
Public Workshop #3 Meeting Summary
Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserves Master Plan

PREPARED FOR:
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

SUBMITTED BY:
EDAW

ISSUE DATE: February 8, 2007

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Introduction

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) is conducting a comprehensive planning process to develop a resource protection and visitor use plan for its two southernmost District Preserves.

The Sierra Azul and Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserves contain over 18,000 acres and are the focus of a community-based planning process that will result in a Master Plan that sets forth the future vision for these lands consistent with the ecological values and mission of the District. The Plan will also establish key policies that will serve to guide the District in future on-the-ground implementation projects and will establish a clear public use plan while maintaining the District's resource and open space protection goals. The final Master Plan and appropriate environmental California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation is targeted for completion in winter/spring 2008.

The overall goal of the planning effort is to ensure that the Master Plan will:

- Develop a long-term vision for each Preserve;
- Protect, restore and enhance natural, cultural and historic resources;
- Provide opportunities for low-intensity recreation, access, interpretation and education that are environmentally sensitive and compatible with the protection of existing uses and resources as well as maximizing linkages with nearby protected lands and regional trails;
- Use a collaborative, community-based planning approach;
- Include cooperating agencies and organizations in the planning effort, and be compatible with existing agency plans and policies;
- Meet all legal, regulatory and policy requirements;
- Ensure flexibility and adaptability to changing or emerging issues and opportunities.

Workshop Overview

The District held its third "Master Plan Alternatives Workshop" on Tuesday, December 6, 2006 from 7:00 – 10:00 pm at the Los Gatos Neighborhood Center located at 208 East Main Street in Los Gatos, California.

The workshop was announced in the Fall 2006 Project Newsletter that was sent to over 3,300 neighbors, landowners, and stakeholders from various agencies, non-profit organizations and constituents. Notification of the

workshop was also distributed in a media release and posted on the District Web site.

Approximately 125 people attended the workshop to hear about draft alternatives that were developed for the Master Plan based on previous input and feedback received from stakeholders as well as the challenges and opportunities analysis that was presented at the second workshop. Feedback from the third workshop will be used to refine and finalize the alternatives and develop the key policies and implementation strategies for the Master Plan. Additionally, the alternatives will be analyzed under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) in a programmatic Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”), which will be part of the final Master Plan. The workshop was the third in a series of public meetings on the Master Plan. The attached agenda highlights the topics that were covered during the meeting.

Workshop Presentation

Meeting Introduction

Pete Siemens, District Board Director and Chair of the project Ad Hoc Committee, opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees. He also introduced Jed Cyr and Kenneth Nitz, the other two Ad Hoc Committee Board Members present. Pete Siemens read the District’s mission statement and stressed that the Master Plan must be consistent with the statement. The District’s mission 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.”

Master Plan Update

Donna Plunkett of EDAW, the lead project consultant, began the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation (available on the project website) by first providing an overview of the meeting agenda, explaining the goals of the meeting, and describing the opportunities for public feedback. Plunkett asked the group how many had attended the last public workshop and was responded by a large display of hands. She also asked how many people received the mailed meeting notification and newsletter and it appeared that there were many new people in attendance who may not be on the mailing list. She reminded people to sign in to be sure they are on the project mailing list for future notifications. She noted that the District’s Web site would continually be updated as the project progresses and serves as a source of information.

Plunkett oriented the participants to the handouts, which included the Agenda and Key Contact Information sheet. She then gave an overview of the planning process and timeline. The meeting handouts are located in Appendix A. Plunkett went over several key milestones that have occurred during the last year including the following:

- Finalized the Alma College Report
- Prepared the BCR Special Status Species Report
- Updated resource maps
- Conducted a Staff Alternatives Workshop
- Began early transportation data collection
- Began fuels and fire hazards assessment
- Developed a key vision for the MP based on all work to date
- Drafted alternative concepts and prepared maps

Plunkett went on to explain how part of the Master Plan process included an environmental review pursuant to CEQA and that an EIR would be prepared as part of the Plan. She noted that the EIR would be both programmatic, covering most elements of the Master Plan and setting the stage for future project implementation, and project-level with a more specific environmental analysis of 2-3 focused projects. The project-level analysis will allow the District to implement a few focused projects in the short term soon after the adoption of the Plan after the appropriate construction documentation is completed. Other projects that are identified in the Master Plan will need to undergo a more detailed site-specific environmental review at a later time.

Plunkett noted that as part of the CEQA requirements, the meeting tonight also serves as a scoping session whereby participants can comment on topics and potential environmental impacts that may result as part of the planning process. She noted that a Notice of Preparation to prepare an EIR had been distributed to the appropriate agencies. Plunkett presented the following as key issues that the environmental review will need to address in addition to others required under CEQA:

- Sensitive wildlife, plants, & habitat
- Cultural resources
- Traffic and transportation
- Water quality
- Fire risk

Draft Master Plan Alternatives

Ana Ruiz, the District's project manager, continued the PowerPoint presentation to illustrate the draft concepts that have been developed for the

Master Plan Alternatives. Ruiz reiterated the District's Mission Statement relative to the Master Plan to:

- (1) **Preserve** a regional greenbelt of open space
- (2) **Protect and restore** the natural environment
- (3) **Provide opportunities** for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education

Ruiz went on to summarize some of the main factors that went into developing the alternatives including a highlight of some of the District regulations and policies that will apply to new and existing activities and a summary of the extensive resource data that was summarized and analyzed for the alternatives development. Most of the resource data was covered in more detail during the last public workshop on the opportunities and challenges. Data mapping and a summary of this meeting are available on the project website. All of the stakeholder outreach for the Mater Plan was also summarized and Ruiz noted that all of the feedback received during these forums was taken into consideration when developing the draft plan alternatives. She then went on to summarize the vision for each of the Preserves that includes key factors highlighted from stakeholders and that is in keeping with the overall District mission statement. These are listed below:

Bear Creek Redwoods

Retain a sense of history, past uses, and an intimate preserve experience given the Preserve's small size, numerous trails, and dense and tall vegetation. The overall goal is to develop an integrated Preserve trail system.

Sierra Azul

Retain the Preserve's rugged, remote, and expansive experience. Overall goals are for greater connectivity and additional access points.

Ruiz further described the alternatives and summarized that there are three options to be considered:

Alternative A: No Action/Status Quo

Alternative B: Identifies key resource management projects, public access facilities, and opens new areas to use

Alternative C: Identified expanded opportunities for public access and additional resource management and land management tasks by project

She noted that Alternatives B and C identify interim, short and long-term projects to be provided based on further environmental review and District funding. Interim projects include temporary facilities and interim use pending completion of permanent public access facilities. Short-term projects would be completed within 1–5 years and long-term projects would be completed beyond 5 years.

Ruiz then went on to summarize key issues that are covered in the alternatives and gave examples of these including new access to areas that will be open to the public and new uses. She then gave an overview of Bear Creek Stables, Alma College and Mt. Umunhum. She closed the overview of the alternatives by noting some of the other key topics that will be covered in the Master Plan including parking and staging areas, regional and interior preserve trails, resource management actions and special uses such as an off-leash dog area and hang gliding access.

Break-Out Group Session

Purpose and Activity

Plunkett introduced the Break-Out Group Session by providing an overview of the purpose, activity and desired outcomes. She stated that the purpose was to provide participants the opportunity to learn more about the alternatives, review the Alternative maps in more detail, and provide feedback on the draft alternative ideas. She explained that each participant would be part of a facilitated small group. She noted that after learning about the alternatives and providing feedback in smaller groups, participants would have an opportunity to rate the components of the alternatives. This information would inform the next phase of the planning process that would allow the District to refine the alternatives and ultimately choose a preferred alternative for the Master Plan. The preferred alternative may be a blend of features and uses that are presented in each of the three Alternatives. Participants were directed to pick up a color tab to determine which room they would move to for the break-out group sessions. There were 3 groups for each preserve; a facilitator and note taker assigned to each room.

Small groups were composed of approximately twenty persons and each room included a poster size map of the respective preserve alternative B and C. The facilitators presented a more detailed overview of the alternatives highlighting the major differences between the B and C maps. Participants were given the attached alternative summary tables that they could use to understand the components of the alternatives and use for future reference after the meeting. It was noted that comments on the alternatives would be taken via email and letter until January 20, 2007. Following the overview of the alternatives that the facilitators presented, the participants raised a

number of questions and comments that were recorded on flip charts (refer to Appendix B).

The participants were then given an opportunity to rate different components of each alternative using colored dots. An explanation of what each color meant was provided and posted during the session. A copy of this color key is included in Appendix A.

Upon completion of the rating exercise, participants were asked to join others in the main hall. Here, all the marked-up alternative maps from each of the 6 groups were displayed for everyone to view. The following is a list of each group; copies of the marked-up maps (1 for each Alternative B and C) can be found in Appendix B:

- Bear Creek Redwoods (Blue Group)
- Bear Creek Redwoods (Red Group)
- Bear Creek Redwoods (White Group)
- Sierra Azul (Black Group)
- Sierra Azul (Green Group)
- Sierra Azul (Orange Group)

Conclusion and Next Steps

Donna Plunkett closed the meeting with a reminder of the upcoming steps in the Master Plan process. In the next few months, the team will review the input from the workshop and refine the alternatives as well as develop the specifics of the Master Plan and environmental review document. She noted again that comments would be taken on the alternatives until January 20, 2007. The next public workshop, planned for summer 2007, will be for stakeholders to hear about and provide feedback on the Draft Master Plan.

**APPENDIX A:
MEETING MATERIALS**

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP 3
FOR
SIERRA AZUL/BEAR CREEK REDWOODS PRESERVES
MASTER PLAN**

December 5, 2006
Los Gatos Neighborhood Center
208 East Main Street, Los Gatos
6:30 pm – 9:30 pm.

- 6:30-6:45 pm Sign-In**
- 6:45 pm Opening Remarks**
- 6:45-7:05 pm Master Plan Update**
- Planning Process and Timeline
 - Environmental Review - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- 7:05-7:25 pm Draft Master Plan Alternatives**
- Presentation on Draft Alternatives
- 7:25-8:55 pm Alternatives Discussion Groups**
- Explanation of break-out group purpose and activity
 - Disperse and begin break-out group activity
- 8:55-9:15 pm Alternatives Rating Activity**
- Rate alternative elements on maps
 - View rated maps at the main hall
- 9:15-9:25 pm Comments, Questions, and Answers**
- 9:25-9:30 pm Conclusions & Next Steps**
- 9:30 pm Closing Statement**



MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Key Contact Information

Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserves

Master Plan

Project E-mail and Web site:

masterplan@openspace.org
www.openspace.org/masterplan

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Contact:

Ana Ruiz, Project Planner

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330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022
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MROSD Board of Directors on Project Ad Hoc Committee:

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(Ward 7 – El Granada, Half Moon Bay, Montara, Moss Beach, Princeton, Redwood City, San Carlos, Woodside)
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Los Altos, CA 94022
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knitz@openspace.org

Comments on the Draft Plan Alternatives are welcomed via mail or email; please send comments by January 20, 2007 to:

Ana Ruiz, Project Planner
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022
Email: masterplan@openspace.org

Locations where you can find copies of the Tables and Maps:

Los Gatos Main Library

110 E. Main Street
Los Gatos, CA 95030
P: (408) 399-5756

Library Hours are:

Monday & Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday & Thursday, 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saratoga Main Library

13650 Saratoga Ave.
Saratoga, California 95070
TeleCirc: 1-800-471-0991 (Book Renewal and Record Review)
Information Recording - (408) 867-6126 (24 hours)
Reference - (408) 867-6127 (During open hours)

Library Hours are:

Monday closed
Tuesday 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Wednesday, Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

District Administration Office

330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022
P: (650) 691-1200

Business Hours are:

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed on holidays and December 22, 2006 – January 2, 2007

Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods Master Plan Alternatives

December 5, 2006

Comparison of the Key Features of the Project Alternatives					
Alternative Component	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C	Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended	
Bear Creek Redwoods*					
65	Public Use (phased) (See item 66 for dog use)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/only the eastern area is open to hiking and equestrian use by permit only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim docent-led hiking tours west of Bear Creek Road (short term) Remove use permit system in the east area and also open west area to hiking and equestrian use after a new parking area is constructed (long term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B, plus provide interim docent-led equestrian tours west of Bear Creek Road (short term) Same as Alternative B (long term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowing multiple-use (including bicycles) may result in user conflicts given that Bear Creek Redwoods may likely be very popular among hikers and equestrians (many short loops, close to the urban center & mountain neighborhoods, adjacent to a horse stables); opening only the west area of Bear Creek Redwoods to bicycles is not desirable given the small acreage and inability to connect to regional trails or public roads with good line of sight and/or paved shoulders/bike lanes where bicycles can safely travel; Sanborn Skyline County Park Master Plan identifies a better multiple-use trail for this area to bring bicycles from the foothills to the ridge top.
66	Dog Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no dogs allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open east Bear Creek Redwoods to dogs on leash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open both the east and west areas of Bear Creek Redwoods to dogs on leash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening only certain trails to dog use versus entire areas is not preferred given the experience of poor compliance
67	Parking Areas (Staging/Restroom) BC04, near Alma College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue to offer approx 10-car permit parking area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove permit parking area once a new parking area is constructed; use site as parking area for special events only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove parking permit system; open parking area to general use; add new permanent restroom facility; clear roadside brush to improve line of sight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other sites not listed along Bear Creek Road are not feasible due to poor line of sight, extensive vegetation/trees; topography constraints
68	BC08, north of Presentation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gravel parking area for approx. 20-30 vehicles, 3-5 horse trailer parking area, and a permanent restroom facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gravel parking area for approx. 30-40 vehicles, 6-8 horse trailer parking area, and a permanent restroom facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other sites not listed along Bear Creek Road are not feasible due to poor line of sight, extensive vegetation/trees; topography constraints
69	BC02 – 1 Horse trailer parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/maintain existing space for 1 horse trailer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the 1-horse trailer parking space after a new parking area with horse trailer parking is constructed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other sites not listed along Bear Creek Road are not feasible due to poor line of sight, extensive vegetation/trees; topography constraints

NOTE: This table conceptually describes potential alternative scenarios for the future of Bear Creek Redwoods and Sierra Azul Open Space Preserves. It is not intended as a commitment or approval to implement any specific potential Alternative, but as a tool for ongoing discussions as the District proceeds with the Master Plan project. 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 and facility locations are conceptual; all potential trails and facilities under Alternatives B and C are not accessible to the public.

Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods Master Plan Alternatives

December 5, 2006

Comparison of the Key Features of the Project Alternatives					
Alternative Component	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C	Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended	
70	Summit & Bear Creek Roads (Old Christmas Tree Farm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After securing a trail connection to Summit Road, construct a 20-30 parking area with 2-5 horse trailer spaces and a permanent restroom at the intersection of Summit and Bear Creek Roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other sites not listed along Bear Creek Road are not feasible due to poor line of sight, extensive vegetation/trees; topography constraints
71	Interior Preserve Trails Roads and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrow certain existing roads to single-track (3-4 feet) that are not essential for patrol or maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B, plus implement seasonal trail/road closures on corridors that experience significant water flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
72	Trail connection from east Bear Creek Redwoods (Alma College area) to Summit Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with property owners/seek trail easements where possible to establish a trail connection between east Bear Creek Redwoods and Summit Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
73	Trail easement through Presentation Center Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement existing trail easement through Presentation Center lands to form a loop trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
74	Trail connection between upper and lower east Bear Creek Redwoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New trail connection to join the lower and upper trail systems on the east side of Bear Creek Redwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
75	Regional Trail Corridors Trail connection from east Bear Creek Redwoods to Moody Gulch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New trail connecting east Bear Creek Redwoods area and Moody Gulch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
76	Bear Creek Redwoods to Lexington Reservoir County Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no regional trail connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New connection from northern Bear Creek Redwoods, over the Highway 17 pedestrian bridge, to existing trail on Lexington Reservoir County Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
77	Bear Creek Redwoods to El Sereno Open Space Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no regional trail connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in partnership with Santa Clara County and San Jose Water Company to designate a trail connection from Bear Creek Redwoods to El Sereno 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

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Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods Master Plan Alternatives

December 5, 2006

Comparison of the Key Features of the Project Alternatives					
Alternative Component	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C	Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended	
78	Alma College Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/keep structures closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek funding and/or partnership opportunities to assess the feasibility of rehabilitating the chapel for potential future use and nomination on the historic register; retain shrines and other visual remnants to assist with the interpretation of the site; demolish remainder of structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proceed with demolition of all structures, including the chapel; restore site to natural conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retaining all structures or the majority of structures would be economically infeasible; the District does not normally retain dilapidated structures and would only consider rehabilitation if the structure is historically significant; only the chapel is considered to be potentially historically significant
79	Bear Creek Stables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/stables remains on a month to month lease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter into a long term lease with stables operators; include a Site and Management Plan as part of the lease agreement that addresses operator needs and environmental/use concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phasing out/removing the stables operation is not in the best interest of the community given the dwindling number of local horse stables on the Peninsula; with site improvements and best management practices, the stables can continue to operate with minimal impacts to the environment
80	Off-leash dog area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no off-leash dog area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate an off-leash dog area within the old vineyard site after constructing the adjacent parking area (refer to item 68) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate an off-leash dog area within the Alma College site after completing demolition plan and securing site for use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
81	Horse Trough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no horse trough available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install a horse trough in the east area of Bear Creek Redwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
82	Resource Management Sudden Oak Death (SODs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue to monitor and map known cases of SODs, continue to implement Best Management Practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A, plus install SODs cleaning stations at each parking area, post educational information about the disease to help reduce its potential spread 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
83	Invasive/Exotic Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue to monitor, map, and treat invasive plants, particularly large patches and along road/trail corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A, plus prepare an Invasive Management and Restoration Plan that includes invasive plant management techniques, priority areas for restoration, sources of funding/peoplepower, and a schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B, plus identify areas to target as mitigation sites for restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

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Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods Master Plan Alternatives

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Alternative Component	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C	Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended	
84	Bat Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue to monitor and map bat habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with local organizations, such as the Eagle Scouts, to establish bat houses to increase populations and relocate populations from dilapidated structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
85	Water Quality/Riparian Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a road and trail inventory and assessment to identify problematic road segments, erosion problems, and sources of creek sediment; implement repair and treatment recommendations including road repairs and decommissioning of poorly aligned/duplicate roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B, plus implement seasonal trail/road closures on corridors that experience high surface water flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
86	Road Crossings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After opening west Bear Creek Redwoods to public use, formalize a pedestrian crossing at BC04/BC05; remove roadside vegetation to increase line of sight; install pedestrian crossing signs and other caution devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After opening west Bear Creek Redwoods to public use and constructing a parking area off Summit Road, formalize a pedestrian crossing at the Bear Creek and Summit Road intersection; install pedestrian crossing signs and other caution devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other location along Bear Creek Road can accommodate a road crossing due to topography and poor line of sight
87	Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue offering docent-led hikes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer docent-led hikes that highlight and interpret the local mountain history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide signage/information for self-guided hikes at unique sites (e.g. Alma College area) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
88	Maintenance Roads and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue routine maintenance, grading, minor repairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a road and trail inventory and assessment to identify problematic road segments, erosion problems, and sources of creek sediment; implement repair and treatment recommendations including road repairs and restoration of poorly aligned/duplicate roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B plus, prepare a Road Maintenance Plan that identifies all problem sites and includes a repair history and maintenance schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

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Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods Master Plan Alternatives

December 5, 2006

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Alternative Component	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C	Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended	
<i>Project Area Wide Alternatives</i>					
89	Satellite Field Office Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no satellite field office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bear Creek Redwoods, Bear Creek Road corridor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cathedral Oaks area of Sierra Azul, along the Alma Bridge Road corridor between SA19 and SA21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other locations, including Rancho de Guadalupe area are too remote or have few access options (i.e., in event of emergency, few roads lead into or out of the area)
90	Cultural and Historical Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/limit access to cultural sites; use best management practices when encountering potential artifacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuously update the District's cultural/historical resources inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to opening new trail alignments to use, recover and salvage transportable cultural resources and store for future public display 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

* Alternatives for Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve are on a separate table and are numbered 1-64.

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Comparison of the Key Features of the Project Alternatives					
Alternative Component	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C	Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended	
Sierra Azul – Kennedy Limekiln Area					
1	Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue to allow multiple-use on designated trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A, plus restrict use to trails, no off-trail use in serpentine soil areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-trail hiking is a concern in areas with serpentine soils since these are locally rare and often shallow, and provide habitat for sensitive, rare plants/wildlife; trampling and loss of soil (surface erosion) is of most concern
2	Parking Areas (Staging/Restroom) Kennedy Road Trailhead, Gate SA01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change, continue to offer 2-3 parking spaces at Gate SA01, roadside parking and portable restroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approx. 5-10 car parking area at Gate SA01, roadside parking, and a permanent restroom facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approx. 10-20 car parking area at Gate SA01 and a permanent restroom facility; eliminate roadside parking by installing no parking signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
3	Interior Preserve Trails Limekiln Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/maintain road-width 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrow trail to single-track width from preserve boundary (near Limekiln Creek) to Priest Rock Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
4	Kennedy Trail to Priest Rock Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/maintain road-width 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approx. 2.5-miles of new single-track trail to bypass a steep road-width section of trail west of Kennedy Trail and north of Priest Rock Trail and/or provide additional interior loop opportunity and a single track trail experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
5	Priest Rock Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realign section of Priest Rock Trail near Kennedy Trail intersection; maintain as a 12-14 foot road-width trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None (a single-track option is provided above, see Item 4)
6	Regional Trail Corridors Connection between Limekiln Trail and St. Joseph's Hill OSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New regional trail connection from Manzanita Trail (St. Joseph's Hill) to Limekiln Trail (Sierra Azul) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

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7	Campgrounds Kennedy Trail, near Vista Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no campground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit-based backpack campground (1-3 sites) off Kennedy Trail, approx. 2.5 miles from Kennedy Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit-based backpack campground (4-6 sites) off Kennedy Trail, approx. 2.5 miles from Kennedy Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A campground located between Kennedy and Priest Rock Trail or further in the Preserve would be too distant from patrol access roads (for emergency access/maintenance), too remote for a restroom, from a water source, & likely lack sufficient shade
8	Resource Management Rare plants – Limekiln Trail Corridor near Lexington Reservoir County Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/maintain road-width trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and minimize disturbance to rare plants along Limekiln Trail; restrict off-trail use Narrow trail to single-track width from preserve boundary (near Limekiln Creek) to Priest Rock Trail; re-vegetate with native seeds/plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-trail hiking is a concern in areas with numerous locally rare and/or sensitive plants/habitat; trampling is of most concern
9	Serpentine Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/status quo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map and verify locations of serpentine soils and minimize surface disturbance; restrict off-trail use; educate visitors about damage associated with off-trail use in serpentine soils areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B plus develop a Serpentine Soils Management Plan that prioritizes sites for restoration, active management, and monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-trail hiking is a concern in areas with serpentine soils since these are locally rare and often shallow, and provide habitat for sensitive, rare plants/wildlife; trampling and loss of soil (surface erosion) is of most concern
10	Restoration of ecologically disturbed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and map disturbed areas and assess site conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B plus prioritize sites for restoration based on site conditions and ecological threats if left un-restored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
11	Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue offering docent-led hikes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer docent-led hikes that highlight and interpret locally diverse habitat/vegetation communities, serpentine soils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide interpretive signage/information for self-guided hikes along selected trails/vista points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
12	Road and Trail Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue routine maintenance, grading, minor repairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement treatment recommendations for the 47 high priority sites as described in the Sierra Azul Road Assessment report; treatments include culvert replacements, waterbars, re-contouring, and outcropping Prepare a plan for restoring and closing un-maintained roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B, plus prepare a Road Maintenance Phasing Plan that identifies all problem sites and includes a repair history and maintenance schedule with a high priority placed on roads and trails located within the Pheasant Creek/Hicks Creek watershed, which provides suitable steelhead habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

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Comparison of the Key Features of the Project Alternatives					
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Sierra Azul - Rancho de Guadalupe Area					
13	Public Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/area continues to remain closed to public use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer interim docent-led hiking tours until parking area is constructed (first phase) Open area to hiking and equestrian use once formal parking area is constructed (second phase) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open certain trails (limited area) to hiking and equestrian use utilizing interim parking area (first phase) Open the area to hiking and equestrian use once formal parking area is constructed (second phase) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowing multiple-use (including bicycles) and dogs on leash would potentially result in user conflicts given that Rancho de Guadalupe will likely be very popular among hikers and equestrians (many short loops, close to the urban center, adjacent to a horse stables and AQ County Park); also, the area ranked low as a suitable site for dog use
14	Parking Areas (Staging/Restroom) Gate SA04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim permit parking at Gate SA04 for approximately 5-10 vehicles until new parking area is constructed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim parking at Gate SA04 for approximately 10-20 vehicles until new parking area is constructed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A permanent parking area at Gate SA04 is less desirable compared to the Pheasant and Hicks Road location, which has better lines of sights, greater parking capacity, better ingress/egress, and can accommodate horse trailers; the two sites are too close together to merit permanent parking areas at both locations
15	Corner of Hicks Road and Pheasant Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gravel parking area for approx. 20-30 vehicles, 3-5 horse trailer parking area, and permanent restroom facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gravel parking area for approx. 30-40 vehicles, 6-10 horse trailer parking area, and permanent restroom facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
16	Cherry Springs Pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-4 ADA-accessible permit parking stalls and an ADA-accessible restroom near Cherry Springs Pond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A larger parking area near Cherry Springs Pond would detract from the natural aesthetic beauty of the site
17	Interior Preserve Trails Existing Roads/Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open majority of existing trail/road network to use, address problem areas (seeps, landslides, erosion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B, plus restore east section of Cherry Springs Road and return to a natural floodplain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
18	Rancho de Guadalupe to Woods Trail/Mt. El Sombroso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New trail connection from Rancho de Guadalupe/Cherry Springs to Woods Trail/EI Sombroso 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

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19	Trails near Cherry Springs Pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve trails near Cherry Springs Ponds to maximize ADA accessibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
20	Hicks Creek Trail loop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New loop trail within Hicks Creek watershed, near Hicks Stables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
21	Regional Trail Corridors Rancho de Guadalupe to Almaden Quicksilver County Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no regional trail connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional trail corridor to link eastern Rancho de Guadalupe to western Almaden Quicksilver County Park; road crossing near Hicks Rd & Reynolds Rd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
22	Resource Management Cherry Springs Pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue ongoing management of cattails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a Pond Management Plan that addresses (1) cattail management, (2) invasive species management, (3) pond habitat enhancements, (4) fresh water retention/water level management, (5) piscivorous bird habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close and restore east section of loop trail; reestablish natural spillway floodplain to improve water quality and create a habitat buffer for wildlife (short term) Same as Alternative B plus work in partnership with the USFWS to include the introduction of California Red-legged frog as a recovery action in the Pond Management Plan (long term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
23	Restoration of ecologically disturbed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and map disturbed areas and assess site conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B plus prioritize sites for restoration based on site conditions and ecological threats if left un-restored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
24	Fisheries: Pheasant and Hicks Creek drainages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek funding sources and partnership opportunities to remove fish migration obstacles and enhance fisheries habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
25	Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue offering docent-led hikes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer docent-led hikes that highlight and interpret historic mining operations and locally diverse habitat/vegetation communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide signage/information for self-guided hikes at unique sites like Cherry Springs Pond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
26	Gates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control off-hours, illegal use of Pheasant Road by installing new lower gate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

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27	Horse Troughs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no horse trough available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install horse trough at new Hicks Road and Pheasant Road parking area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install horse trough near Cherry Springs Pond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
28	Maintenance Pheasant Road maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Santa Clara County to exchange maintenance responsibility of lower Mt. Umunhum Road for Pheasant Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
29	Roads and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue routine maintenance, grading, minor repairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement treatment recommendations for the 47 high priority sites as described in the Sierra Azul Road Assessment report; treatments include culvert replacements, waterbars, re-contouring, outslopping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B, plus prepare a Road Maintenance Plan that identifies all problem sites and includes a repair history and maintenance schedule with a high priority placed on roads and trails located within the Pheasant Creek/Hicks Creek watershed, which provides suitable steelhead habitat Maintain paved road to Cherry Springs Pond to facilitate special event parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Sierra Azul – Mt. Umunhum Area					
30	Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue to allow multiple-use on designated trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A, plus restrict off-trail use in areas with serpentine soils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-trail hiking is a concern in areas with serpentine soils since these are locally rare and often shallow, and provide habitat for sensitive, rare plants/wildlife; trampling and loss of soil (surface erosion) is of most concern
31	Mt. Umunhum Summit Phased Alternative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to secure site; keep area closed to the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer occasional District-led tours to garner public support for federal cleanup of toxics (short term) Same as Alternative A plus keep the monolith (pending a structural evaluation, site safety review, and a cost assessment) and demolish all other structures; allow public access to the peak via a connecting trail after site is deemed secure for public use (see item 34) (long term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer occasional District-led tours to garner public support for federal cleanup of toxics (short term) Same as Alternative A, plus prepare a phased demolition plan to remove all structures, including the monolith, and restore the peak to natural conditions; allow public access to the peak via Mt. Umunhum Road as the connecting trail after site is deemed secure for public use (see item 34) (long term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public vehicular use of Mt. Umunhum Road is not feasible given the condition of Mt. Umunhum Road and the expected future level of maintenance, which would not allow for safe vehicular passage by the general public

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32	Roadside Parking Mt. Umunhum Road near Gate SA08 (Bald Mountain)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to offer 1-2 parking spaces along the roadside at Gate SA08 (near Bald Mountain) and 12+ spaces at the Jacques Ridge Parking Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move existing Gate SA08 further uphill to expand available parking to allow 3-5 spaces along the roadside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move existing Gate SA08 further uphill to expand available parking to allow 6-8 spaces along the roadside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
33	Interior Preserve Trails Woods Trail/EI Sombroso to Rancho de Guadalupe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New trail connection from Woods Trail/EI Sombroso area to Rancho de Guadalupe/Cherry Springs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
34	Connection from Mt. Umunhum summit to Woods Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the cleanup of Mt. Umunhum and implementation of site safety measures, implement a new trail connection from Mt. Umunhum summit to Woods Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the cleanup of Mt. Umunhum and implementation of site safety measures, open Mt. Umunhum Road as the connecting road/trail to access the summit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
35	Regional Trail Corridors Connection from Mt. Umunhum Area of Sierra Azul east to Santa Clara County Open Space Authority lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no regional trail connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in partnership with the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority to identify future regional trail connections to the east as new properties are purchased and new trail connections are made possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
36	Resource Management Serpentine soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map and verify locations of serpentine soils and minimize surface disturbance; restrict off-trail use; educate visitors about damage associated with off-trail use in serpentine soil areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B plus develop a Serpentine Soils Management Plan that prioritizes sites for restoration, active management, and monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-trail hiking is a concern in areas with serpentine soils since these are locally rare and often shallow, and provide habitat for sensitive, rare plants/wildlife; trampling and loss of soil (surface erosion) is of most concern
37	Rock Outcroppings – raptor and bat habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect rock outcroppings/prohibit rock climbing to minimize potential disturbance to raptor and bat habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowing rock climbing would result in damage to the rock surface and the habitat quality
38	Restoration of ecologically disturbed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and map disturbed areas and assess site conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B plus prioritize sites for restoration based on site conditions and ecological threats if left un-restored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

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39	Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue offering docent-led hikes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer docent-led hikes that highlight and interpret locally diverse habitat, serpentine soils, Mt. Umunhum summit (former military base) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide signage/information for self-guided hikes at unique sites like the summit of Mt. Umunhum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
40	Hang gliding Bald Mountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no hang gliding allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop permit system for use of Bald Mountain as a hang gliding launching site; open to hang gliding use when an adequate landing zone with a sufficient landing buffer has been designated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mt. Umunhum summit is not a viable hang gliding launch site since there would be no nearby parking, the hike to the summit would be too difficult for someone carrying hang gliding gear
41	Horse Trough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no horse trough available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install a horse trough on Woods Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install 2 horse troughs on Woods Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
42	Maintenance Mt. Umunhum Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Santa Clara County to exchange maintenance responsibility of lower Mt. Umunhum Road with Pheasant Road Continue maintaining road as paved up to Bald Mountain, allow remainder to revert to decomposed asphalt/dirt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining Mt. Umunhum Road as a paved road to the summit would require ongoing maintenance and repaving, which would be extremely costly; allowing the road surface to return to dirt would meet District road and trail standards
43	Roads and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue routine maintenance, grading, minor repairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement treatment recommendations for the 47 high priority sites as described in the Sierra Azul Road Assessment report; treatments include culvert replacements, waterbars, re-contouring, and outslipping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B, plus prepare a Road Maintenance Plan that identifies all problem sites and includes a repair history and maintenance schedule with a high priority placed on roads and trails located within the Pheasant Creek/Hicks Creek watershed, which provides suitable steelhead habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Sierra Azul – Loma Prieta Area					
44	Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue to keep area closed to public use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open area to multiple-use after securing public access through the Loma Prieta Road/trail corridor; restrict use to trails; no off-trail use in serpentine soil areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-trail hiking is a concern in areas with serpentine soils since these are locally rare and often shallow, and provide habitat for sensitive, rare plants/wildlife; trampling and loss of soil (surface erosion) is of most concern

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45	Roadside Parking Loma Prieta Road corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no designated parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After opening a public trail connection through the Loma Prieta area, designate roadside parking for vehicles and a horse trailer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
46	Interior Preserve Trails Rattlesnake Gulch Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to opening the Loma Prieta Road corridor to public use, realign lower Rattlesnake Gulch Trail as a single-track trail and locate new alignment away from the creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to opening the Loma Prieta Road corridor to public use, realign lower Rattlesnake Gulch Trail as a road-width trail and locate new alignment away from the creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
47	Regional Trail Corridors Connection from Mt. Umunhum to Soquel Demonstration Forest through Loma Prieta Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no regional trail connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with property owners to establish a through trail connection from Mt. Umunhum to Soquel DF by using the existing Loma Prieta Road alignment where possible; seek trail easements and/or construct trail realignments to avoid private property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
48	Connection from Loma Prieta Area of Sierra Azul east to Santa Clara County Open Space Authority lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no regional trail connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in partnership with the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority to identify future regional trail connections to the east as new properties are purchased and new trail connections are made possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
49	Loma Prieta area west to Wrights Station Road through San Jose Water land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no regional trail connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in partnership with the San Jose Water Company to secure a public trail connection to the west 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
50	Campground Flat knoll off Rattlesnake Gulch Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes/no campground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit-based backpack campground (1-3 sites) off Rattlesnake Gulch Trail, approximately 0.75 miles south of Loma Prieta Way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit-based backpack campground (4-6 sites) off Rattlesnake Gulch Trail, approximately 0.75 miles south of Loma Prieta Way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

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Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods Master Plan Alternatives

December 5, 2006

Comparison of the Key Features of the Project Alternatives					
Alternative Component	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C	Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended	
51	Resource Management Restoration of ecologically disturbed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and map disturbed areas and assess site conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B plus prioritize sites for restoration based on site conditions and ecological threats if left un-restored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
52	Steelhead habitat – Soquel Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realign lower Rattlesnake Gulch Trail as a single-track trail and locate away from the creek; re-contour and restore abandoned section 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realign lower Rattlesnake Gulch Trail as a road-width trail and locate away from the creek; re-contour and restore abandoned section 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
53	Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue offering docent-led hikes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer docent-led hikes that highlight and interpret serpentine soils, locally diverse habitat, vegetation communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide signage/information for self-guided hikes at unique sites (e.g. area near Loma Prieta summit) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
54	Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install large, vehicle-oriented District signage at Preserve boundaries to mark District ownership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
55	Maintenance Loma Prieta Avenue from Summit Road to “Five Corners”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue same level of District maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer maintenance responsibility of Loma Prieta Avenue to Santa Clara County from Summit Road to “five corners” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining Loma Prieta Avenue as a paved road to the summit would require ongoing maintenance and repaving, which would be extremely costly, allowing the road surface to return to dirt would meet District road and trail standards
56	Roads and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue routine maintenance, grading, minor repairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement treatment recommendations for the 47 high priority sites described in the Sierra Azul Road Assessment report; treatments include culvert replacements, waterbars, re-contouring, and outcropping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B, plus prepare a Road Maintenance Plan that identifies all problem sites and includes a repair history and maintenance schedule with a high priority placed on roads and trails located within the Pheasant Creek/Hicks Creek watershed, which provides suitable steelhead habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

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Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods Master Plan Alternatives

December 5, 2006

Comparison of the Key Features of the Project Alternatives					
Alternative Component	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C	Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended	
Sierra Azul – Cathedral Oaks Area					
57	Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue to keep area closed to public use, as shown on brochures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open lower Cathedral Oaks to multiple-use; coordinate with San Jose Water Company to formalize public access connections to the Preserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
58	Parking Areas (Staging/Restroom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no formal parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with San Jose Water Company to designate a small parking area/roadside parking within the Cothran Road/Wrights Station Road corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A medium to large parking area is not feasible given the topography
59	Interior Preserve Trails Loop Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/status quo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New trail alignments to connect existing roads/trails to create loop trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
60	Lower Cathedral Oaks to Mt. Thayer and El Sombroso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change, continue to secure site keep area closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the federal government to fully characterize and remediate onsite contamination Following remediation and implementation of site safety measures at Mt. Thayer, connect lower Cathedral Oaks with Mt. Thayer and El Sombroso 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
61	Resource Management Restoration of ecologically disturbed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and map disturbed areas and assess site conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B plus prioritize sites for restoration based on site conditions and ecological threats if left un-restored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
62	Serpentine Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/status quo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map and verify locations of serpentine soils and minimize surface disturbance; restrict off-trail use; educate visitors about damage associated with off-trail use in serpentine soil areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B plus develop a Serpentine Soils Management Plan that prioritizes sites for restoration, active management, and monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off trail hiking is a concern in areas with serpentine soils since these are locally rare and often shallow, and provide habitat for sensitive, rare plants/wildlife; trampling and loss of soil (surface erosion) is of most concern
63	Horse Troughs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no horse trough available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install a horse trough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install 2 horse troughs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
	Maintenance				

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Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods Master Plan Alternatives

December 5, 2006

Comparison of the Key Features of the Project Alternatives					
Alternative Component	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C	Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended	
64	Roads and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue routine maintenance, grading, minor repairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement treatment recommendations for the 47 high priority sites described in the Sierra Azul Road Assessment report; treatments include culvert replacements, waterbars, re-contouring, and outcropping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B, plus prepare a Road Maintenance Plan that identifies all problem sites and includes a repair history and maintenance schedule with a high priority placed on roads and trails located within the Pheasant Creek/Hicks Creek watershed, which provides suitable steelhead habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Project Area Wide Alternatives*					
89	Satellite Field Office Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no satellite field office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bear Creek Redwoods, Bear Creek Road corridor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cathedral Oaks area of Sierra Azul, along the Alma Bridge Road corridor between SA19 and SA21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other locations, including Rancho de Guadalupe area are too remote or have few access options (i.e., in event of emergency, few roads lead into or out of the area)
90	Cultural and Historical Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/limit access to cultural sites; use best management practices when encountering potential artifacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuously update the District's cultural/historical resources inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to opening new trail alignments to use, recover and salvage transportable cultural resources and store for future public display 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

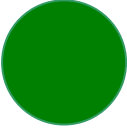
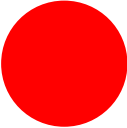


* Alternatives for Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve are on a separate table and are numbered 65-88.

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RATING GUIDE

Using colored dots, please rate the draft alternatives using three colors as noted below. Please place dots directly on the maps next to the different elements and write down the element number on the dot.

If adding a blue dot, please add the dot to the map and note your comment on the large note pad. Please reference the number of the Alternative elements with your comments.

	<p>Green This element or alternative should definitely be considered in the Master Plan</p>
	<p>Red This element does not seem to be compatible with the preserve and/or should not be considered in the Master Plan</p>
	<p>Blue There are other ideas that need to be considered (please list on the note pad)</p>
	<p>Gold Star This element should be considered for the first phase of Master Plan implementation (i.e. one of the first elements to be implemented)</p>

**APPENDIX B:
BREAK-OUT GROUP RESULTS**