



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Midpen Appoints Acting General Manager Ana Maria Ruiz**

Los Altos, CA— On Wednesday, November 15, 2017, the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District announced the appointment of Ana Maria Ruiz to serve as Acting General Manager. Ruiz will assume the role following the retirement of General Manager Steve Abbors on December 31, 2017. The appointment came on a 6-1 closed session vote on November 6, 2017. Director Cecily Harris dissented. The recruitment process for the General Manager position is scheduled to begin in January.

Ruiz has been with Midpen for 19 years, previously serving as Planning Manager from 2009-2012 and is currently the Assistant General Manager overseeing Visitor and Facilities Services. She brings an extensive knowledge of Midpen and its preserves, including the recently opened Mount Umunhum and soon to be opened La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.

"I look forward to furthering Midpen's commitment to preserving open space, restoring our important natural resources, and providing the public with new opportunities to connect with nature," Ruiz said. "I am very pleased to help lead such a well-qualified, dedicated, and talented staff during this transition."

The Midpen Board of Directors noted Ruiz's ability to ensure the continuity of Midpen projects, programs, and services. Ms. Ruiz will ensure continued progress on major projects, including opening Bear Creek Redwoods to public access in 2018 and further implementing projects listed in Midpen's Measure AA, approved by the voters in 2014.

Midpen Board President Larry Hassett noted Ruiz was selected after a competitive internal recruitment. "We are fortunate to have someone as capable as Ana to step into the General Manager's role. She is a proven leader with a wealth of experience and will build upon Midpen's outstanding services and strong community support for preserving open space."

Ms. Ruiz holds a Bachelor's degree from Stanford University in Geological and Environmental Sciences, a Master's in Urban Planning from San Jose State University, and recently completed the Stanford University Local Governance Summer Institute program.

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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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