



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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LOS ALTOS, CA—On May 24, 2017, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) Board of Directors conducted its first review and held a public hearing on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 Budget. The Board of Directors expressed an interest in a modification to the proposed budget. Midpen elected officials directed staff to seek grant funds and/or donations to complete the structural condition assessment and prepare construction plans to fully seal and retain the Mt. Umunhum Radar Tower for the long term. In addition, a second modification to the proposed budget is being brought forward that more accurately reflects prior Board funding commitments for site improvements to Bear Creek Stables. The Action Plan and Budget Committee, a subcommittee of the Board of Directors, will meet at the Midpen Administrative Office located at 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA 94022 at 2:30 p.m. on May 31. The Committee will review the proposed adjustments to the budget and recommend a final budget for consideration by the Board of Directors on June 14, 2017.

Ana Ruiz, Assistant General Manager noted that, “Both projects are District priorities and part of the Midpen Annual Action Plan for FY2017-18. Each project will ensure that visitors at Midpen preserves remain safe and sound when they visit two key sites - the Mount Umunhum

Summit, which is scheduled to open in mid-September, and the Bear Creek Stables, which is an active horse stable that is regularly visited by various schools groups in the Los Gatos area.”

Ruiz also said that Midpen regularly pursues grants funds and other outside contributions to leverage tax payer dollars. Ruiz went on to say that the Board of Directors retains the ability to amend the budget through the course of the year if warranted.”

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*Created by voter initiative in 1972, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has successfully protected more than 63,000 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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