in water supply watersheds, the trail shall be sited perpendicular to the stream (to the extent allowed by topography and vegetation) through the 300-foot buffer zone (150 feet on each side). Equestrian trails shall not be located within 150 feet of the high water line of a drinking water reservoir. These measures may be modified on a case-by-case basis upon the advice of a qualified biologist or water quality specialist and the concurrence of the applicable water agency.</p>	Trail design
WQ-2.	<p>As required by Mitigation HYD-1b of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, storm water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) as listed in this section shall be implemented to reduce potential water quality impacts. BMPs include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flow of runoff from drainage structures will be directed to vegetated areas, away from creeks and drainages as is practical. 2. Conduct any trail maintenance work during low flow periods 3. Use erosion and sediment control measures to minimize water quality impacts and ensure no sediment at heavily traveled trails flows into creeks. These measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silt Fences 	Trail design Staging area design Construction

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straw Bale Barriers • Brush or Rock Filters • Storm Drain Inlet Protection • Sediment Traps • Sediment Basins • Erosion Control Blankets and Mats • The District shall prevent erosion on steep slopes by using erosion control material according to manufacturer’s specifications. <p>4. If soil is to be stockpiled for any reason at creeksides, no run-off will be allowed to flow back to the creek.</p> <p>Additional required Best Management Practices to project water quality:</p> <p>5. Schedule project during the dry season to avoid erosion due to surface runoff during the construction phase.</p> <p>6. Construct rolling dips in areas where trail gradients exceed five percent to reduce runoff concentration; outslope trail surfaces where feasible.</p> <p>7. Implement road and trail seasonal closures to vehicles and our recreation use, where and when appropriate.</p>	
<p>WQ-3. As required by Mitigation HYD-1c of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, when acquiring new property, the District shall carefully evaluate existing roads and trails before adopting a Preliminary Use and Management Plan and opening them to the public to ensure that their design is compatible with resource protection and recreational uses. In some cases, the District may close and restore poorly designed roads and trails to restore the land to its natural conditions. Where roads exist in area of geologic sensitivity (areas prone to landslides or earth movement), the District may conduct a roads assessment to identify corrective actions necessary to reduce sediment input into streams.</p> <p>Trail surfaces appropriate to intended use shall be selected so as to minimize runoff and erosion problems. Trail designs shall conform to the County Surface Runoff Management Plan, County Excavating, Grading, Filling, and Clearing Regulations Ordinance, and the County Topsoil Ordinance, as defined in this chapter. Surface water shall be diverted from trails by out sloping the trail tread 3% where feasible. Where necessary, shallow ditches or water bars shall be used to divert water on running slopes greater than 5%. Other trail drainage techniques may include rolling dips, culverts, or ditches on sides of trails. Erosion control plans shall comply with erosion control policies in the County General Plan and Local Coastal Program.</p>	Trail design
<p>WQ-4. As required by Mitigation HYD-1d of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, no large-scale grading shall be used for trail construction. The degree of cut allowed on a slope depends on the soil type, hardness, and surrounding natural resources. Ultimate cuts shall be contoured to blend with the natural slope. Steep areas</p>	Construction

	shall be handled by limited terracing to avoid large-scale grading. Surface soil disturbance shall be kept to a minimum to reduce erosion and maintenance problems. Only those rocks, stumps, and roots that interfere with safe passage shall be removed.	
WQ-5.	As required by Mitigation HYD-2 of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, culverts shall be designed so that they do not limit the ability of debris to pass. Structures over water courses shall be carefully placed to minimize disturbance and should be located 2 feet above the 100-year flood elevation or 2 feet above the Flood Hazard Flood Insurance Rate Map flood elevation. Maintenance of culverts and drainage structures shall be performed as needed to ensure proper functioning.	Trail design Stream crossing
WQ-6.	As recommended in the Driscoll Ranch Resource Management Plan (2005) to reduce existing erosion potential, the District will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repair and stabilize head cuts of actively eroding gullies and install rock to prevent further erosion; • slope existing roads to the outside edge to allow sheet runoff; • install rolling waterbars to more effectively drain road surfaces; • install rip-rap or other impact reducing mechanisms at the outfall of each waterbar and/or culvert; and • install filter berms to collect sediments and reduce cutting energy. 	Road and trail maintenance
WQ-7.	As recommended in the Driscoll Ranch Resource Management Plan (2005) to reduce livestock-related water quality impacts, the District will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain, improve, and/or replace existing spring boxes and wells to increase water availability and accessibility to livestock and wildlife, thus improving livestock distribution and enhancing wildlife values for the ranch; • manage vernal basins, lakes, ponds, and riparian stream vegetation by controlling the frequency, timing, and duration of livestock exposure; and • limit livestock grazing areas by installing temporary or permanent fencing around sensitive fresh water areas, as needed. 	Grazing
Land Use		
LU-1.	As required by Mitigation LU-1a of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, in areas where trails would pass potentially hazardous adjacent land uses (e.g., timber operations), trail structures such as fences, barriers, and signs shall be used to deter trail users from leaving the trail and encountering unsafe conditions. Temporary trail closures shall be employed during intermittent operations, such as agricultural spraying, that would jeopardize the safety of an otherwise safe trail.	Trail design
LU-2.	As required by Mitigation LU-1b of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the following measures will be	Trail design

<p>included within the Coastal Annexation Area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In areas where trail routes are immediately adjacent to private property, fencing shall be employed as necessary to deter users from leaving the trail. Specific fence, gate, and crossing designs will be determined in consultations with adjacent affected property owner(s) at the Use and Management Plan stage. 2. All new trails/facilities will be designed to preserve existing vegetation within new preserves and at the property lines so that preserve users will not be able to view land uses in adjacent properties. 4. Trail uses will be consolidated where safe within the same trail way, depending on the steepness, available right-of-way, safety, user frequencies, and other conditions. A type of use on a trail may be prohibited for safety or environmental reasons, such as erosion and water quality. Where a trail is restricted to a particular type of user, the trail shall be clearly designated as such and shall be equipped with use signs and appropriate barriers to discourage unauthorized use. 5. Trails shall be sited as far away from occupied dwellings as practical. Trails not within planned road rights-of-way shall be set back a minimum distance from occupied dwellings in accordance with Table LU-1 (below). <p>Where setbacks specified in Table LU-1 are not feasible, potential noise and privacy impacts must be evaluated for any subsequent District action and shall be reduced by use of berms, fencing, landscaping, and other feasible and compatible means, if necessary.</p> <p>Table LU-1 Recommended trail setbacks from occupied dwellings</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Land Use</th> <th>Recommended Setback</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Residential</td> <td>50 feet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agricultural</td> <td>50 feet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Timber Production</td> <td>50 feet</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Land Use	Recommended Setback	Residential	50 feet	Agricultural	50 feet	Timber Production	50 feet	<p>Staging area design Trail use</p>
Land Use	Recommended Setback								
Residential	50 feet								
Agricultural	50 feet								
Timber Production	50 feet								
<p>6. The following measure applies only to the Southern La Honda Creek Area: Consistent with Mitigation LU-1b(2) from the Coastal Annexation EIR, all new trails/facilities in the Southern La Honda Creek Area will be sited away from the edges of new preserves.</p>	<p>Trail design Staging area design</p>								
<p>Noise</p>									
<p>NOI-1. The District will ensure that all construction activity associated with implementation of the Master Plan will occur during the less sensitive daytime hours between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. daily.</p>	<p>Construction</p>								

Public Services		
PS-1.	As required by Mitigation PSI-1a of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District will not permit access in places where the access would create a hazard due to a design feature such as a sharp curve or dangerous intersection.	Staging area design
PS-2.	As required by Mitigation PSI-1b of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, a maximum speed limit of 15 miles per hour shall be placed on all trails that permit cyclists and other trail users (e.g., pedestrian, equestrian). Signs shall be located at trail entrances that indicate that a speed limit is in effect.	Trail use
PS-3.	As required by Mitigation PSI-2 of the San Mateo Coastal Annexation EIR, the District will ensure that each preserve has adequate emergency access land and the paths and roadways of an open space area are documented and maps are distributed to local fire and police stations prior to opening a preserve to the public.	Maps and signage
Traffic and Traffic Safety		
TRAF-1	<p>Prior to specific site planning, the District will coordinate with Caltrans regarding appropriate access location and configuration for all access points or intersections of roadways providing access located along a State Highway. It is anticipated that Caltrans recommendations will be generally consistent with the following recommendations in the Existing Conditions Report for sight distance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Folger Ranch West Gate: If used as an access point to the Preserve, to further improve the sight distance to the right, the access driveway will be located as far to the east as is feasible without requiring a significant amount of new fill. • Folger Ranch East Gate: If used as an access point to the preserve, this driveway will be located at least 305 feet to the west in order to provide the minimum sight distance required by Caltrans. This would put the driveway in the area where the terrain on the north side of the highway drops off steeply, which could require a significant amount of fill to build a driveway onto the site. OR driveway will be moved approximately 150 feet to the west (requires minimal fill since this area is relatively flat); however, because this location would not meet the minimum sight distance requirement, the District would implement additional measures, such as cutting back the slope of the hill on the north side of the highway east of the driveway. • Sears Ranch Road Gate: The District will coordinate the use of this access point with La Honda Elementary School to address any safety concerns associated with school children in the area. • East Access Gate: If used as an access point to the Preserve, the District will prepare detailed engineering drawings for coordination with Caltrans. The engineering drawings will show location of this driveway 	Staging area design

approximately 150 feet to the north of its current location. The District will also coordinate with Caltrans regarding installation of a left-turn pocket on the highway to provide the minimum sight distance for traffic turning left into the driveway and for traffic approaching left-turn cars from behind on the highway. If, after reviewing detailed engineering drawings, Caltrans indicates that this driveway will not meet minimum sight distance requirements, this driveway will be eliminated from the Master Plan as a potential access point.

- **Red Barn Lower Gate:** If this driveway is to be used for primary access to the Preserve, then the driveway approach should be raised so that the slope is less steep.

It should be noted that Caltrans may require slightly different measures for meeting Caltrans requirements. Caltrans may also require installation of turning lanes at several of these access locations to meet Caltrans standards for intersection configuration. These measures would further improve traffic safety.

APPENDIX D

Special Status Species

**Table D-1. Special-Status Plants That Have Potential to Occur in the Planning Area.
(2012 Update Based on New Survey Data, Nomenclature and Status Changes)**

Common and Scientific Name	Legal Status ¹ Federal/State/Rare Plant Rank	Geographic Distribution	Habitat Requirements	Likelihood to Occur with the Study Area ²
Anderson's manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos andersonii</i>	-/-/1B.2	Western San Francisco Bay region, Santa Cruz Mtns. Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo Counties. In chaparral and edges of broad-leaved upland forest, chaparral, north coast coniferous forest, below 2,300 feet.	Drier, exposed areas in mixed evergreen forest. Blooms from November-April.	Low. Last documented in the study area in 1934. Habitat still extant, but not observed during 2004 and 2007 surveys.
Kings Mountain manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos regismontana</i>	-/-/1B.2	Western San Francisco Bay region, northern Santa Cruz Mtns. Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties. Found in broad-leaved upland forest, chaparral, North Coast coniferous forest, on granitic or sandstone-derived soils.	Drier, exposed areas in mixed evergreen forest. Blooms from January – April.	Known to occur. Documented in the study area in 2004 and 2007 surveys.
western leatherwood <i>Dirca occidentalis</i>	-/-/1B.2	San Francisco Bay region, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Sonoma Counties. Found in moist areas in broad-leaved upland forest, closed-cone conifer, chaparral, cismontane woodland, North Coast coniferous forest, riparian forest, riparian woodland, 165–1,300 ft	Riparian forest, riparian woodland. Blooms from January-March.	Known to occur. Documented in the study area in 2002, 2005, and 2007 surveys.
Blasdale's bent grass <i>Agrostis blasdalei</i>	-/-/1B.2	Southern north coast, northern central coast, northern San Francisco Bay regions including portions of Mendocino, Marin, Santa Cruz, Sonoma Counties.	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal prairie, perennial grasslands, below 330 feet	Low. Perennial grassland areas small and fragmented. Not observed during 2007 surveys.
San Francisco onion <i>Allium peninsulare</i> var. <i>franciscanum</i>	-/-/1B.2	Central Coast, San Francisco Bay region, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Sonoma Counties	Clay and often serpentinite soils of cismontane woodland,	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not

Common and Scientific Name	Legal Status ¹ Federal/State/Rare Plant Rank	Geographic Distribution	Habitat Requirements	Likelihood to Occur with the Study Area ²
			valley and foothill grassland, below 1,000 feet	observed during 2007 survey.
Schreiber's manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos glutinosa</i>	-/-1B.2	Southwestern San Francisco Bay region, The Chalks, Santa Cruz County	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral on diatomaceous shale	Low. Habitat may be present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
Congdon's tarplant <i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>congdonii</i>	-/-1B.2	East San Francisco Bay Area, Salinas Valley, Los Osos Valley	Annual grassland, on lower slopes, flats, and swales, sometimes on alkaline or saline soils, below 700 feet	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
Franciscan thistle <i>Cirsium andrewsii</i>	-/-1B.2	Klamath Ranges, Cascade Ranges, Sierra Nevada, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Sonoma Counties	Broad-leaved upland forest, coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub, sometimes on serpentinite.	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
Mt. Hamilton thistle <i>Cirsium fontinale</i> var. <i>campylon</i>	-/-1B.2	Mt. Hamilton Range, eastern San Francisco Bay area, Alameda, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus Counties	Freshwater seeps and streams on serpentine outcrops, chaparral, cismontaine woodland, valley and foothill grassland, 1000-2500 feet.	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
San Francisco collinsia <i>Collinsia multicolor</i>	-/-1B.2	Northern and central central coast, northern outer south Coast Ranges. Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties	Closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal scrub	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
Lost thistle <i>Cirsium praeteriens</i>	-/-1A	Known only from 2 historic collections in Santa Clara County near	Habitat is unknown, not in Jepson	Unknown.

Common and Scientific Name	Legal Status ¹ Federal/State/Rare Plant Rank	Geographic Distribution	Habitat Requirements	Likelihood to Occur with the Study Area ²
		Palo Alto (last in 1901)	Manual, elevation 0–100 meters	
California bottle-brush grass <i>Elymus californica</i>	–/–/4	Near the coast from Sonoma County to Santa Cruz County	Moist, mostly shady placed in a variety of habitats	Known to occur in the lower La Honda Creek and Harrinton Creek canyons
Ben Lomond buckwheat <i>Eriogonum nudum</i> var. <i>decurrens</i>	–/–/1B.1	Contra Costa and Santa Cruz Counties	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, maritime ponderosa pine sandhills	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
San Mateo woolly sunflower <i>Eriophyllum latilobum</i>	E/E/1B.1	One known occurrence in San Mateo County	Open areas in coast live oak woodland, often on roadsides, sometimes on serpentine, 150–500 feet. Blooms May-June	Low. Documented occurrence within 5 miles of study area, but not observed during 2007 survey.
Round-leaved filaree <i>Erodium macrophyllum</i>	–/–/1B.1	Sacramento Valley, northern San Joaquin Valley, Central Western California, South Coast, & northern Channel Islands (Santa Cruz Island)	Open sites, dry grasslands, & shrublands below 4,000 feet. Blooms Mar- May	Low. Documented occurrence within 5 miles of study area, but not observed during 2007 survey.
Fragrant fritillary <i>Fritillaria liliacea</i>	–/–/1B.2	Coast Ranges from Marin County to San Benito County	Adobe soils of interior foothills, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, annual grassland, often on serpentinite, below 1,350 feet	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
San Francisco gumplant <i>Grindelia hirsutula</i> var. <i>maritima</i>	–/–/3.2	Coastal California, Monterey, Marin, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, and San Mateo Counties	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub, sandy soils on serpentine grassland	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
Santa Cruz cypress <i>Hesperocyparis abramsiana</i>	E/E/1B.2	Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties	Closed-cone coniferous forest, lower montane coniferous forest, sandstone or granitic	Low. Documented occurrence within 5 miles of study area, but not observed during 2007 survey.

Common and Scientific Name	Legal Status ¹ Federal/State/Rare Plant Rank	Geographic Distribution	Habitat Requirements	Likelihood to Occur with the Study Area ²
			derived soils.	
Marin western flax <i>Hesperolinon congestum</i>	T/T/1B.1	Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties	Chaparral, serpentinite grassland	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
Perennial goldfields <i>Lasthenia macrantha</i> ssp. <i>macrantha</i>	-/1B.2	Central Coast, Mendocino, Marin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, and Sonoma Counties	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, 15–1,700 feet. Blooms Jan-Nov.	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
Legenere <i>Legenere limosa</i>	-/1B.1	Primarily located in the lower Sacramento Valley, also from north Coast Ranges, northern San Joaquin Valley and the Santa Cruz mountains.	Deep, seasonally wet habitats such as vernal pools, ditches, marsh edges, and river banks, below 500 feet.	Low. Habitat disturbed, no known occurrences in the vicinity, and not observed during 2007 survey.
Arcuate bush mallow <i>Malacothamnus arcuatus</i>	-/1B.2	Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo Counties	Chaparral	Low. Habitat present, known occurrence near Honda, but not observed during 2007 survey.
Marsh microseris <i>Microseris paludosa</i>	-/1B.2	San Francisco Bay area and Central coast	Closed-cone coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland.	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
Dudley's lousewort <i>Pedicularis dudleyi</i>	-/R/1B.2	Monterey, Santa Cruz*, San Luis Obispo, and San Mateo Counties	Maritime chaparral, North Coast coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland. Blooms Apr-Jun	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
Santa Cruz Mtns. beardtongue <i>Penstemon rattanii</i> var. <i>kleei</i>	-/1B.2	Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, North Coast coniferous forest, 1,300–3,600 feet. Blooms May-Jun	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.

Common and Scientific Name	Legal Status ¹ Federal/State/Rare Plant Rank	Geographic Distribution	Habitat Requirements	Likelihood to Occur with the Study Area ²
White-rayed pentachaeta <i>Pentachaeta bellidiflora</i> Yes	E/E/1B.1	One occurrence in San Mateo County, historically known also from Marin and Santa Cruz Counties	Annual grassland, often on serpentinite, flowers Mar-May	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
Monterey pine <i>Pinus radiata</i>	-/-/1B.1	Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, and San Mateo Counties, Baja California	Closed-cone coniferous forest, cismontane woodland	Present in study area, but this species is only protected on the Monterey peninsula.
Choris's popcorn-flower <i>Plagiobothrys chorisianus</i> var. <i>chorisianus</i>	-/-/1B.2	Santa Cruz, San Francisco and San Mateo Counties	Chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, in mesic areas. Blooms from Mar-Jun	Known to occur. Documented in the study area in 2007.
San Francisco popcornflower <i>Plagiobothrys diffusus</i>	-/E/1B.1	Santa Cruz and San Francisco Counties	Coastal prairie, valley and foothill grassland. Blooms Apr-Jun	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
Slender-leaved pondweed <i>Stuckenia filiformis</i>	-/-/2.2	Lassen, Merced, Mono, Placer, Santa Clara*, and Sierra Counties, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Washington	Freshwater marsh, shallow emergent wetlands	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
San Francisco campion <i>Silene verecunda</i> ssp. <i>verecunda</i>	-/-/1B.2	Northern Central Coast, San Francisco Bay area, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Sutter Counties	Coastal bluff scrub, chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, in sandy areas, 100-2,100 feet. Blooms Mar-Jun	Low. Marginal habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
Santa Cruz microseris <i>Stebbinsoseris decipiens</i>	-/-/1B.2	Monterey, Marin and Santa Cruz Counties	Open areas in broad-leaved upland forest, closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal prairie, and coastal scrub, sometimes serpentinite. Blooms Apr-May.	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.

Common and Scientific Name	Legal Status ¹ Federal/State/Rare Plant Rank	Geographic Distribution	Habitat Requirements	Likelihood to Occur with the Study Area ²
Caper-fruited tropidocarpum <i>Tropidocarpum capparideum</i>	-/1B.1	Historically known from the northwest San Joaquin Valley and adjacent Coast, only currently known to occur in San Luis Obispo County	Range foothills Grasslands in alkaline hills below 1,500 feet. Blooms Mar-Apr.	Low. Presumed extirpated from the state.
Long beard lichen <i>Usnea longissima</i>	-/-/-	California populations are centered in Humboldt County, with additional occurrences in Del Norte, Mendocino and Sonoma counties. Historically known from Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties.	North coast coniferous forest, broadleafed upland forest. Grows in the "redwood zone" on a variety of trees, including big leaf maple, oaks, ash, douglas fir, and bay. 0-2,000 feet	Low. Possibly extirpated from study area vicinity
Slender silver-moss <i>Anomobryum julaceum</i>	-/2.2	Humboldt, Mariposa, and Santa Cruz Counties. Oregon and elsewhere. Infrequent in CA but abundant elsewhere.	Broadleafed upland forest, lower montane coniferous forest, North Coast coniferous forest damp rock and soil on outcrops, usually on roadcuts, 300-3,000 feet	Low. Habitat present, but no known occurrences in the vicinity and not observed during 2007 survey.
¹ Status definitions:				
Federal: E = listed as Endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act T = listed as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act - = no listing or legal protection	State: E = listed as Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act R = listed as Rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act. This category is no longer used for newly listed plants, but some plants previously listed as rare retain this designation T = listed as Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act - = no listing or legal protection	California Rare Plant Rank: 1A Presumed extinct in California 1B Considered rare or endangered in California and elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA) 2 Considered rare or endangered in California but more common elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA) Extensions: .1 Seriously endangered in California (>80% of occurrences are threatened and/or high degree and immediacy of threat) .2 Fairly endangered in California (20 to 80% of occurrences are threatened) .3 Not very endangered in California		
2 Potential to Occur Definitions				
Known: Documented to occur in the study area High: Known occurrences in the region; or presence of suitable habitat conditions and suitable microhabitat conditions. Moderate: Known occurrences in the region; or presence of suitable habitat conditions but suitable microhabitat conditions are not present Low: Plant not known to occur in the region; or habitat conditions of poor quality.				
Sources: La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan, Existing Conditions Report (Design Community and Environment 2007) and DFG 2012				

Table D-2. Special-Status Animals That Have Potential to Occur in the Planning Area.

(2012 Update Based on New Survey Data, Nomenclature and Status Changes)

Species	Status ¹ Federal/State/Other			Distribution and Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Invertebrates</i>					
Bay checkerspot butterfly <i>Euphydryas editha bayensis</i>	T	-	-	Serpentine grassland containing oviposition and larval food plant <i>Plantago erecta</i>	Unlikely to occur. No known serpentine outcrops or soils on the site. The study area does not contain designated critical habitat (USFWS 2008).
<i>Fish</i>					
Coho salmon-Central CA Coast ESU <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	E	E	-	Clear, cool, perennial sections of relatively undisturbed low gradient streams, with high dissolved oxygen levels. Prefer streams with dense canopy cover (generally conifers) without rooted or aquatic vegetation. Require stream temperatures between 40°F-58°F. Gravel substrates are optimum for spawning habitat.	Could occur. Species has been recently documented in San Gregorio Creek watershed (Nelson 2006), and historically documented in La Honda Creek. Rearing habitat is present; limited spawning habitat in the study area. La Honda, Bogess, and Harrington Creeks in the Preserve are designated as critical habitat.
Steelhead Trout – central California coast DPS <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	T	-	-	Clear, cool, perennial sections of relatively undisturbed streams. Prefer streams with dense canopy cover without rooted or aquatic vegetation and water temperatures ranging between 40°F-58°F. Gravel substrates are optimum for spawning habitat. Ideal rearing habitat contains pools formed by logjams and loose woody debris.	Known to occur. Observed during September 2004 surveys and known from several locations within La Honda Creek (CDFG 2003 and Jones & Stokes 2004). Rearing habitat is present; limited spawning habitat in the study area. Creeks in the Preserve are designated as critical habitat.
<i>Amphibians and Reptiles</i>					
California Red-legged Frog <i>Rana draytonii</i>	T	-	CS C	Pools (generally >3 feet deep) in creeks and rivers, and ponds below 4,500	Known to occur in fifteen locations in the study area (Seymour, Westphal, and Launer

				feet. Pools must have emergent or dense riparian vegetation, such as willows, tules or cattails. Can survive in temporarily dry seasonal bodies of water when permanent water bodies or dense vegetation is nearby.	2006). Breeding pools and upland habitat present in study area. The entire Preserve is federally designated as critical habitat.
California Tiger Salamander <i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	T	T	–	Vernal pools and seasonal wetlands with a minimum 10-week inundation period and surrounding uplands, primarily grasslands, with burrows and other below ground refugia (e.g., rock or soil crevices).	Unlikely to occur. No observation of this species on site. Only known occurrence in the Santa Cruz mountains is at Stanford University (DFG 2012). Federally designated critical habitat is over 35 miles east of the study area.
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog <i>Rana boylei</i>	–	–	CS C	Perennial streams with predominantly cobble, boulder, and gravel substrates.	Unlikely to occur. No known occurrences on site or on adjacent properties. Extensive amphibian surveys conducted in 2000 (Seymour and Westphal) concluded that this species is not likely to be present on any of MROSD's holdings.
San Francisco Garter Snake <i>Thamophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i>	E	E	FP	Natural sag ponds or artificial waterways with dense vegetative cover, basking sites, and large amphibian populations. Require adjacent upland areas with small mammal burrows for hibernation. Endemic to San Mateo County.	Unlikely to occur. Although there are a number of known observations in lands adjacent to the Preserve, this species was not detected during 4 years of focused surveys.
Western Pond Turtle <i>Emys marmorata</i>	–	–	CS C	Permanent or nearly permanent water in a variety of habitats.	Known to occur. Species documented at two locations in the Preserve (Seymour, Westphal, and Launer 2006). Suitable aquatic and upland habitat present in study area.
Birds					
Alameda Song Sparrow <i>Melospiza melodia pusillula</i> (year round)	–	–	CS C	Tidal salt marshes adjacent to San Francisco Bay	Unlikely to occur. <i>Pusillula</i> race is restricted to saline environments. <i>Gouldii</i> race is common in riparian and freshwater marsh habitats throughout Santa Clara County (Bousman 2007, p. 412).
Burrowing Owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	–	–	CS C	Nests and forages in grasslands, agricultural lands, open shrublands,	Unlikely to nest in the study area due to lack of suitable nesting and foraging habitat.

(breeding)				and open woodlands with existing ground squirrel burrows or friable soils.	
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	-	-	FP BG EPA	Nests in large trees in open woodlands. Forages in large open areas of foothill woodlands and grassland habitats and occasionally croplands.	Could nest in study area. Known to nest in Santa Cruz mountains (Bousman 2007, p. 184), and Calero Reservoir (CNDDDB 2011).
Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> (breeding)	-	-	CS C	Nests and forages in dense grasslands; favors a mix of native grasses, forbs, and scattered shrubs.	Could nest in study area. Potentially suitable breeding and foraging habitat is present.
Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i> (breeding)	-	-	CS C	Woodlands, especially dense riparian areas or thickets, with nearby open meadows for foraging.	Unlikely to nest in study area due to lack of dense riparian woodlands
Loggerhead Shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> (breeding)	-	-	CS C	Forages and nests in grasslands, shrublands, and open woodlands.	Could nest in study area. Potentially suitable breeding and foraging habitat is present.
Marbled Murrelet <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	T	E	-	Nests along the Pacific Coast high in old growth conifer forest. Forages in the nearshore ocean.	Could occur. Northern area of the Preserve contains suitable habitat but is at extreme of expected range. Federally designated critical habitat is approximately 1 mile south of the study area.
Northern Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> (breeding)	-	-	CS C	Nests and forages in grasslands, agricultural fields, and marshes.	Could nest in study area. Potentially suitable breeding and foraging habitat is present.
Purple Martin <i>Progne subis</i> (breeding)	-	-	CS C	Open riparian forests with large trees such as sycamores or snags with cavities for nesting	Unlikely to nest in study area. No known suitable nesting habitat.
Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus cooperi</i> (breeding)	-	-	CS C	Montane forests dominated by Douglas fir, but also tan oak, live oak and madrone	Likely to nest in the study area. Breeds widely in Santa Cruz Mountains (Bousman 2007, p. 272)
Tricolored Blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i> (breeding)	-	-	CS C	Forages in agricultural lands and grasslands; nests in marshes, riparian scrub, and other areas that support cattails or dense thickets of shrubs or herbs.	Unlikely to occur. No suitable foraging or breeding habitat in the study area.
Vaux's Swift <i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	-	-	CS C	Mature coniferous forests, with snags or cavities for nesting. Also in chimneys.	Unlikely to occur. All known breeding records in the region are in residential

(breeding)					chimneys (Bousman 2007, p. 244)
White-tailed Kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i> (breeding)	-	-	FP	Forages in grasslands and agricultural fields; nests in riparian zones, oak woodlands, and isolated trees.	Could nest in study area. Suitable nesting and foraging habitat is present.
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	CS C	Well developed riparian habitats with cottonwoods, willows, and thick understory of brambles and brush	Unlikely to nest in study area. No suitable breeding habitat in the study area.
Yellow Warbler	-	-	CS C	Streams supporting willow, alder, and bigleaf maple with thick shrub understory	Likely to nest in study area. Relatively common breeder along Santa Cruz mountain foothill streams (Bousman 2007, p. 376)
Mammals					
Pallid Bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	-	-	CS C	Found foraging along rivers, lakes, streams, estuaries, ponds, lakes, chaparral, and woodlands below 6,000 feet with nearby man-made structures or natural features suitable for roosting. Intolerant of roosts with temperatures greater than 104°F.	Known to occur. Observed in the Red Barn, this appears to be the last remaining maternity roost in the region. Detected in the redwood riparian habitat near Red Barn, in area surrounding the White Barn, and near the former Driscoll Ranch Folger Lodge using acoustical monitoring (Heady and Frick 2000, 2001).
Ringtail <i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	-	-	FP	Found in a variety of woodlands, often near water	Could occur. Suitable habitat is present.
Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	-	-	CS C	Require areas with high insect activity, such as rivers, lakes, streams, estuaries, ponds, lakes, chaparral, and woodlands with nearby man-made structures or natural features suitable for roosting.	Known to occur. Observed using the Red Barn and White Barn as a day roost. Detected in the redwood riparian habitat near Red Barn, in area surrounding the White Barn, and near the former Driscoll Ranch Folger Lodge using acoustical monitoring. Guano deposits indicate occasional night roost in two buildings within the former Driscoll Ranch - Wool House Trailer and Lower Sears Ranch Storage Building (Heady and Frick 2000, 2001, 2007).
Western red bat <i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i>	-	-	CS C	Roosts primarily in tree foliage, especially in cottonwood, sycamore, and other riparian trees or orchards. Prefers habitat edges and mosaics with	Known to occur. Detected in low numbers during bat surveys on Driscoll Ranch (Heady and Frick 2007).

trees that are protected from above and open below with open areas for foraging, including grasslands, shrublands, and open woodlands.

¹ Status definitions:

Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA):

E Endangered

T Threatened

California Endangered Species Act (CESA):

E Endangered

Other:

CSC Considered California species of special concern by DFG (no formal protection other than CEQA consideration)

FP Fully protected (legally protected under Fish and Game Code)

BGEPA Legally protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

² Potential for Occurrence Definitions

Unlikely to occur: Species is unlikely to be present on the project site due to poor habitat quality, lack of suitable habitat features, or restricted current distribution of the species.

Could occur: Suitable habitat is available at the project site; however, there are little to no other indicators that the species might be present.

Likely to occur: Habitat conditions, behavior of the species, known occurrences in the project vicinity, or other factors indicate a relatively high likelihood that the species would occur at the project site.

Known to occur: The species, or evidence of its presence, was observed at the project site during reconnaissance surveys, or was reported by others.

Sources: La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan, Existing Conditions Report (DCE 2007) and DFG 2012

APPENDIX E

District Trail Construction Methods

The following Trail Construction Methods will be generally followed by the District when constructing new trails, improving existing roads, and closing abandoned pathways. The specific equipment, material, and design selected for each trail or road project will depend on actual site conditions and access constraints. These general trail construction methods are provided to give a sense of the typical steps that would be used for this type of work. The overarching goal of improving the road and trail system is to reduce erosion and sedimentation to the aquatic environment by improving drainage while providing scenic public trails. Proper selection and implementation of techniques to accomplish this goal will also reduce future maintenance requirements on roads and trails.

Establish new trails

New trails would be planned and constructed to provide for proper and efficient drainage of rainfall and runoff. Prior to construction, seeps, springs, and drainages would be identified and wet/water crossings installed as needed. Depending on site conditions, trails may be outsloped, crowned, have frequent grade reversals (rolling dips), be constructed with a series of road drainage culvert pipes, or most likely a combination of all methods. Trail tread would be of native soil with sections rocked as necessary to address potential erosion concerns. Every attempt will be made to provide trails of a maximum of 15 percent overall grade. Where trail alignments exceed a grade of 20 percent, construction of timber or rock steps may be considered. New alignments would be five feet wide or less where feasible.

Convert road to trail

The goal of road to trail conversion is to narrow the physical footprint of the road and improve drainage on the existing corridor. Conversion also provides an opportunity to prevent fill material from entering the aquatic environment, primarily by removing fill from drainages and the outer edge of road, known as 'sidecast' fill. Seeps or springs would be identified prior to deconstruction and wet water crossings would be installed for the duration of construction. Established vegetation would be removed followed by decompaction of the roadbed. Where feasible, road drainage systems using culvert pipes would be removed to reestablish the natural drainage pattern of the landscape (and reduce maintenance requirements) and another less maintenance-intensive method of trail drainage constructed in its place. Imported or relocated fill from the outer edge of the road would be used to narrow and recontour the corridor. An approximately three- to five-foot wide trail tread on a preferred, well-drained alignment would be constructed; in some cases a total trail reroute would occur, and in others the trail would replace the former road bed in its existing alignment. Minimal revegetation using native plants would occur as appropriate to improve wildlife habitat in the area and clearly define trail boundaries.

Improve trails

Where appropriate, existing trails would be narrowed using the appropriate trail removal and conversion methods previously described. On steeply graded segments, narrow timber or stone steps may be considered.

Improve roads

Existing roads would be improved and upgraded as necessary to correct drainage problems, address erosion concerns, and prepare roads for an increase in public use and patrol/emergency vehicle traffic in accordance with road and trail assessments. Such improvements may include any of the methods to improve drainage and reduce erosion potential previously described, with the exception of step construction. It is the District's intention to minimize steep road grade segments for easier patrol and emergency service vehicle access to the extent feasible.

Close road or trail and restore to original topography

Prior to deconstruction, seeps or springs would be identified and wet water crossings would be installed for the duration of deconstruction. Roads would be returned to their pre-road construction state (complete landform restoration) primarily by reestablishing the original topographic contours and therefore the natural drainage pattern of the landscape. Where possible, soil from the road's outloping side would be used to recontour the segment to recreate pre-road topography. Established vegetation would be removed and the former roadbed decompacted, then recontoured with the sidecast fill material used to construct the original topography. Native plants would be used as needed to jump-start the successional processes required to revegetate disturbed areas.

Close road or trail and decommission

Non-designated trails would be decommissioned by using signage, fencing, and/or mechanical scarification, where necessary. Scarification would occur to the depth necessary to restore soil conditions consistent with adjacent uncompacted sites using small trail construction equipment. Native plants would be used as needed to jump-start the successional processes required to revegetate disturbed areas.

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APPENDIX F

District Fire Management Practices

The District follows an established set of fire management practices as part of its day-to-day management and operations activities to help reduce potential fire hazards and facilitate fire response in the event of a wildfire. These practices are generally described below.

Defensible Space Around Structures

Defensible space describes the area around a structure where vegetation has been cleared or modified to reduce fire danger. This space reduces the risk that fire will spread to the structure, and also provides firefighters a relatively safe area in which to work while protecting the structure. The District maintains 100-foot defensible space clearances around occupied and utilized structures on the Preserve, including the Red Barn and employee/tenant residences.

Fuel Breaks

A fuel break is a strategically located wide block or strip on which a cover of dense, heavy, or flammable vegetation has been permanently or seasonally changed to one of lower fuel volume or reduced flammability. Fuel breaks are used by the District to reduce the chance of ignition along roadsides, visitor access areas, and at strategic locations along the edge of Preserves, as well as to create breaks within vegetation in the interior of Preserves. In grasslands, fuel breaks are often maintained along roadways and behind structures. Fuel breaks are typically created by mowing or discing.

Staff Training in Fire Response

District patrol rangers are certified wildland fire responders with training in basic fire response and fire suppression. The District routinely conducts training and refresher exercises with various fire agencies. Patrol vehicles are equipped with tools and equipment for initial fire suppression response, which during the fire season include water pumps and tanks capable of delivering 125 gallons of water and 10 gallons of foam. The District also owns a 1,800-gallon water truck that is available to assist with fire suppression.

Road Maintenance/Access

The District maintains nearly 12.5 miles of patrol roads within La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve that provide critical emergency access to the interior areas. Maps detailing the locations of roads, gates, bridges, and other infrastructure are maintained by the District and distributed to CalFire, San Mateo County, and city emergency responders. District staff respond to emergencies on District preserves. They often coordinate and facilitate access to the Preserves for other emergency responders.

Ponds/Water Supply

Stock ponds and other water supply features (such as water holding tanks) are located throughout La Honda Creek OSP. The District monitors and maintains these features, which can serve as important sources of water for fire suppression. The locations of many of these features are also indicated on Preserve maps distributed to CalFire and other county and city emergency response personnel.

Grazing

The former Driscoll Ranch area of La Honda Creek OSP is currently under a long-term grazing lease. In addition to providing a grasslands management benefit, the active grazing also reduces the risk of wildland fire by reducing the height of grassland vegetation fuels. Moreover, the grazing operation maintains associated water supply infrastructure and roads that are critical for fire response.

Fire Regulations

District regulations prohibit smoking and fires on District lands to reduce fire hazards. Regulatory signs with this information are posted at all trailheads. During the fire season, the District also posts larger, red Hazardous Fire Area/No Smoking/No Fire signs to remind the public of these regulations. During especially hot, dry, and windy conditions, the District may close portions of the Preserve in accordance with the Service Plan prepared for the Coastside Protection Area.

Fire Protection Precautions

The District requires staff and hired contractors to follow fire protection precautions when conducting maintenance and construction activities on the Preserves when necessary based on fire weather conditions. Depending upon the work at hand, these include:

- Onsite fire extinguishers and/or water source to suppress potential fires;
- Adherence to the No Smoking ordinance;
- Availability of ABC fire extinguishers on all vehicles in the work area;
- Awareness of emergency response numbers in the event of a fire;
- Mowing of dry grass where equipment will be staged and restricting parking on tall grass; and,
- Limiting high risk activities when fire danger is high.

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