



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

For Immediate Release: July 21, 2012

Contact: Debbie Bickell, City of East Palo Alto, 650.853.5905
LaNor Maune, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, 650.691.1200

East Palo Alto Celebrates Cooley Landing Park Opening with Ceremony on July 21

Cooley Landing – Treasure on the Bay

Los Altos, California [July 21, 2012] – The City of East Palo Alto, supported by staff from Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, hosted the East Palo Alto community at an event celebrating the completion of Phase I of Cooley Landing Park today from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The celebration, with the theme “Cooley Landing – Treasure on the Bay,” took place at the park located at the end of Bay Road in East Palo Alto.

“A little over a year after the City of East Palo Alto agreed to turn vacant land closed to the public into a park, we’re pleased to mark Cooley Landing Park’s opening with a ceremony,” said Laura Martinez, mayor of East Palo Alto. “Working together with partners made the park possible and helps us reach our goals of improving our city.”

The program for the ceremony included historical reenactments and exhibits reflecting the scope of peoples who have populated the area and their contributions to its development. There were historical and educational displays including: dances and artifacts by the Rumsen Ohlone Tribe/Nation; an Overland Stage Coach Living History Exhibit presentation; the Los Banos Buffalo Soldiers Association passing of the colors in a change of command ceremony to city, park and fire department officials to continue the care of Cooley Landing; and a water rescue air-boat exhibit.

Turning the nine-acres of land into a park included site cleanup and a new trail loop, and was conducted by the City of East Palo Alto in partnership with the Midpeninsula Regional Open

Space District (District). The City of East Palo Alto and the District own portions of the land on which the park is built. Cooley Landing is located within the southern area of [Ravenswood Open Space Preserve](#). The park is adjacent to breeding grounds for the largest concentration of endangered California clapper rail birds in the world.

“Cooley Landing is unique and special to both the District and the East Palo Alto community,” said Mike Williams, real property manager of the District. “The habitat is part of a migratory path of shorebirds and will provide an opportunity for local residents to connect with and learn about nature in their backyards. We are extremely pleased to be able to open this scenic bay front park for all to enjoy.”

The Cooley Landing Park not only creates a new public park, but will be an important addition to the Bay Trail between the existing Ravenswood Open Space Preserve and the Palo Alto Baylands. In addition, East Palo Alto doubles its park space with the completion of the park.

Other project supporters include the California Coastal Conservancy; CalRecycle; City of East Palo; Evelyn Tilden Mohrhardt Trust of the San Francisco Foundation; Hewlett Foundation; Nature Restoration Trust, collaboration between Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundatio; Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council; Packard Foundation; Palo Alto Baylands; Peninsula Open Space Trust; San Francisco Bay Trail Project; San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society; State of California Department of Toxic Substance Control; U. S. Environmental Protection Agency; and U.S. National Parks.

#####

Created by voters in 1972, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has successfully protected more than 60,000 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 in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education. www.openspace.org.