



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

For Immediate Release

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Mount Umunhum's Summit Opening Late Summer Grand Opening Scheduled for September 16-17

Los Altos, CA—The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District announced today that the summit of Mount Umunhum will open to the public late this summer. The grand opening of the summit is scheduled for the weekend of September 16-17. “We’re thrilled to invite the community to create Mount Umunhum’s next chapter as one of the Bay Area’s great publicly accessible peaks and nature destinations,” said Midpen’s General Manager Steve Abbors. The prominent mountaintop, located within the 18,000-acre Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve south of Los Gatos, has remained closed since 1980 when the former Almaden Air Force Station, which was located onsite, was decommissioned. Those interested in participating in the celebration can learn more and sign-up for updates at www.mountumunhum.org.

Abboris went on to acknowledge members of the public who supported the project. “Thank you to the voters who passed Measure AA for making it possible to restore and share this remarkable place.” The passage of Measure AA by local voters in 2014 provided funding to complete the \$15.8 million dollar public access portion of the project, including road and trail improvements, parking areas, and weather shelters allowing visitors to enjoy the site. Nearly five miles of new trail are being constructed offering recreation in nature with spectacular views of Silicon Valley to hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians.

People have been drawn to Mount Umunhum for thousands of years, and new visitors will have opportunities to learn about its cultural history rich in stories about Native Californians and the Cold War, as well as its abundant natural history with a geology and diversity of plants and animals unique to the Santa Cruz Mountains. After receiving federal funding in 2009 to restore the peak, the District spent several years soliciting public input and preparing the plan for this spectacular new public destination. Deteriorating buildings and hazardous waste were removed, however the cube-shaped radar tower visible throughout the Bay Area was preserved. The grand opening weekend will include events and activities welcoming the public to the 3,486' peak and inviting them to experience its 360-degree views, newly-constructed trails, rich cultural history, and restored natural environment.

“Restoring Mount Umunhum’s natural environment helps sustain not only the amazing species that live here, but all of us, who benefit every day from the clear air, clean water, and these wonderful opportunities to connect with nature,” said Abbors.

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Created by voter initiative in 1972, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has successfully protected more than 62,000 acres of open space. The District is a California special district governed by an elected Board of directors. The District's mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land and agricultural land of regional significance in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

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