

# Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Popular Annual Financial Report

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019



Managing nearly 65,000 acres of public open space land in 26 preserves  
across parts of San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties



Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve by Karen Gregory

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#### COVER PHOTO CREDITS

Top photo: Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve by Maila Pinlacperez

Second row, left to right: Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve by Rosalina Calderon, Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve by Selwyn Quan, Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve by Karl Kohl



**MISSION** 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.

**COASTSIDE MISSION** 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.

## Introductory Message

It is my pleasure to present the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019.

The PAFR summarizes Midpen's financial activities and performance results gathered from our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The CAFR was prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and include financial statements audited by Chavan & Associates, Certified Public Accountants. Midpen received an unmodified (or clean) opinion that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization.

The financial information in the PAFR is presented to simplify the information contained in the CAFR and to offer the public a broad overview and longer-term perspective of Midpen's assets, liabilities and net position. The reader should note that the PAFR is not a substitute for the CAFR as it is an unaudited report and does not present all the necessary financial statements and note disclosures required by GAAP.

Midpen's detailed financial information, including audited financial statements, is available in the CAFR. The CAFR provides full disclosure of our finances, including the notes to the financial statements, required supplementary information and historical statistical information.

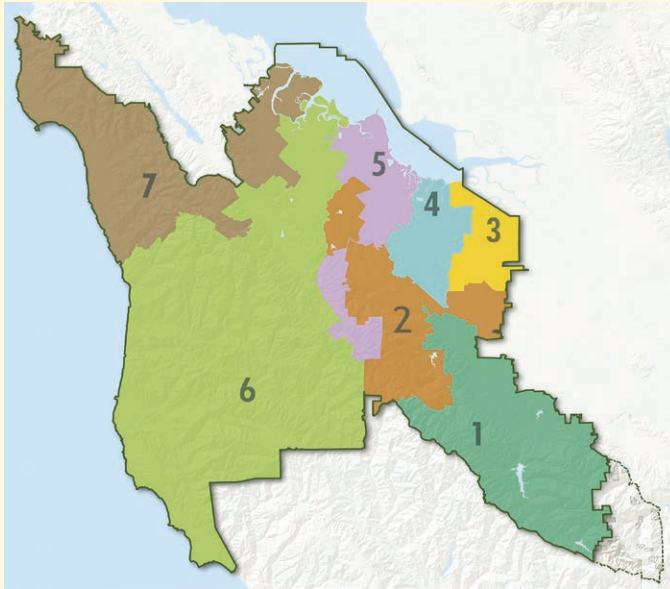
The CAFR and other financial and budget documents are available at [openspace.org/financials](https://openspace.org/financials).

Sincerely,



**Ana María Ruiz**  
General Manager

# Board of Directors and Management



District Wards



Left to right: Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Curt Riffle, Yoriko Kishimoto, Jed Cyr, Karen Holman, Larry Hassett, Pete Siemens.

Pete Siemens— <b>Board President</b>	Ward 1: Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga
Yoriko Kishimoto— <b>Board Treasurer</b>	Ward 2: Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto, Stanford, Sunnyvale
Jed Cyr	Ward 3: Sunnyvale
Curt Riffle	Ward 4: Los Altos, Mountain View
Karen Holman— <b>Board Vice President</b>	Ward 5: East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Stanford
Larry Hassett	Ward 6: Atherton, La Honda, Loma Mar, Menlo Park, Pescadero, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Gregorio, Woodside
Zoe Kersteen-Tucker— <b>Board Secretary</b>	Ward 7: El Granada, Half Moon Bay, Montara, Moss Beach, Princeton, Redwood City, San Carlos, Woodside

## EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Ana María Ruiz—General Manager  
 Hilary Stevenson—General Counsel  
 Mike Foster—Controller

Susanna Chan—Assistant General Manager/Project Planning and Delivery  
 Brian Malone—Assistant General Manager/Visitor and Field Services  
 Stefan Jaskulak—Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services

# About Us

## SERVICES

Midpen's purpose is to acquire, restore and permanently preserve a regional greenbelt of public open space, balancing the protection of natural resources with public use and enjoyment. We restore natural ecosystems to help plants and animals thrive, connect people to nature via an extensive trail network and environmental education, and support sustainable agriculture. Midpen has preserved nearly 65,000 acres of public land and manages 26 open space preserves.

Open space preserves are generally kept in a natural condition to best protect the environment and wildlife habitat, and are developed with only the amenities needed to provide for ecologically sensitive recreation. Ranging from 55 to over 18,000 acres in size, 24 preserves are open to the public free of charge, 365 days a year. An estimated 2 million people visit annually to explore more than 244 miles of trails, ranging from easy to challenging terrain. In addition to open spaces and hiking, biking and equestrian trails, special amenities include a backpacking camp, nature center, historic farm, and winery.

These public preserves offer a great variety of environments, wildlife habitats and plant life, including redwood, oak and fir forests, chaparral-covered hillsides, riparian corridors, grasslands and San Francisco Bay wetlands. These lands provide critical habitat for mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, deer, golden eagles, red-legged frogs, newts, salmon and many varieties of wildflowers. The region supports approximately 70 threatened, endangered or rare wildlife and plant species.

## GOVERNANCE

Midpen is governed by a seven member board of directors, each of whom is elected to serve a four-year term and represents a geographic ward of approximately 100,000 people. The District boundaries encompass approximately 200 square miles of Santa Clara County, 350 square miles of San Mateo County and 2.6 square miles of Santa Cruz County. The board holds its regular public meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m., at the Midpen administrative office: 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA. To learn more and to sign up for meeting notices, visit [openspace.org/board](https://openspace.org/board).

## STAFFING

The staff currently includes over 180 employees in 11 departments: budget and analysis, engineering and construction, finance, human resources, information systems and technology, land and facilities, natural resources, planning, public affairs, real property, and visitor services.

## HISTORY

The late 1960s was a time of rapid growth in the Bay Area. As tract housing and commercial development began to dominate the "Valley of Heart's Delight," concern for the preservation of the region's irreplaceable foothill and bayland natural resources mounted among local residents. Voters, led by the determined and heartfelt efforts of local conservationists, created the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in 1972.

Midpen was founded as an independent special district to preserve the regional greenbelt in northwestern Santa Clara County. Voters expanded the District boundary in 1976 to include southern San Mateo County, and in 1992 they added a small portion of Santa Cruz County. In 2004, the boundary was extended to the Pacific Ocean in San Mateo County.



Midpen Staff by Erin Ashford

# Regional Map

## Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District



Preserve

Protect

Restore

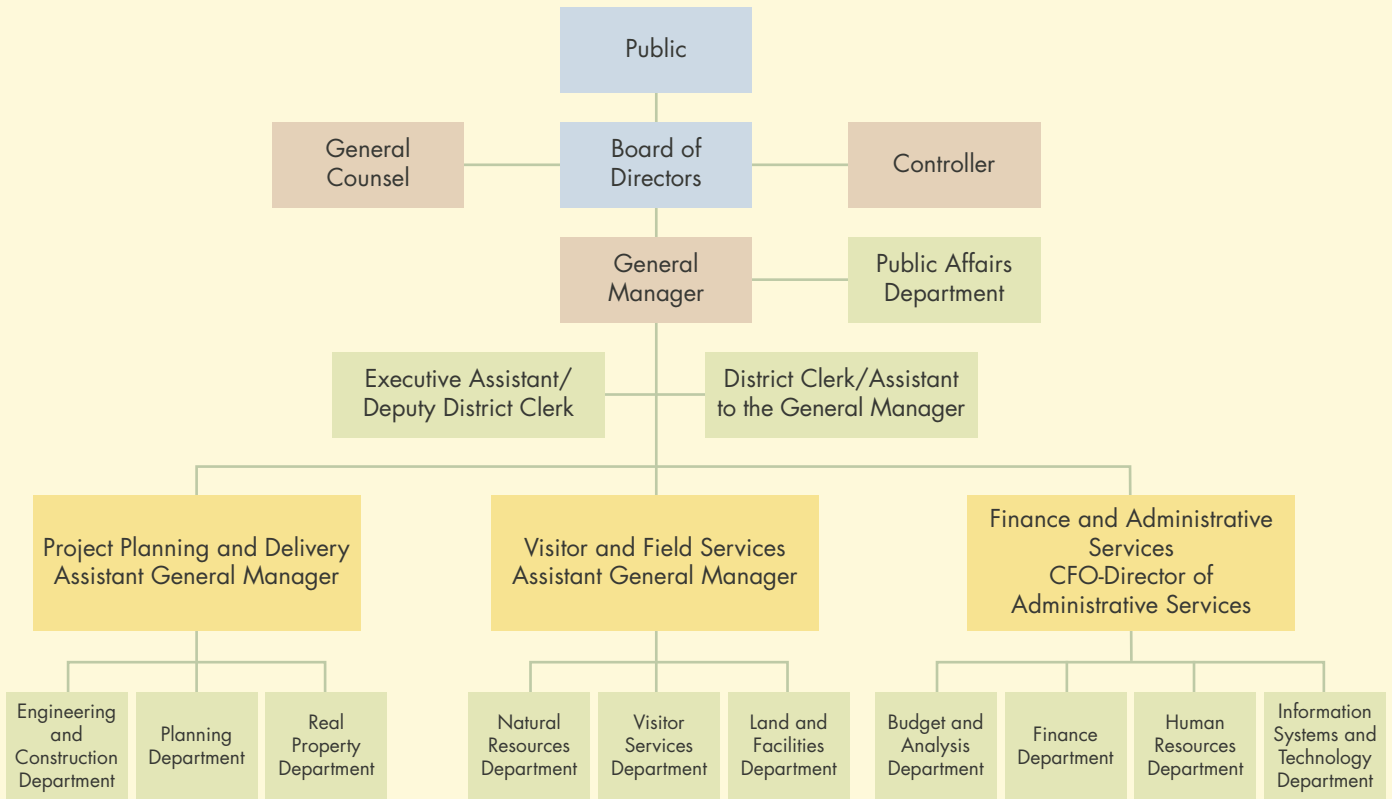
Educate

Enjoy










- |                            |                     |                            |  |                  |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------|
| 1 Bear Creek Redwoods      | 7 La Honda Creek    | 13 Pulgas Ridge            | 19 Sierra Azul                         | 25 Tunitas Creek |
| 2 Coal Creek               | 8 Long Ridge        | 14 Purisima Creek Redwoods | 20 Skyline Ridge                       | 26 Windy Hill    |
| 3 El Corte de Madera Creek | 9 Los Trancos       | 15 Rancho San Antonio      | 21 St. Joseph's Hill                   |                  |
| 4 El Sereno                | 10 Miramontes Ridge | 16 Ravenswood              | 22 Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Area |                  |
| 5 Foothills                | 11 Monte Bello      | 17 Russian Ridge           | 23 Teague Hill                         |                  |
| 6 Fremont Older            | 12 Picchetti Ranch  | 18 Saratoga Gap            | 24 Thornewood                          |                  |

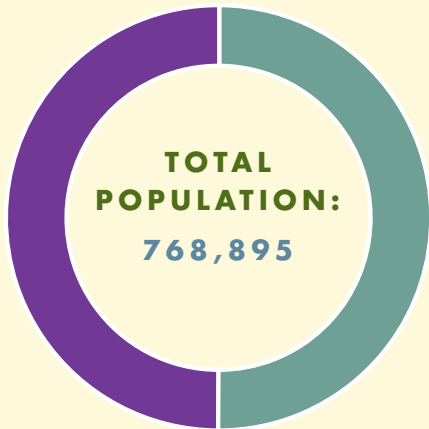
# Organizational Chart



# Midpen at a Glance

 Founded in 1972	 63,927 Acres (as of June 2019)	 243 Miles of Trails	 26 Preserves
 183 Full-Time Employees	 Over 2 Million Visitors Per Year	 \$74.8 Million Budget	 760,000 Residents

# Demographic and Economic Statistics



## BREAKDOWN BY GENDER<sup>1</sup>

- 50.1% Male
- 49.9% Female



## BREAKDOWN OF RACE AND ETHNICITY<sup>1</sup>

- 0.1% American Indian and Alaska Native
- 28.6% Asian
- 1.7% Black or African American
- 18.0% Hispanic or Latino
- 0.8% Native Hawaiian and Other Islander
- 0.3% Other Race
- 3.7% Two or more Other Race
- 46.8% White

**\$63,537** PER CAPITA INCOME<sup>2</sup>

**92.3%** EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT HIGH SCHOOL OR GREATER, AGE 25 OR OVER<sup>1</sup>

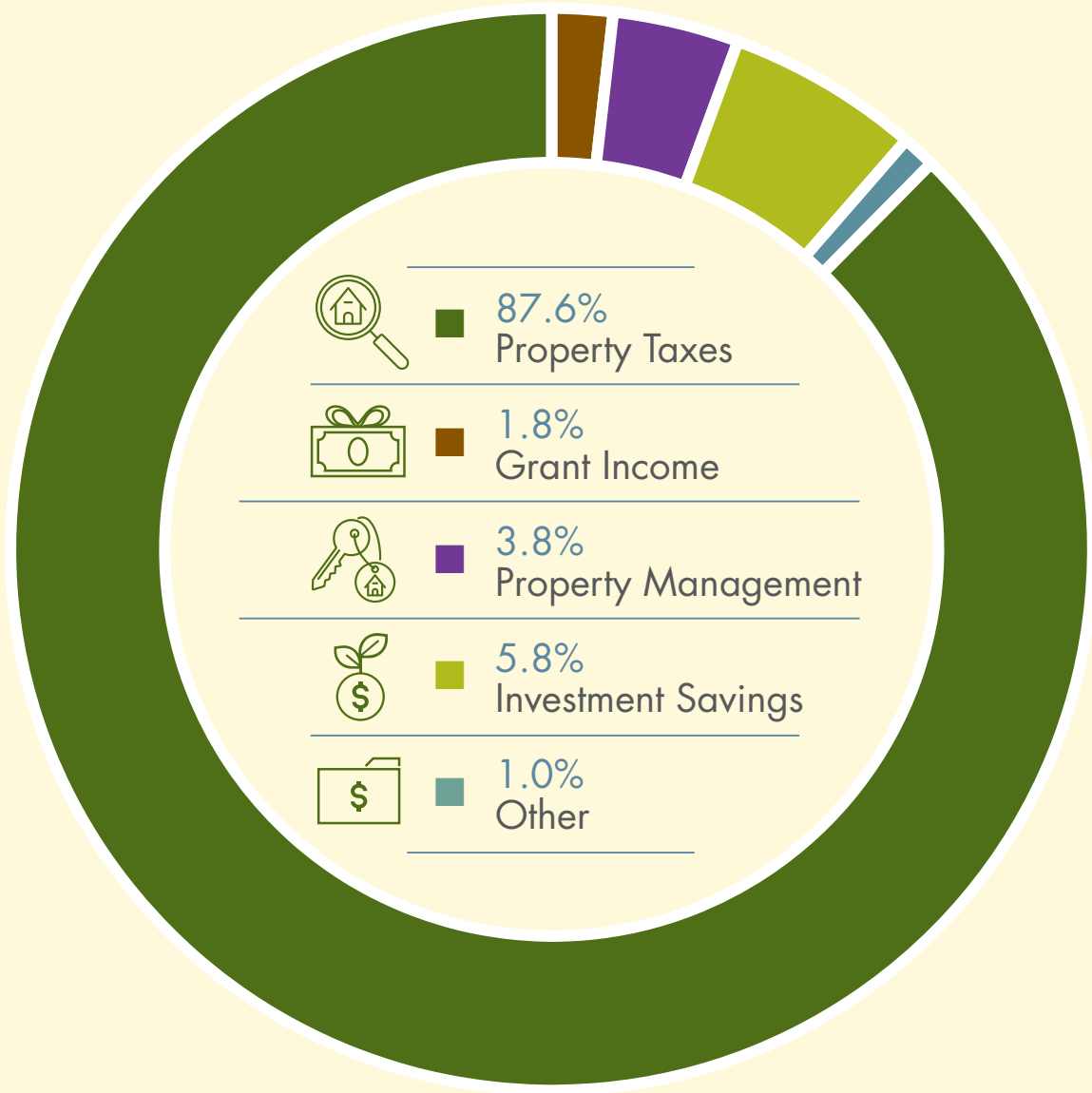
<sup>1</sup> 2013-17 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.  
<sup>2</sup> 2012-16 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.



Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve by Mike Kahn/Midpen



# Revenues



Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve by Duncan Lissett



Purisima Creek Open Space Preserve by Richard Zimmerman

## Revenues and Expenses (Governmental Activities)

Given the nature of Midpen’s finances and operations, all the financial activities are governmental. Our primary source of revenue is property taxes, which are levied on all taxable property within the District’s boundaries covering portions of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Revenue for the year ended June 30, 2019, totaled \$63.3 million, an increase of \$10.1 million or 19.1% compared to FY2018. Property tax revenue continues to increase as a result of the growth in assessed valuation. Investment earnings also increased due to improved investment yields and the interest earned on general obligation bond proceeds. Total expenses were \$44.4 million in FY2019, an increase of \$4.9 million or 12.4% compared to FY2018. Expenditures for staff increased as Midpen continues to build out its staffing levels to support more open space protection, restoration and public access. Interest and principal expenditures on Midpen’s long-term debt also increased.

### CHANGES IN NET POSITION AS OF JUNE 30, 2019 (IN THOUSANDS)

	Total 2019	Total 2018	Total 2017
<b>Revenues</b>			
General Revenues	\$59,897	\$49,996	\$45,108
Program Revenues	\$3,442	\$3,189	\$2,130
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$63,339</b>	<b>\$53,185</b>	<b>\$47,238</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Land Preservation	\$34,304	\$31,309	\$23,368
Interest and Fiscal Charges	\$10,449	\$8,193	\$8,327
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$44,753</b>	<b>\$39,502</b>	<b>\$31,695</b>
Increase in Net Position Before Adjustments	\$18,586	\$13,683	\$15,543
Prior Period Adjustments	\$0	(\$1,898)	\$0
Increase in Net Position	\$18,586	\$11,785	\$15,543
Net Position, Beginning of Period	\$348,788	\$337,003	\$321,460
<b>Net Position, End of Period</b>	<b>\$367,374</b>	<b>\$348,788</b>	<b>\$337,003</b>


 Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve by LaNor Maune

## Statement of Net Position

The statement of net position presents information on all of Midpen's assets and liabilities, deferred outflows and deferred inflows, with the difference between the above reported as net position. The net position is the difference between what Midpen owns and what it owes. Midpen's overall net position increased by \$19 million as long-term debt was paid down and overall revenues exceeded expenditures.

### STATEMENT OF NET POSITION AS OF JUNE 30, 2018 (IN THOUSANDS)

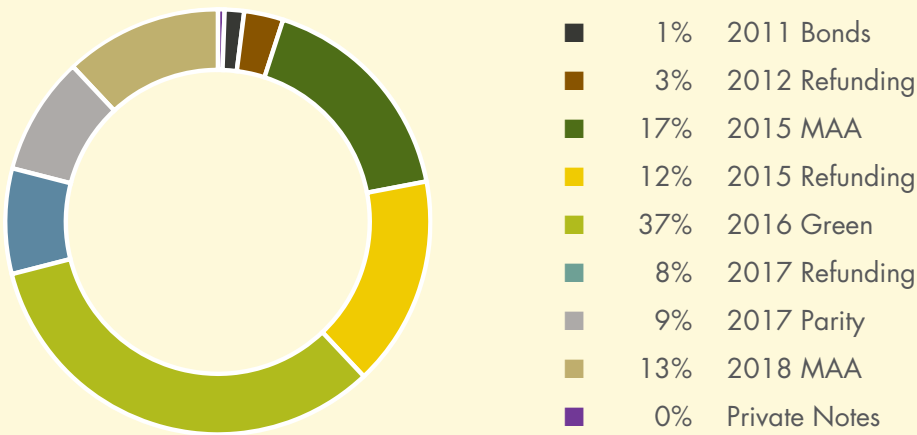
	Total 2019	Total 2018	Total 2017
Current Assets	\$108,643	\$135,924	\$77,669
Capital Assets, Net of Depreciation	\$50,602	\$38,976	\$20,127
Non-Depreciable Capital Assets	\$453,957	\$423,144	\$427,006
Other Non-Current Assets	\$563	\$638	\$1,312
Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$14,827	\$17,805	\$15,637
<b>Total Assets and Deferred Outflows</b>	<b>\$628,592</b>	<b>\$616,487</b>	<b>\$541,751</b>
Current Liabilities	\$16,696	\$14,220	\$8,787
Non-Current Liabilities	\$243,050	\$252,063	\$193,890
Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$1,471	\$1,416	\$2,071
<b>Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows</b>	<b>\$261,317</b>	<b>\$267,699</b>	<b>\$204,748</b>
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$351,152	\$312,121	\$308,601
Restricted Net Position	\$8,207	\$7,252	\$4,571
Unrestricted Net Position	\$8,015	\$29,415	\$23,831
<b>Net Position, End of Period</b>	<b>\$367,374</b>	<b>\$348,788</b>	<b>\$337,003</b>

# Debt

Midpen is legally restricted to issuing debt not to exceed five percent of the assessed valuation of property situated within the District’s boundaries. As of June 30, 2019, the assessed value of property within the District’s jurisdiction totaled \$273.2 billion, resulting in a legal debt limit of \$40.98 billion. Midpen’s revenue bonds, parity bonds, and refunding bonds are secured by general fund property tax revenue, while the general obligation bonds are secured through a separate ad valorem tax levy on all taxable property within the District. The latest ratings for Midpen’s debt issues from Standard and Poor’s and Fitch Ratings are shown below:

Debt Issue	S & P	Fitch	Balance as of June 30, 2019
2011 Revenue Bonds	AA+	AA+	\$750,000
2012 Refunding Promissory Notes	AAA	AAA	\$8,310,601
2015 General Obligation Bonds (Series A and B) (Measure AA)	AAA	AAA	\$42,460,000
2015 Refunding Promissory Notes	AAA	AAA	\$21,010,000
2016 Green Refunding Bonds	AAA	AAA	\$50,435,000
2017 Green Refunding Bonds (Series A)	AAA	AAA	\$25,025,000
2017 Parity Bonds (Series B)	AAA	AAA	\$10,420,000
2018 General Obligation Bonds (Measure AA)	AAA	AAA	\$50,000,000
Private Notes	n/a	n/a	\$1,500,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$209,910,601</b>

## TOTAL DEBT SERVICE PAID FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019





Government Finance Officers Association

**Award for  
Outstanding  
Achievement in  
Popular Annual  
Financial Reporting**

Presented to

**Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District, California**

For its Annual  
Financial Report  
for the Fiscal Year Ended

**June 30, 2018**

*Christopher P. Morill*

Executive Director/CEO



Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Area by Kwon Chiu

# Measure AA Projects

FUNDED BY

**MEASURE AA**

2014 OPEN SPACE BOND

In June 2014, voters approved Measure AA, a \$300 million general obligation bond to protect natural open space lands; open preserves or areas of preserves that are currently closed; construct public access improvements such as new trails and staging areas; and restore and enhance open space land, which includes forests, streams, watersheds and coastal ranch areas.

In August 2015, Midpen issued its first tranche of \$45 million in general obligation bonds to reimburse itself for project expenses planned for approximately the next two or three years, as well as the legally permitted look-back period of 60 days prior to board's certification of election results.

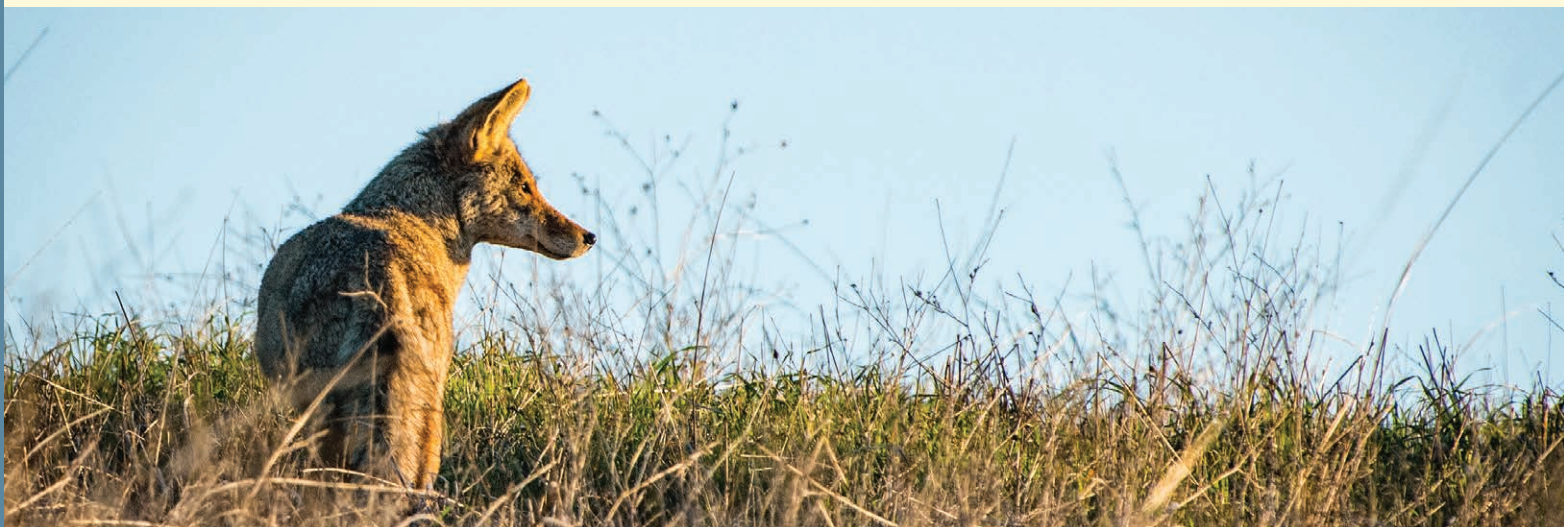
In February 2018, Midpen issued its second tranche of \$50 million in general obligation bonds to reimburse itself for project expenses planned for approximately the next two or three years.

## EXPENDITURE PLAN

The MAA expenditure plan and the 25 priority actions, as well as the portfolio designations and locations, were the culmination of the vision planning effort that began in 2002. The public visioning process spanned eighteen months and defined the strategic direction of Midpen for the next 40 years. The vision plan yielded a list of 54 priority actions that then were narrowed to the top 25 for the purposes of the ballot initiative. Measure AA funds the top 25 priority actions through their inclusion in the MAA Expenditure Plan. This MAA accountability report is arranged in parallel with the expenditure plan to facilitate review. Projects are grouped in 25 key project portfolios organized by geographic area within the District's boundaries.

## ANNUAL BUDGET

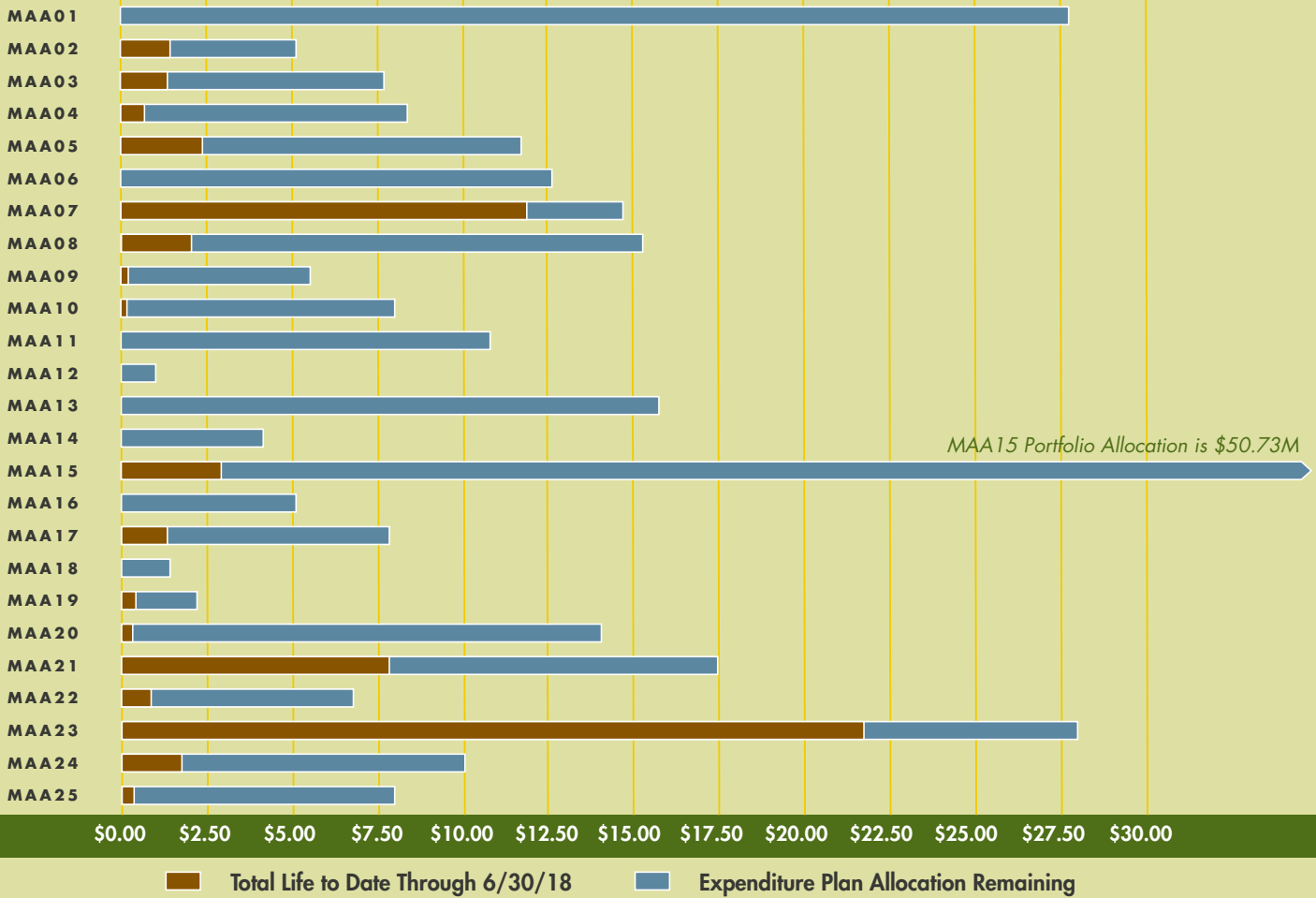
Each year Midpen embarks upon a priority-setting and budgeting process with the board, allowing for at least a six month planning process. The final budget and action plan is approved prior to the start of the fiscal year, which begins July 1. Within the budget document, there is an MAA project budget overview, which provides a prospective view into next year's planned spending.



Monte Bello Open Space Preserve by Greg Hughes

The following chart shows the expenditure plan allocations broken down by portfolio, with the total expenditures for each portfolio through June 30, 2019. The purpose of this chart is to show the portfolio allocations that were approved in the expenditure plan and the relative expenditures in each portfolio, life-to-date. For more MAA information, please visit [openspace.org/MAAreport](https://openspace.org/MAAreport).

**PORTFOLIO LEVEL EXPENDITURES TO ALLOCATIONS** (In Millions)



Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve by Tiffany Lo

# Accomplishments

Over the course of the last fiscal year, Midpen has accomplished major milestones and made substantial progress on the 131 key action plan projects adopted by the board of directors, which include the 25 Measure AA portfolios.

The accomplishments for FY2018-19 are outlined across the following five categories:

- ❖ Land Acquisition and Preservation
- ❖ Natural Resources Protection and Restoration
- ❖ Public Access, Education and Outreach
- ❖ General/Districtwide Support of Mission
- ❖ Awards, Grants, and Recognition

Highlights of the major accomplishments are provided below.

## LAND ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION

- ❖ Purchased, exchanged or received gifts of 192.11 acres of open space lands valued at \$2.925 million dollars, including:
  - ◆ Purchase of 190-acre Woodruff Redwoods property in **La Honda Creek Preserve**—advances land conservation opportunities in Measure AA Portfolio 8 to Preserve Upper San Gregorio Creek Watershed and in Portfolio 15 for Redwood Forest Protection and Salmon Fisheries Conservation.
  - ◆ Purchase of 1.87-acre Haight/Peery property in **El Sereno Preserve**—remedies the lack of a trail easement for the Aquinas Trail, which crosses this property.
  - ◆ Purchase of 1.04-acre Cogliandro property in **Sierra Azul Preserve**—remedies lack of a trail easement for the Limekiln Trail, which crosses this property

## NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

- ❖ Continued natural resources protection and restoration projects in **Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve** including the second (final) year of cultural resource evaluations and invasive species removal in riparian areas.
- ❖ Completed second year of a stream gauge and sediment study at **El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve** to assess the effectiveness of erosion reduction projects under the preserve wide watershed protection program.
- ❖ Monitored sensitive species populations to assess success of habitat restoration projects in **La Honda Creek Preserve**.
- ❖ Completed numerous natural resource protection and restoration projects in **Sierra Azul Preserve**, including an assessment and operations plan for the Cherry Springs water system and site cleanup to support land preservation and improve runoff into two perennial creeks.
- ❖ Continued work to control invasive slender false brome plant at **Thornewood, El Corte de Madera, La Honda Creek** and other preserves. Continued our partnership with the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District to conduct outreach and treatment on adjacent private properties.
- ❖ Continued the Highway 17 Wildlife and Regional Trail Crossings project, identifying and analyzing additional crossing alternatives in response to partner, stakeholder and public comments. Drafted the project study report and received Caltrans initial comments. Held meetings with project partners and stakeholders (Caltrans, San Jose Water Company, Green Foothills, National Wildlife Federation), and held a second public meeting to receive input on the alternative wildlife crossings.
- ❖ Completed Midpen conservation grazing program projects, including fencing along riparian areas at **Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve**.



## PUBLIC ACCESS, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- ❖ Opened **Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve** to the public in June 2019, improvements included:
  - ◆ New parking lot, vault toilet restroom, ADA pathway around Upper Lake, new bridge installation and 6 miles of new and improved trails. Completed design, fabrication and installation of two interpretive signs for the new parking and Upper Lake area.
  - ◆ Worked with GIS, Visitor Services, and Public Affairs to complete design, content and web development of “Layers of History” online story map at [www.openspace.org/bcrstory](http://www.openspace.org/bcrstory), educating the public on the area’s rich history, which reached over 800 users in two months.
  - ◆ Engaged and trained docents to provide interpretive walks on first two opening weekends.
  - ◆ Celebrated completion of the phase I public access improvements and progress on natural resources restoration projects with partner ribbon-cutting and tours, media outreach and public educational outreach during the first two opening weekends.
- ❖ Began a conditions assessment of Alpine Trail in **Coal Creek Preserve** to develop recommendations and alternatives/cost analysis for repairs. Entered into a memorandum of understanding with the County of San Mateo to allow Midpen to make repairs on the county road easement and potentially take over management in the long term to ensure that Alpine Trail remains as an important regional trails link.
- ❖ Completed new section of Oljon Trail to provide a new loop trail opportunity from the parking lot and completed most restoration of an eroded, unsustainable section of the Steam Donkey Trail, with poor access off Skyline Boulevard, at **El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve**.
- ❖ Continued efforts to open additional areas of **La Honda Creek Preserve** to the public, including formation of a new 13-member board-appointed Public Access Working Group for the La Honda Creek Parking and Trailhead Access Feasibility Study.
- ❖ Completed design and contractor bidding process for site cleanup and removal of dilapidated structures to support expanded public access in **Monte Bello Preserve**.
- ❖ Constructed two new pedestrian bridges on the Stevens Creek Nature Trail in **Monte Bello Preserve**, removed a failing old bridge and restored the construction area. These bridges will allow the use of the Stevens Creek Nature Trail throughout the winter.
- ❖ Received board approval for a Multimodal Access Study scope of work to conduct parking and transportation demand analysis at **Rancho San Antonio Preserve** to inform future options for improving parking issues, promoting greener modes of transport and reducing parking impacts to adjacent communities to improve the preserve visitor experience. Also received board approval to implement interim short-term measures for improving parking over the next 2 years.
- ❖ Installed a new vault restroom with ADA access ramp in **Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve** as an improved visitor amenity.



Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve by Mike Kahn/Midpen

- ❖ Continued major actions to close a 0.6-mile gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail at **Ravenswood Preserve** and assist the City of East Palo Alto in developing the adjacent Cooley Landing Park.
- ❖ Completed phase II plant restoration and sign installation at the Mount Umunhum Summit at **Sierra Azul Preserve**.
- ❖ Awarded a professional services contract for site surveys, traffic/hazardous material assessments, and environmental and biological services to inform the design of the Beatty Property parking area and trail connections at **Sierra Azul Preserve**. Completed topographic surveys; initiated traffic counts, line of sight analyses, phase I environmental assessments and a conceptual-level design.
- ❖ Partnered with City of Saratoga to fund the design of the Saratoga-to-the-Sea Trail. City completed the engineering design and environmental review, and initiated permitting. Also, extended the funding partnership agreement to co-fund the trail construction. This partnership project fulfills Midpen’s goal for a regional trail connecting Saratoga to the existing Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail and local trail systems.
- ❖ Completed multiple districtwide actions in support of public access goals, including:
  - ◆ Hosted annual spring event with docent-led public tours of the historic Woodhills home in **Fremont Older Preserve** for 120 participants.
  - ◆ Produced and published quarterly outdoor activities schedules that are included in the quarterly Open Space Views newsletter, to promote naturalist-led docent hikes and rides.
  - ◆ Outdoor Activity Docents provided over 285 guided interpretive activities for public enrichment (serving approximately 2,500 participants).
- ❖ Collaborated with partner agencies (Caltrans, Santa Clara County Parks, Valley Water, Bay Area Ridge Trail) to identify opportunities for a public trail crossing at Highway 17 to close a major gap in the regional trail system; ground-truthed multiple potential crossings and trail alignment options with Santa Clara County Parks.
- ❖ Completed a site feasibility parking study for a potential parking area at the Hawthorns Property addition of **Windy Hill Preserve**. Completed a cultural resources field survey and assessment report.

## GENERAL/DISTRICTWIDE SUPPORT OF MISSION

- ❖ Received board approval of Midpen’s Climate Action Plan to meet the adopted climate change goals of 20% reduction in operational greenhouse gas emissions from 2016 levels by 2022, 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. Began implementation of the plan by changing fuel tanks to renewable diesel, purchasing 100% renewable electricity for offices, acquiring electric bikes and UTV for field staff, and purchasing carbon offsets for business flights. Completed the 2018 GHG emissions inventory. Held initial talks on carbon sequestration pilot project with San Mateo County Resource Conservation District.
- ❖ Continued work to prevent and prepare for wildland fires in response to the increasing fire threat in California, including the formation of an internal Wildland Fire Coordination Team to improve preparation for and response to wildland fires. Midpen also performed substantial clearing of vegetation in multiple preserves to reduce fuel loads and maintain defensible spaces.
- ❖ Continued implementation of critical Financial and Operational Sustainability Model Study recommendations to enhance Midpen’s delivery of Measure AA and Vision Plan projects, including the launch of the Work Order & Asset Management System, as well as Project Central as a SharePoint solution for monitoring and managing Midpen projects.
- ❖ Increased data security through testing internal vulnerability to cyberattacks and providing targeted cybersecurity training.
- ❖ Initiated the development of a Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan.
- ❖ Launched over 35 Enterprise GIS web maps and applications to provide critical GIS data to all staff, support interdepartmental collaboration and streamline asset mapping. This work facilitated the creation of multiple districtwide data inventories: fuel reduction lines, phytophthora sample sites, cover boards, wildlife cameras, conservation easement photo sites, utility assets, bridges, culverts and more.

## AWARDS, GRANTS AND RECOGNITION

- ❖ Completed three successful grant applications totaling \$1,530,234:
  - ◆ \$1,355,328 for the Ravenswood Bay Trail at **Ravenswood Preserve**, which includes a \$300,000 gift from Facebook and \$1,055,328 from the California Natural Resources Agency.
  - ◆ \$149,906 from Valley Water for the Beatty trail connection to Priest Rock Trail at **Sierra Azul Preserve**.
  - ◆ \$25,000 anonymous grant in support of Midpen’s mission.
- ❖ Successfully launched a revised Grantmaking Program under three funding priorities and received 21 proposals requesting over \$750,000. The program will distribute \$248,104 to seven organizations over the next 3 years.
- ❖ Received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the third year in a row. Also received the Operating Budget – Excellence Award from California Society of Municipal Finance Officers for the first time (Operating Budget – Meritorious Award was received the year prior).
- ❖ Received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (second consecutive year) and the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR, first year) for FY2017-18.
- ❖ Received the Technology Innovation: Leadership award from Special Districts West.
- ❖ Received an award for Innovation in Green Community Planning from the Northern Section of American Planning Association for Midpen’s Climate Action Plan. Midpen is among the first few regional open space agencies in the country to adopt a climate action plan and set formal goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- ❖ Received the Integrated Pest Management Achievement Award from the State of California.
- ❖ Received the Community Partnership Award from the San Jose Conservation Corps + Charter School for our ongoing partnership work in providing life-changing, outdoor conservation experiences and skills training to SJCC+CS members.



Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve by Ruben Garcia



Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve by Jim Mosher



## Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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[openspace.org](http://openspace.org)



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