

## **Attachment 9**

Public Comments Received Prior to  
October 24, 2014 Pertaining to  
Board Consideration of the Initial 5-Year  
Measure AA Project List

**Subject:** FW: Alpine Fire Road

---

**From:** Jeff Jordan

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2014 11:28 AM

**To:** Pete Siemens; Yoriko Kishimoto; Jed Cyr; Curt Riffle; Nonette Hanko; Larry Hassett; Cecily Harris

**Cc:** Steve Abbors

**Subject:** Alpine Fire Road

Dear board,

I'm writing to implore you to prioritize improvements to the water damaged area of upper Alpine Fire Road.

I am a home owner in Portola Valley and am an avid outdoorsman. I typically am out on the trails multiple times each week, either riding my mountain bike or hiking with my dog. And almost all of these activities start on Alpine Fire Road. Virtually every trail between Portola Valley and both Skyline and Page Mill Road bans both bikes and dogs - with the very notable exception of Alpine Fire Road. It literally is our life line to all of the MPOSD trails in the area - Monte Bello, Russian Ridge, Skyline Ridge, Saratoga Gap, etc.

There are only two other options and both are very challenging for both biking and hiking: 1) Spring Ridge Trail in Windy Hill has brutal uphill segments that only the extremely fit can conquer on bikes, and it ends on a segment of Skyline that is no where near any of the other Open Space preserves (forcing you to ride along the shoulder of Skyline Blvd, a scary and dangerous undertaking); and 2) the trail off of Alpine Road that is the detour route when upper Alpine Fire Road is closed (lower Meadow Trail?) is also a brutally steep trail that is treacherous and sometimes impassable when it gets muddy.

Alpine Road is a historic route that has been neglected for years. In addition to being critical to the pursuit of outdoor activities in the area, it also feels like a critical route for fire prevention and access. Again, I implore you to prioritize the improvements that will keep it open for all of these uses.

Thank you.

Jeff Jordan

--

-----

**From:** Paul Reimer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2014 4:22 PM  
**To:** Jane Mark  
**Subject:** Fw: Designation of a Portola` Historic Trail in San Mateo County  
**Attachments:** ABSTRACT - Portola Trail.docx; ABSTRACT - Portola Trail.docx

On Monday, July 21, 2014 3:00 PM, Paul Reimer

wrote:

Dear Jane; Welcome to MPROSD. I am contacting you at the suggestion of Noelle Thurlow at POST to make you aware of my effort in support of historic recognition for Gaspar de Portola` and his exploratory expedition of 1769. A designated Portola` Trail would lie almost entirely within the boundary of MPROSD except for the northern-most portion in City of Pacifica and GGNRA's Bay Discovery Site monument on Sweeney Ridge. I am attaching a one-page abstract of my research report that will be published by the San Mateo County Historic Association in the fall. Your District's recent purchase of the Toto Ranch from POST already places you within my list of Right of Way providers for the designated trail at a key point where the route would cross under Hwy. 1 beneath the Tunitas Creek Bridge

Since I live in Portola Valley not far from your office, phone number 650 854-5044, I'd look forward to the chance of coming by to talk about my proposal and to show you my maps of a possible route. Since 2019 is the 250th Anniversary of the Portola` Expedition, I am interested in whether or not it is possible to achieve such a designation in the next 5 years. I know of similar interest from National Park Service, San Mateo County Parks and Rec. Department, State Parks and S.M. County Historians. Soon I must find a sponsor beyond the cooperation that POST has already given me. I'd be interested in your thoughts on this matter. Either your District or the San Mateo County Parks Dept. would represent ideal Sponsors.

For your info, I am a retired Civil Engineer and have been a long-time member of POST's Advisory Council and Stewardship Committee.

## ABSTRACT

### IS IT TIME FOR A PORTOLA` HISTORIC TRAIL DESIGNATION IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ?

Gaspar de Portola`, a Catalanian, came to New Spain following his appointment as Governor of Baja California in 1767. Upon his arrival, he was given the sensitive task of replacing the Jesuit Priests with Franciscans at 17 established missions in Baja California, the Jesuit Order of the Catholic Church having fallen out of favor with King Carlos III of Spain.(1759-1788). At this same time King Carlos, with rising concern over Russian and English presence along the Pacific Coast, directed his emissaries in New Spain to perfect the Spanish claim to Alta California through colonization of San Diego, Monterey and, ultimately, San Francisco.

Portola`, now renowned for his successful re-priesting, volunteered to lead the 1769 expedition as organized by the Visitor General in New Spain, Jose de Galvez. After an initial march from the Presidio in Loreto to San Diego Bay, Portola` reconstituted the expedition to leave a permanent colony at San Diego and rode north with his servant, 62 other Spaniards, Mexicans and Christianized Indians along with 100 horses and mules. 78 days later the expedition was at the edge of Monterey Bay. Neither the protected harbor nor the expected supply ship was in sight and the expedition turned north still in search of its objective.

That disheartening turn resulted in Portola`s march across the Santa Cruz Coastal Plain and into what is now San Mateo County at Ano Nuevo. In fact, after inhabiting six different campsites along the San Mateo Coast during October/early November 1769 and withstanding dysentery, scurvy and hunger, Portola` and his expedition saw San Francisco Bay from what is now called Sweeney Ridge, the first Europeans to do so. Diaries from Portola` and Expedition Members Fray Crespi and Ensign Costanzo reported the Bay as big enough to harbor "all the Navies of Europe". Finally reaching consensus among his captains that they were substantially north of Monterey Bay and that the Indian tale of a waiting supply ship was fabrication, Portola` led his troop back to San Diego after an arduous 6 months trek with discipline intact and without loss of a man except for five Indians who deserted to stay in fertile Alta California. The Expedition's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will occur in 2019.

With Portola`s return in January of 1770, a report was dispatched to the Viceroy in Mexico City and, subsequently, to King Carlos in which the discovery of San Francisco Bay, its imposing size and the extension of the colonial potential for Alta California ( by some 300 miles) was noted . Despite two centuries of neglect after Cabrillo sailed the Pacific Coast, the decade beginning with Portola`s trek in 1769 saw a strong effort to perfect the Spanish claim to Alta California. That effort included Portola`s return to establish Church and Presidio in Monterey in the summer of 1770 as well as the De Anza Expedition which arrived on the San Francisco Peninsula in 1776 to begin Spanish Colonization of the Bay Area.

The paper from which this abstract comes is to be published by the San Mateo County Historical Association and will include the basis for identifying the six Portola` Campsites as well as factors leading to a "Best Guess" trail location between. Based upon research to date, it appears possible to "best guess" Portola`s Historic Route in coast-side San Mateo County and to find 100% public/preservation ownership for the Historic Right of Way designation in proximity thereto. June, 2014

**Subject:** FW: Dirt Alpine

**From:** Mitch Griffin

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2014 11:23 AM

**To:** Pete Siemens; Yoriko Kishimoto; Jed Cyr; Curt Riffle; Nonette Hanko; Larry Hassett; Cecily Harris

**Cc:** Steve Abbors

**Subject:** Dirt Alpine

Dear MidPen Board Members:

I am one of the many users of the upper portion of Alpine Rd. ("dirt Alpine"). My wife and I ride up and down the road an average of 2-3 times a month on our mountain bikes. I am writing to add my voice to those other trail users who are requesting that repair of dirt Alpine be made a priority of the Board.

We have watched the roadbed crumbling for years, as a result of unmaintained culverts – which I understand was wholly or partially to blame for the major washout that required the temporary repairs that were carried out. There is a second blocked culvert, of which you are likely aware, several hundred yards down the road from the location of the major wash-out/temporarily repaired culvert, in the section that was blocked off when the major washout occurred. The roadbed where this second blocked culvert is located has been crumbling away, bit by bit, literally for decades and the road is now down to about 4 feet in width in that location (which is marked with cones). The point being that dirt Alpine has received virtually no maintenance for years, so making it a "priority" would not so much be an emergency measure, but would be more in the nature of making up for long term neglect. The detour route set up around the section where these two culverts are located does not offer a realistic solution to the maintenance problem. The section into which users are rerouted when the detour is in place is so steep and exposed that it is basically unusable for mountain bikers and is even difficult to walk up, particularly after it has rained.

In short, if dirt Alpine is not repaired on a priority basis (particularly in the location of the two culverts), and weather conditions cause another detour, it is the equivalent of closing the road altogether. Other than Stevens Canyon to the south and Windy Hill to the north (which is too steep for most bike riders) there are no other (legal) biking routes to the Skyline that are closed to motor vehicle traffic. I hope that you will give priority to repairing this popular recreational route.

Thank you,

Mitchell S. Griffin  
Managing Partner



Tel: 415.438.4600

Fax: 415.438.4601  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
190 The Embarcadero  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
[www.cwlfirm.com](http://www.cwlfirm.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:**

This e-mail and any attachments contain information from the law firm of Cox, Wootton, Lerner, Griffin, Hansen & Poulos, LLP, and are intended solely for the use of the named recipient or recipients. This e-mail may contain privileged attorney/client communications or work product. Any dissemination of this e-mail by anyone other than an intended recipient is strictly prohibited. If you are not a named recipient, you are prohibited from any further viewing of the e-mail or any attachments or from making any use of the e-mail or attachments. If you believe you have received this e-mail in error, notify the sender immediately at the phone number and address listed above and permanently delete the e-mail, any attachments, and all copies thereof from any drives or storage media and destroy any printouts of the e-mail or attachments. Any tax advice contained in this email was not intended to be used, and cannot be used, by you (or any other taxpayer) to avoid penalties under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Subject:** FW: Measure AA meeting comments

---

**From:** Bern Smith [mailto:bernsmith@ridgetrail.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 09, 2014 11:56 AM  
**To:** Ana Ruiz; Jane Mark  
**Subject:** Re: Measure AA meeting comments

I will comment on a couple categories of what I consider priority actions (and give examples of some Ridge Trail projects that fit).

- I think there is high value in completing projects quickly - promoting quick accomplishments should raise community awareness and support of the District's mission & goals. Examples (these are taken from your 2014/15 plan):

- Mt Um trails & staging (so many priorities intersect on the mountain)
- Purisima to the Sea Trail - the first Coastside project since annexation
- El Corte de Madera trails phases 3 & 4 - now that the staging area is open, and since these are already underway, you will generate valuable PR by completing soon.

- I totally concur with prioritizing ecological restoration as represented by the need to upgrade existing ranch, forestry and other service roads - these can be among the most destructive developments on landscapes, and need close attention throughout their development stages (and if the old roads were not well-designed or maintained the issue is even more critical). La Honda Creek's road network is a good example of appropriate high priority ranking.

However, even when the roads are upgraded the preserve cannot open til there is a developed trailhead.

Similar to Mt Um, La Honda Creek is an example of potentially multiple priorities reinforcing each other, and increasing positive publicity for the District:

- the genuine ecological benefits of the roadwork could lead directly to significant new public access to a high visibility property that is currently practically unavailable.

- if you add development of the planned Red Barn staging area at the same time as the road upgrades it ties the restoration work and public access together in your messaging, and the public would be delighted to see that project underway soon.

--

Bern Smith  
South Bay Trail Director  
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council  
[bernsmith@ridgetrail.org](mailto:bernsmith@ridgetrail.org)  
415 561 2595 office  
650 868 5467 cell  
1007 General Kennedy #3  
San Francisco 94129

--

Bern Smith  
South Bay Trail Director  
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council  
[bernsmith@ridgetrail.org](mailto:bernsmith@ridgetrail.org)  
415 561 2595 office  
650 868 5467 cell  
1007 General Kennedy #3

San Francisco 94129

--

Bern Smith  
South Bay Trail Director  
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council  
[bernsmith@ridgetrail.org](mailto:bernsmith@ridgetrail.org)  
415 561 2595 office  
650 868 5467 cell  
1007 General Kennedy #3  
San Francisco 94129



**Subject:** FW: Supporting fixing dirt Alpine Rd/trail

---

**From:** Lara Sox

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2014 10:39 AM

**To:** Pete Siemens; Yoriko Kishimoto; Jed Cyr; Curt Riffle; Nonette Hanko; Larry Hassett; Cecily Harris

**Cc:** Steve Abbors

**Subject:** Supporting fixing dirt Alpine Rd/trail

Hello Members of the MidPen Board -

I would like to voice my support for prioritizing the permanent repair of the dirt section of Alpine Road, with its recent slide area. This is a wonderful and high-use trail, due to the access it provides to Skyline open space areas such as Black Mountain. It gets use from both bikes and hikers/runners. The alternative route is quite steep and extremely slippery in wet winters (which we will hopefully have again!), as well as exposed. Dirt Alpine, on the other hand, has a gentle slope and pleasant shade most of the way. The road's historic nature is an additional bonus.

Please put a high priority on this pleasant, popular, car-free access to Skyline open space.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lara Sox-Harris

**Subject:** FW: The cyclist's perspective on project prioritization

**From:** Charles Krenz

**Sent:** Monday, October 20, 2014 1:59 PM

**To:** Pete Siemens; Jed Cyr; Curt Riffle; Nonette Hanko; Cecily Harris; Yoriko Kishimoto; Larry Hassett

**Cc:** Alex Anderson; Steve Abbors

**Subject:** The cyclist's perspective on project prioritization

To the Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District:

As we understand the plan for your meeting on the 29th you are to prioritize the various projects that comprise the first 25 portfolios to be funded by bond sales made possible by Measure AA.

We know this is a complicated process and there are many competing constituencies vying for their own particular interests. That said, we are hoping that you can remember your campaign pledges related to AA. "Improved access" was generally the most prominently mentioned goal, with "new hiking and biking trails" usually the number one sub-goal. See attachment.

Cyclists comprise a very large percentage of open space users. Without delving into the specifics of which projects are opened where, you can please many of your "customers" if you work to create or improve:

- Regional trail connections - Routes "up to the ridge line" to the less utilized parks and open spaces, routes north and south along the ridge line... complete the bay area ridge trail.
- Multi-use trails - We're happy to share with other users and are receptive to new access rules on newly opened routes e.g. uphill only routes, or bikes ok on even number days etc.
- Access to single track - In the past, from our perspective, it has often seemed as if hikers and equestrians "get all the good routes" and cyclists get scraps. We get the fire roads that climb too steeply to be of much use. In the future we hope for improved access to gently climbing single track trails as well.

We hope you can keep these thoughts in mind as you consider the alternatives. We're all very excited that this measure has passed and is moving on to implementation. Thank you for taking this on.

Charlie Krenz and Alex Anderson

Board members: Silicon Valley Mountain Bikers

Former members of the Vision Plan's Citizens Advisory Committee

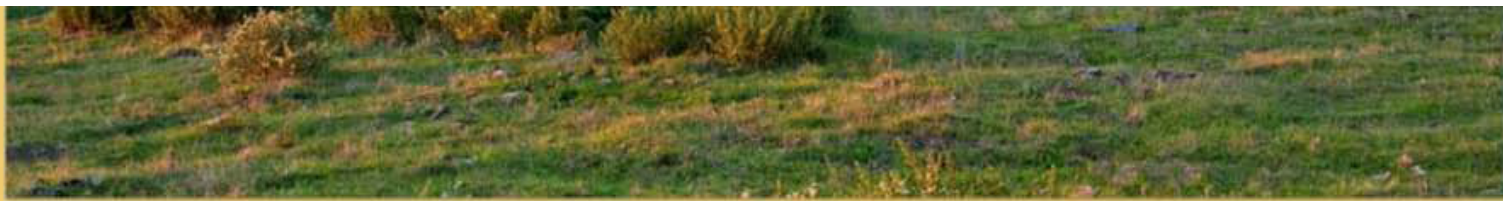
Active [supporters of Measure AA](#)

**YES ON AA** OLD TREES NEW TRAILS  
www.YesForOpenSpace.org

Tweet 7 Like 52 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

VOTE YES ON MEASURE AA FOR OPEN SPACE • JUNE 3  
**OLD TREES • NEW TRAILS**

Home | How to Help | More Information | Endorsements | News | Donate



# MORE TRAILS & ACCESS ● CLEAN WATER REDWOOD FORESTS ● HABITAT RESTORATION

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has permanently preserved over 62,000 acres and manages 26 open space preserves. Your vote on June 3 is needed for a bond measure that will maintain and enhance our local natural areas, protect our redwood forests, local creeks and streams, coastal lands and natural areas—and open more protected areas for hiking and biking.



New Hiking and Biking Trails  
Improving trails and opening more preserves means more opportunities for hiking and biking close to home.



Redwoods and the Coast  
We need to protect our unique natural heritage for generations to come by saving our redwoods and protecting the San Mateo Coastline.



Clean Water  
Protecting natural areas around creeks, lakes, streams and ponds will help keep our drinking water clean and naturally reduces air pollution.



Critical Wildlife Habitat  
The measure is needed to preserve important habitat critical to maintaining the Bay Area's rich diversity of wildlife.

[Home](#)

[How to Help](#)

[More Information](#)

[See our Endorsements](#)

[News](#)

[Donate](#)

For details about this ballot measure, click here to go to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's website.  
Paid for by Yes for Open Space, with major funding from the Peninsula Open Space Trust and Sempervirens Fund.

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2014 2:22 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Woodworth  
**Cc:** GMO  
**Subject:** FW: Upper Alpine Rd.

---

**From:** Julie Dickerson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2014 1:43 PM  
**To:** Pete Siemens; Yoriko Kishimoto; Jed Cyr; Curt Riffle; Nonette Hanko; Larry Hassett; Steve Abbors  
**Subject:** Upper Alpine Rd.

Dear Board of Directors for Mid Pen Open Space,

As a longtime resident of Portola Valley and an avid hiker, biker and runner, I am concerned about the state of the upper alpine road which has been in disrepair for years. Ugly orange plastic fencing has attempted to warn people about the deteriorating trail - which is an eyesore and in winter, if this is closed, detours to get around this area are perilous, at best.

Is there any reason this pass through - which is a vital connector to all the upper trails and areas over Page Mill - has not been fixed? Every time I am up there, people are trying to figure out if they can get through, why it is closed off - in other words, this is a very frequented route that people use and enjoy and it seems such a shame that it has been neglected for repair. I would also add that if the road slips further, this might be more difficult to fix as well as damaging to the surrounding trees and hillside.

I typically turn around at this point as it is more trouble and hassle to try to ride this route than it is worth - and what a shame to not use what is practically in our backyard because it has gone from natural open space trail to riding or hiking hazard.

I know there are many things that compete for Open Space dollars but this one would be money well spent, appreciated and well used, as a result!!!

Thank you,  
Julie Dickerson  
Portola Valley

**Subject:** FW: Upper Alpine Road

---

**From:** Eric Risley

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2014 10:38 AM

**To:** Yoriko Kishimoto; Pete Siemens; Jed Cyr; Curt Riffle; Nonette Hanko; Larry Hassett; Cecily Harris; Steve Abbors

**Subject:** Upper Alpine Road

Dear Mid-Peninsula Board:

As a 20 year resident of Portola Valley and Woodside, I'd like to convey the value of Upper Alpine Road to my family over the years. It serves a unique role as an important hiking and cycling connector to the various open spaces in the area and as you know, is one of the very few non-paved routes from the valley floor to the ridge top in the area. Over the years it's become our absolute favorite connecting hiking and cycling route.

With it's sense of history, exceptionally natural feel and generally moderate slope, I believe it's deserving of priority for prudent spending to maintain and possibly enhance the road and trail system. Most notable for attention is a long-term solution to the temporary fix made to the road in the past year or so and making sure that the existing bypass off the historic road is ecologically sustainable.

Thank you all for your outstanding efforts to make our area such a great place to live, keep up the good work.

Best,

ERIC F. RISLEY  
22 Adair Lane  
Portola Valley, CA

415 640 8232



# Peninsula Open Space Trust

October 20, 2014

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
330 Distel Circle  
Los Altos, CA 94022

Re: Measure AA Project Priority List

To Whom It May Concern:

On Wednesday, October 29, 2014, the board of directors of the District will discuss and approve the list of Measure AA projects, as this project list has been prioritized by District staff for the board's review and approval using the criteria adopted by the board on September 10, 2014. This approved list will represent the District's first 5-year Measure AA project implementation schedule – as well as be a great demonstration of the District's commitment to deliver on the vision approved by the voters in June.

In advance of the October 29<sup>th</sup> board meeting, I write to provide comments on behalf of the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) regarding projects we believe score strongly under the District's prioritization and weighting methodology, and therefore should be included in the District's first 5-year Measure AA project implementation schedule.

We have identified six project areas that we believe in each case merit being included as high priority project areas in the "Top 25" Vision Elements. The remainder of this letter discusses how we believe these six projects fit well within many of the board-approved prioritization criteria. (Note: when referring below to individual prioritization criteria we use the descriptions of these criteria as set forth in the publicly posted draft minutes of the District board study session on September 10<sup>th</sup>.)

1. Bear Creek Redwoods, Public Recreation and Interpretation Projects (Vision Element #21). Opening the 1,065-acre Bear Creek Redwoods to the public has been a top goal of POST's ever since we stepped in to purchase 805 acres of this property in 1999, in conjunction with the District's acquisition of the remainder of the property. Since the Bear Creek Redwoods property extends from Lexington Reservoir (and the 500-acre county park located there) to Skyline Boulevard, and is only a short drive from San Jose, it can serve as a gateway to the network of Santa Cruz Mountains parks and preserves, as well as provide a key connection in a trail system that can link the City of San Jose to the Pacific more than 50 miles away. The Bear Creek Redwoods portfolio of projects comply with most of the board-approved prioritization criteria, including specifically:

- High level of confidence regarding the ease and flexibility of implementation.
- Inclusion allows for a wide geographic distribution of benefits and new facilities.
- Inclusion provides benefit to two or more user groups (hikers, bicycles, horses, dogs, families, all-access) and/or underserved populations or greater access for limited mobility.
- The action taken would result in a significant, beneficial impact to public use and recreation.
- The action taken would result in a significant, beneficial impact to natural resource values.
- Implementation action enhances or leverages opportunities for partnerships.

2. Purisima Creek Redwoods, Purisima-to-Sea Trail, Watershed Protection and Conservation Grazing (Vision Element #3). Completing this project will represent the culmination of decades of work by the District and POST to secure and permanently protect a chain of properties along Lobitos Ridge, connecting Purisima Creek Redwoods OSP with a now existing segment of the California Coastal Trail. District staff are already working on taking title to the upland portion of the Purisima Farms property, to complement POST's construction and opening of the Cowell-Purisima Trail and staging area. We believe that this portfolio of projects complies with most of the board-approved prioritization criteria, including specifically:

- The action is in the middle of implementation and/or the action is an essential part of a multi-phase project that is currently underway.
- High level of confidence regarding the ease and flexibility of implementation.
- Inclusion allows for a wide geographic distribution of benefits and new facilities.
- Inclusion provides benefit to two or more user groups (hikers, bicycles, horses, dogs, families, all-access) and/or underserved populations or greater access for limited mobility.
- The action taken would result in a significant, beneficial impact to public use and recreation.
- Implementation action enhances or leverages opportunities for partnerships.

3. Russian Ridge, Public Recreation, Grazing, and Wildlife Projects (Vision Element #9). One of the prime project opportunities within this project portfolio is at Mindego Hill, where the District's construction work on the Ancient Oak trail connections and staging area is almost complete. These new amenities will provide the public with an outstanding example of the District's ability to combine public access with the reintroduction of ecologically sustainable conservation grazing. We believe

that this portfolio of projects complies with nearly all of the board-approved prioritization criteria, including specifically:

- The action is in the middle of implementation and/or the action is an essential part of a multi-phase project that is currently underway.
- High level of confidence regarding the ease and flexibility of implementation.
- Inclusion allows for a wide geographic distribution of benefits and new facilities.
- Inclusion provides benefit to two or more user groups (hikers, bicycles, horses, dogs, families, all-access) and/or underserved populations or greater access for limited mobility.
- The action taken would result in a significant, beneficial impact to public use and recreation.
- The action taken would result in a significant, beneficial impact to natural resource values.
- Implementation action enhances or leverages opportunities for partnerships.

4. La Honda Creek, Driscoll Ranch Public Access, Endangered Wildlife Protection and Conservation Grazing (Vision Element #7). The District has completed its master plan for 3,681-acre Driscoll Ranch (acquired from POST in 2006) and the other lands within the La Honda Open Space Preserve. POST is coordinating with District staff on potential transfer of a more recently acquired property (the 318-acre Driscoll Orchards property) to the District, to improve the public access opportunities at La Honda Creek OSP and protect the vital San Gregorio Creek corridor. As part of this coordination, the District is benefiting from POST's grant funds (from the Resources Legacy Foundation) to achieve some of the District's stewardship goals. The completion of this portfolio of projects will demonstrate a major success for the District in bringing the implementation of a complex master planning process to a successful conclusion. We believe that this portfolio of projects complies with nearly all of the board-approved prioritization criteria, including specifically:

- The action is in the middle of implementation and/or the action is an essential part of a multi-phase project that is currently underway.
- High level of confidence regarding the ease and flexibility of implementation.
- Inclusion allows for a wide geographic distribution of benefits and new facilities.
- Inclusion provides benefit to two or more user groups (hikers, bicycles, horses, dogs, families, all-access) and/or underserved populations or greater access for limited mobility.
- The action taken would result in a significant, beneficial impact to public use and recreation.



- The action taken would result in a significant, beneficial impact to natural resource values.
- Implementation action enhances or leverages opportunities for partnerships.

5. Regional, Redwoods Protection and Salmon Fishery Conservation (Vision Element #15). The Santa Cruz Mountains area represent a unique ecologic resource as well as an outstanding opportunity for public access and recreation a short distance from major urban centers. We are encouraged that the District is placing a significant focus on open space and habitat preservation in this area, which remains under significant threat from development, fragmentation and loss of critical wildlife corridors.

POST's work in this area has resulted in three completed acquisition projects that come within this Vision Element and are ready now to benefit from Measure AA funds. These three projects include the 318-acre Driscoll Orchards property described above (in item 4), as well as the 353-acre Alpine Ranch property, which was acquired by POST in December 2012 for \$5 million, and borders a County Park on two sides. Permanent protection of the Alpine Ranch property will benefit the Pescadero-Butano watersheds (with their steelhead and coho salmon runs) while also providing many public recreational opportunities, both on the property itself and as part of a possible future connection between Russian Ridge OSP and Pescadero Creek County Park. POST greatly appreciates that the District will consider acquiring a conservation easement over Alpine Ranch to facilitate its permanent protection. The third completed project that is relevant to this Vision Element is the 117-acre Hendrys Creek property, which is surrounded on two sides by the Sierra Azul OSP and contains perennial Hendry's Creek. POST and District staff are working on a potential transfer of fee title to this property to the District by early 2015.

We believe that each of these three projects, as well as future acquisition opportunities within this Vision Element, complies with all eight of the board-approved prioritization criteria.

6. South Bay Foothills, Wildlife Passage and Ridge Trail Improvements (Vision Element #20). We understand that one of the goals of this work will be to establish mechanisms for safe passage of mountain lions across the Highway 17 corridor. We are very interested in working with the District to identify possible wildlife corridor projects and wildlife passage improvements in that area. We believe that this portfolio of projects complies with most of the board-approved prioritization criteria, including specifically:

- Inclusion allows for a wide geographic distribution of benefits and new facilities.
- Inclusion provides benefit to two or more user groups (hikers, bicycles, horses, dogs, families, all-access) and/or underserved populations or greater access for limited mobility.

- The action taken would result in a significant, beneficial impact to public use and recreation.
- The action taken would result in a significant, beneficial impact to natural resource values.
- Implementation action enhances or leverages opportunities for partnerships.

Based on the foregoing review of the approved prioritization criteria, POST continues to believe the six project areas described above to be high priority project areas that merit inclusion in the first 5-year Measure AA implementation plan.

We appreciate the complexity of the task before staff and the District's board, in evaluating, prioritizing, reviewing and approving projects amongst so many worthy options that resulted from the thoughtful Vision Plan effort. POST remains excited to support the District's efforts to prioritize projects, and leverage the Measure AA funding with other resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

With best regards,



Walter T. Moore  
President

**From:** Paul Reimer  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 11, 2014 5:21 PM  
**To:** Jane Mark  
**Subject:** Re: Designation of a Portola` Historic Trail in San Mateo County

Dear Jane; There was a lot going on at my house when you called this morning and, consequently, our conversation was much too disjointed and long. Clearly, it is now up to the S.M. County Parks and Rec. Dept and I know you will be hearing further from Marlene and Sam as they evaluate the Portola` Trail for presentation to the Parks Commission and to the Board of Supervisors. Whether or not, in my zeal, I have the Cart before the Horse in encouraging the MidPen District's definition of a Portola` Trail project within its Priority Projects List remains to be seen. What I am deathly afraid of is that your District makes up a priority list in which the proposed Portola` Trail is conspicuous by its absence.

As we discussed, it is ownership of the Toto Ranch that brings your District into play. The Portola` Trail route that makes the most sense, as I see it, would utilize the farm road that provides access to Toto Ranch from Hwy. 1 and then runs to the north along the west end of the Ranch property. I would like your District to confirm such a route or find a better one that is compatible with the grazing lease and also leads to the Tunitas Creek Bridge under which the combined Coastal-Portola` Trail would switch from the west side of Hwy. 1 to the east side.

There is one intervening property for which the trail alignment fall-back is to return to the Hwy 1 Right of Way ( still on the east side ) until the Stage Road intersection is gained. The Stage Road alignment then becomes the right of way for the combined Trails to the intersection with Hwy. 84. At that point, the Coastal Trail turns to the west toward San Gregorio State Beach Parking Area. If your Districts interest could then be focused on the remaining part of Stage Road to and thru the Town of Pescadero, my dreams will have been fulfilled since Stage Road takes the right of way to Cloverdale Ranch and south to the Ano Nuevo State Reserve.

The hooks within the South San Mateo County Coast Priority Action Locations that accompanied Measure AA on which I hope to hang your Districts consideration of a Toto Ranch to Pescadero Pedestrian Improvement Project are as follows:

- Under Natural, Cultural and Scenic Landscapes - Sense of Place -
  - o Maintain a sense of place by protecting and increasing access to locally significant, iconic natural or cultural features.
  - o Preserve the scenic backdrop and designated scenic corridors, emphasizing the view from major roadways and parklands.
  - o Cultivate partnerships that preserve and/or enhance cultural resources.
  - o Increase interpretation of cultural resources.
  - o Provide new public access or improve access with trails and staging area improvements.
- o Provide regional, long distance trails that connect open space to communities.

(58) Cloverdale Ranch - Provide trail connections to nearby State parks.  
(75) Regional - Encourage, facilitate and partner to complete and manage the California Coastal Trail on the San Mateo Coast.

Jane,Is this enough to win an argument for a joint Coastal/ Portola` Trail Project in the Mid Pen. District's priority list

On Thursday, July 24, 2014 1:47 PM, Jane Mark wrote:

Hi Mr. Reimer (I apologize for typing your name incorrectly earlier):

Thank you for taking the time to provide these maps for the proposed route. This mapping information would help me with the location of the proposed trail route designation.

Enjoy your visit to Southern California,

Jane

---

From: Paul Reimer  
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 9:49 AM

To: Jane Mark  
Subject: Re: Designation of a Portola` Historic Trail in San Mateo County

Dear Jane; Thank you for your interest. I have a set of map sheets that cover my proposed route. They go into the project report along with the bibliography but they are broken up for reproduction. For your purposes, I can glue a set together for the entire route and drop it off for you at the District's front desk. I'll do so tomorrow and will stand by for a future meeting. I'll be in Southern Calif. next week but back during August. Again, Thanks.

On Wednesday, July 23, 2014 4:35 PM, Jane Mark < > wrote:

Dear Mr. Rymer:

Thank you very much for your call and our phone conversation earlier this afternoon. I am appreciative of the research and the abstract that you have prepared, related to the Portola Expedition so that I may learn more about the historical perspective of this trail.

Since I am new at Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, I would need to research the planning process and steps that would be needed for this type of trail designation. Would you have a map identifying the potential route for this expedition route to send via email, that would also be useful in placing a location context for me? Otherwise I can wait to review the map when we schedule a meeting.

I need to find out whom at the District would also be involved and could attend a meeting, so please allow me time to find out more.

Thank you,

Jane

---

From: Paul Reimer  
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 4:22 PM  
To: Jane Mark  
Subject: Fw: Designation of a Portola` Historic Trail in San Mateo County

On Monday, July 21, 2014 3:00 PM, Paul Reimer < > wrote:

Dear Jane; Welcome to MPROSD. I am contacting you at the suggestion of Noelle Thurlow at POST to make you aware of my effort in support of historic recognition for Gaspar de Portola` and his exploratory expedition of 1769. A designated Portola` Trail would lie almost entirely within the boundary of MPROSD except for the northern-most portion in City of Pacifica and GGNRA's Bay Discovery Site monument on Sweeney Ridge. I am attaching a one-page abstract of my research report that will be published by the San Mateo County Historic Association in the fall. Your District's recent purchase of the Toto Ranch from POST already places you within my list of Right of Way providers for the designated trail at a key point where the route would cross under Hwy. 1 beneath the Tunitas Creek Bridge

Since I live in Portola Valley not far from your office, phone number 650 854-5044, I'd look forward to the chance of coming by to talk about my proposal and to show you my maps of a possible route. Since 2019 is the 250th Anniversary of the Portola` Expedition, I am interested in whether or not it is possible to achieve

such a designation in the next 5 years. I know of similar interest from National Park Service, San Mateo County Parks and Rec. Department, State Parks and S.M. County Historians. Soon I must find a sponsor beyond the cooperation that POST has already given me. I'd be interested in your thoughts on this matter. Either your District or the San Mateo County Parks Dept. would represent ideal Sponsors.

For your info, I am a retired Civil Engineer and have been a long-time member of POST's Advisory Council and Stewardship Committee.

**From:**  
**To:** [web](#); [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Full Board of Directors and District Clerk - Board Contact Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 22, 2014 11:33:17 AM

---

Name *	Rosemary Broome
Select a Choice	Full Board of Directors and District Clerk
Email *	<input type="text"/>
Location: (i.e. City, Address or District Ward)	Resident across from Russian Ridge OSP
Daytime Phone Number (if you wish to be contacted by phone)	(650) 851-5690

Comments: \*

Dear Board

I am happy AA was funded and am interested in seeing projects to allow more trail access – new trails as well as repairs – proceed more rapidly.

I am an equestrian user as well as hiker/jogger. I have used the Alpine Road/trail for years and was glad to see it reopened last year but hope it will be fully repaired and not undergo further degradation with the winter season approaching.

This route is used by many hikers, bikers and equestrians. It should be a priority to remain open and available. Please put it's repair as a priority.

Next, I would like to suggest considering a new route that would connect Monte Bello – where the Alpine road connects to Pagemill Road – over to Skyline Ridge OSP. Upper Pagemill is curvy which limits visibility making it more dangerous to use for bikers/hikers and impossible to use for equestrians. It would be fantastic to have a connection from this area over to the Skyline/Russian Ridge without having to go via the alternate route (Stevens Creek and up by the former Sherill Winery to the Horsehoe Lake).

I have lived here since 1988 and have observed the huge increase in usage over the years – that of course is good for so many to enjoy these incredible hills but also leads to congestion. More trails might help ease congestion...

Thanks for your consideration.

---

**From:**  
**To:** [Jennifer Woodworth](mailto:Jennifer.Woodworth@openspace.org)  
**Subject:** Low Hanging fruit - multi-use trails  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 12:38:17 PM

---

To: [info@openspace.org](mailto:info@openspace.org)

Please direct to board

Several weeks ago I attended an Open Space meeting held open to the public. I kept hearing we need to address low hanging fruit projects that we can turn around right away. The comments made by the board also stated the need to open more trails to multi-use.

I give you three trails that only require sign changes.

### Windy Hill Open Space

#### **Lost Trail**

Runs parallel to Sky line Blvd. Lost Trail is also part of the Ridge Trail system. The trail is wide with plenty of visibility. There are no dangerous features or choke points. Please open this trail to include cycling. Cost to Open Space - a sign change.

#### **Razor Back Ridge Trail**

This is another trail that gets little to no use. There is essentially no parking at the base of Alpine Rd trail or Skyline Blvd Trail heads. The few times I have hiked this trail I never saw another person on the trail. This trail is ideal for Mt Bikes as they can ride up Alpine or across Skyline to get access to this trail. The switch backs are all doable via Mt Bikes. This would also create a safer access to Skyline from Alpine Rd. Again there is little to do on this trail other than changing the sign. Please consider this low usage trail for Bike access. [http://openspace.org/preserves/maps/pr\\_windy\\_hill.pdf](http://openspace.org/preserves/maps/pr_windy_hill.pdf)

### San Born County Park / Saratoga Gap Open Space / Ridge Trail

#### **San Born / Skyline Trail**

I rode this trail with the Ridge Trail organization several years ago on a fund raiser day. This week I hiked the trail section from Sunnyvale Mountain Parking area down to Saratoga Gap. I am really surprised at what a jewel this trail system is. It is virtually unused. The wide trail was covered with a thick bed of leaves, pine needles and fallen brush. Every step I took

left an imprint. It was obvious this is a virtually abandoned trail system. True, work is going on on the Sanborn/San Andreas Trail for next year. But the existing upper trail system that runs parallel to Skyline is virtually abandoned. The only signs of usage are around Castle Rock.

The trail itself is wide with gradual slopes making hiking and biking very easy. Please consider

Opening this section of trail from Sunnyvale Mountain Parking area to Saratoga Gap open to

Bikes. No one else is using it, might as well. again another trail that would only require a sign

change. <http://sf.epochtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/SanbornGuideMapFinal.pdf>

Regards,  
Bob Gonzales

>^\_^<  
It's Bob



## **Keep Dirt Alpine Open**

John Brazil

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 22, 2014 9:00 PM

**To:** General Information

**Cc:** Pete Siemens; Yoriko Kishimoto; Jed Cyr; Curt Riffle; Nonette Hanko; Larry Hassett; Cecily Harris

Honorable Midpen Board Members:

Please prioritize and accelerate Dirt Alpine Road trail improvements under Measure AA to address San Mateo County trail safety concerns and keep the trail open to the public.

Dirt Alpine Road is one of the few bike-accessible car-free trails to Skyline. It has been neglected for years and requires improvements.

Thank you for your public service.

John Brazil  
Mountain View

---

**From:** Bern Smith [mailto:bernsmith@ridgetrail.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 08, 2014 1:31 PM  
**To:** Ana Ruiz  
**Subject:** Measure AA meeting comments

Hi Ana -

I will be in a Ridge Trail board meeting on Wednesday, so am sending brief comments regarding Ridge Trail priorities here. I attached pages from your from your Implementation Options document and highlighted the projects discussed below. Please share with your board.

I am only commenting on projects listed in the Implementation Options document. I highlighted all that are Ridge Trail-related.

- I agree with the Priority 1 ranking of Purisima to the Sea Trail and the various Mt Um projects.
- Please consider moving El Corte de Madera trails phases 3 & 4 to higher priority (it seems to me that since these are already partially completed you will get valuable PR from getting these done sooner)
- Consider adding the Red Barn staging area plan to La Honda Creek ranch road upgrades (already Priority 1), since the preserve cannot open til the staging area is done

Thanks Ana -

--

Bern Smith  
South Bay Trail Director  
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council  
[bernsmith@ridgetrail.org](mailto:bernsmith@ridgetrail.org)  
415 561 2595 office  
650 868 5467 cell  
1007 General Kennedy #3  
San Francisco 94129

Key Project	Purpose	Project Description			Board Committee Review	Dept Lead	Measure AA Priority Action(s)* (Portfolios)
		Scope	Schedule (Quarterly Milestones & Completion Date)	Budget			

**PROGRAM: PUBLIC RECREATION AND ACCESS Continued****Priority 1 Continued**

<b>Purisima to the Sea (POST)</b>	Acquire new land in the Purisima/Lobitos Creek Watershed corridor to eventually create a Purisima to the Sea trail from Skyline Area	Work with private property owner of Purisima Farms property to pursue lot line adjustment separating ownership of upland and private agricultural area of property.	FY 14-15	\$20,000  All expenditures as of May 11 eligible for AA funding		Real Property	3
<b>Potential Access Easements - Mt. Umunhum</b>	Obtain improved road access rights along Mt. Umunhum Road	Work with neighboring land owners to improve road access easements along Mt. Umunhum Road	FY14-15	\$50,000  All expenditures as of May 11 eligible for AA funding		Real Property	23
<b>Mount Umunhum Public Access Implementation (Bald Mt to summit trail)</b>  <i>(Element of the SA/BCR Master Plan project)</i>	Provide public multi-use trail access (hiking, biking, equestrian) from new Bald Mtn Staging Area to Mt. Umunhum summit	Construct a trail connection between the Umunhum Summit and the yet to be built Bald Mountain staging area. Project is partially funded by State Coastal Conservancy and includes grant administration requirements.  Trail construction to be done in segments. Three year completion schedule will accommodate crew scheduling and match timeline of other projects required to open summit.	FY14-15: Complete steep section below summit to intersection with old road.  FY 15-16: Complete 2nd segment to intersection with 2nd old road, add drainage crossings.  FY 16-17: Complete trail from summit to Barlow Road.	\$25,000  Budget Carried by Planning Dept.  Partially funded by Coastal Conservancy Grant with remaining expenditures as of May 11 eligible for AA funding		Operations	23
<b>Mt. Um Guadalupe Creek Overlook and Bridges Planning and Design</b>	Continue next phase of planning for Mt. Umunhum Trail (associated amenities)	Research and design options for destination overlook platform, railings, and seating, and also up to two trail bridges over Guadalupe Creek as part of the Mt. Umunhum Trail. Apply for permits.	Q1/Q3 FY14-15	\$75,000  All expenditures as of May 11 eligible for AA funding	PNR for review of overlook platform design /construction authorization	Planning	23

Key Project	Purpose	Project Description			Board Committee Review	Dept Lead	Measure AA Priority Action(s)* (Portfolios)
		Scope	Schedule (Quarterly Milestones & Completion Date)	Budget			

**PROGRAM: PUBLIC RECREATION AND ACCESS Continued****Priority 1 Continued**

Vehicle Bridge Evaluation and Repair (Core Function)  <i>Previously listed under Public Safety, Law Enforcement, and Fire Protection</i>	Provide for continued vehicle access for emergency response, patrol, maintenance, and public use.	Finalize bridge designs and apply for required permits.	FY14-15 Q1 Finalize Designs Q2 Apply for Permits  FY15-16 Construction	\$32,000 Permits \$78,000 Design  \$110,000 Total  All expenditures as of May 11 eligible for AA funding		Operations	3
--	---	---	---	---	--	------------	---

**Priority 2**

Stevens Creek Trail Bridge Repair	Repair or replace failing bridge.	Conduct permitting and design for repair or replacement of bridge on the Stevens Canyon Trail.	Q4 FY 14-15	\$40,000  All expenditures as of May 11 eligible for AA funding		Operations	17
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--	-------------	---	--	------------	----

**PROGRAM: PUBLIC RECREATION AND ACCESS Continued****Priority 3**

El Corte de Madera Creek Staging Area and Trail Improvements <b>(Phase III/IV - Oljon Trail)</b>	Continues Phases III and IV of overall staging area and trails project. If time allows, includes "No Parking" highway signage.	If time allows, complete trail design and permitting for Phase III/IV trails. Complete Phase II culvert and Phase IV puncheon permitting. \$15K plan preparation/consultant fees. \$5K permit fee. If time allows, complete "No Parking" signage component of staging area project, including County Board of Supervisor and Caltrans approval.	Q3/4 FY14-15: Permitting	\$35,000  All expenditures as of May 11 eligible for AA funding		Planning	4
---	--	---	-----------------------------	---	--	----------	---

Key Project	Purpose	Project Description			Board Committee Review	Dept Lead	Measure AA Priority Action(s)* (Portfolios)
		Scope	Schedule (Quarterly Milestones & Completion Date)	Budget			

**PROGRAM: ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND REMEDIATION**
**Priority 1**

Mindego Ranch Aquatic Species Management Plan  <i>Previously listed under Resource Management</i>	Define a habitat restoration and long-term management plan for sensitive aquatic species at Mindego Ranch area of Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve.	Collect additional San Francisco Garter Snake and other sensitive aquatic species distribution and abundance data.  *Board action on November 20, 2013 authorized contract.	Q1-FY14-15 - Begin first year monitoring and staff training Q4 FY14 - 15 Year 1 Report Complete	\$55,000  All expenditures as of May 11 eligible for AA funding		Natural Resources	9
<b>La Honda Creek Master Plan Phase I</b> Implementation - Roads Watershed Protection Upgrade	Upgrade ranch road system to prevent erosion and sediment input to anadromous streams.	Design road upgrade program to address priority sites.	Q1 FY14-15 Consultant Design Documents Complete Q2 FY2014-15 Obtain permits, conduct bidding process Q3 FY2014-15 Begin Construction	\$50,000  Approx. \$30k grant-funded through CDFW Fisheries Restoration Grant Program with remaining expenditures as of May 11 eligible for AA funding	Q3 FY14-15 Board Award Construction Contract	Natural Resources	7
El Corte de Madera Creek Watershed Protection Program	Reduce sedimentation to ECdM and San Gregorio Creeks.	Construction at 4 locations, construction oversight, design. Preconstruction biological monitoring. Complete second phase of road fill removal/trail restoration to close abandoned alignments.	Q2-FY14-15 Construction of next phase complete (1 phase remaining) in FY 2015/16	\$70,000  All expenditures as of May 11 eligible for AA funding		Natural Resources	4
Rebuild Pond DR05	Continue implementation of the Driscoll Ranch Pond Management Plan, repairing additional failed/failing ponds on the property.	Submit for permits; bid and construct the project.	Q1 FY14-15 - Permits Submitted Q2 FY14-15 - Award Construction Contract Q3 FY14-15 - Construction Complete	\$170,000  All expenditures as of May 11 eligible for AA funding	Q2 FY14-15 Board Award Construction Contract	Natural Resources	7

**From:**  
**To:** [web](#); [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Full Board of Directors and District Clerk - Board Contact Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 10, 2014 5:33:35 PM

---

Name *	Paul Nam
Select a Choice	Full Board of Directors and District Clerk
Email *	<input type="text"/>
Location: (i.e. City, Address or District Ward)	19863 Portal Plaza, Cupertino CA 95014

**Comments: \***

MROSD Staff and Board,

Thank you for public access to the MROSD preserves.

Here are my current prioritization concerns with the implementation of Measure AA funds and plans.

Increase trail mileage first. A balance between the desires of private individuals and what you, the MROSD representing community interests, deem worthy for immediate action, will include increased trail access. This is because this is one area, identified in the planning process, in which all identified stake holders expressed high value. Immediate increased access and more trail will demonstrate that the public concerns are being fulfilled.

I will not list the trails and preserves Here. Others have written on the topic. Furthermore, the detailed planning process has already compiled them.

One more suggestion, is that your success will be enhanced by highlighting improvements closer to urban. areas, which have a higher profile than more remote preserves.

All the best. Thanks for all the good things you do.

Sincerely,  
Paul Nam

---

From: Nancy Leech [nancyleech@me.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 5:08 PM  
To: General Information  
Subject: Project funding priorities

Dear Open Space District Biard and staff,  
As an East Palo Alto citizen, I'm writing to express my hope for funding priority for projects allowing for access to open space and parkland for East Palo Alto residents, specifically, anything to do with Cooley Landing, Ravenswood Preserve, and Bay trail access there.

Thank you!  
Nancy Leecj