



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Amanda Kim

akim@openspace.org, 650-691-1200

Photos of last year's event available upon request

**African American History Month Celebration at Ravenswood Open Space Preserve:
Guided Hikes, Kids Activities, California Buffalo Soldiers**

East Palo Alto, Calif.—On Saturday, February 21, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) and Henrietta Burroughs, founder of the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media, are co-hosting an African American History Month Celebration at the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve in East Palo Alto. Special guests include Senator Jerry Hill, Assemblymember Rich Gordon, Supervisor Warren Slocum, East Palo Alto Mayor Lisa Yarbrough-Gauthier, the California Buffalo Soldiers Association and Teresa Baker, a national advocate for African American participation in the outdoors.

This free family event, held from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., will offer guided hikes, children's activities, bird-watching, kids crafts, environmental education activities, refreshments, and exploration of the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve, which is co-located with Cooley Landing Park.

A special appearance by the California Buffalo Soldiers Association will pay tribute to the African American regiments responsible for patrolling the first national parks around the turn of the century.

"For those interested in history, the outdoors and the preservation of open space, this is a program they will not want to miss," said Burroughs who serves on Midpen's Community Advisory Committee.

To learn more, visit: <http://www.openspace.org/events>. Heavy rain will cancel.

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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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