



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Memorandum

DATE: June 28, 2017

MEMO TO: MROSD Board of Directors

FROM: Ana Ruiz, AICP, Assistant General Manager and Jane Mark, AICP,
Planning Manager

THROUGH: Stephen E. Abbors, General Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SEA", positioned to the right of the "THROUGH" line.

SUBJECT: Ohlone/Portolá Heritage Trail

This Memorandum provides an overview of the County of San Mateo's initiation, coordination, and work to date on evaluating the feasibility of designating the proposed Ohlone/Portolá Heritage Trail across San Mateo County and listing it as a National Historic Trail.

The proposed historic trail route through San Mateo County is approximately 90 miles, from Año Nuevo State Park to the San Francisco Bay Discovery Site on Sweeney Ridge in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). The complete route extends all the way into México. San Mateo County is proposing to designate both a trail route and an auto route (similar to the Juan Bautista de Anza Historic Trail). One segment of the proposed trail route would extend through a property owned by Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District): the Toto Ranch property of Tunitas Creek Open Space Preserve. For this reason, District staff has been actively participating in this regional planning effort. This regional trail is consistent with District-wide goals for trail connectivity on the San Mateo County Coast as expressed in the Board-approved 2003 Coastal Annexation Area Service Plan.

Since 2016, San Mateo County Board of Supervisor Don Horsley has been leading quarterly meetings with a working committee comprised of public agencies, non-profit organizations, and private individuals to discuss the feasibility and process for designating the Ohlone/Portolá Heritage Trail as a national historic trail. Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz and Planning Manager Jane Mark have attended these Committee meetings on behalf of the District. To date, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors have approved \$275,000 in Measure K district-specific funds to complete of a trail feasibility study and improvements to the Sanchez Adobe Historical Site Project in Pacifica to launch the 2019, 250th year Portolá Expedition commemorative event. The County is hoping to designate the northernmost segment of the proposed regional trail located at Sweeny Ridge as part of the 2019 commemorative activities. Designation of other segments would occur over time by the respective agencies and property owners as these segments become ready.

To celebrate the progress made to date, Supervisor Horsley has scheduled a reception on **Wednesday, August 2, 2017, at 6:30 pm at the San Mateo County Historical Museum**. The County is extending an invitation to the District Board of Directors to attend and learn more about the proposed Ohlone/Portolá Heritage Trail.

Please note that an official trail designation through District land will require District Board of Directors consideration and approval. A proposed trail alignment is still being refined. A recommended trail designation would come to the District Board when a final alignment is confirmed. The expectation at this time would be to plan and seek Board approval for a future trail alignment/corridor through Toto Ranch that would become part of the regional historic trail, with the intent of opening this particular segment at a much later and future date. As Toto Ranch remains closed to general public access, a future trail alignment would not be constructed or opened until the property is made ready to receive public use and the District is ready to manage trail use at this location.

Background

In 2014, a retired civil engineer, Paul O. Reimer, approached San Mateo County and the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) about designating the historic expedition route of Captain Gaspar de Portolá to commemorate the 250th year anniversary of the expedition's 1769 presence in the region. Mr. Reimer envisioned a national designation of this historic expedition route by 2019. He also requested that San Mateo County include the Portolá route as part of the 1999 San Mateo County Trails Master Plan. In early 2016, Supervisor Don Horsley initiated the County's efforts on this historic trail designation project with Supervisor Carole Groom, District 2 Board of Supervisors, and with support from the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Department.

On February 8, 2016, Supervisor Horsley and County Parks staff convened a working committee, known as the Ohlone/Portolá Heritage Trail Committee, comprised of public agencies, non-profit organizations and private entities. The Committee includes representatives from San Mateo County Parks Foundation, Historical Association, Public Works Department, Midcoast Community Council, National Park Service (NPS), Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California State Parks, California Coastal Conservancy, California Coastal Commission, City of Pacifica, Pacifica Parks Department, Pacifica Sister City Program, Pacifica Historical Museum, POST, the District, San Jose State University, and private landowners.

Discussion

The Ohlone/Portolá Heritage Trail Committee shares a common desire to narrate the important story of the discovery of San Francisco Bay, and highlight the significance of the Ohlone tribes in assisting Captain Gaspar de Portolá and his expedition at the various campsites and villages along the route in their search for Monterey Bay. Based on interpretations of Fray Juan Crespi's diary entries, Mr. Reimer mapped an "educated estimate" of the historic expedition route between Año Nuevo and Sweeney Ridge along the San Mateo County coast. To bring this historic route forward, Supervisor Horsley recognized the importance of working with the multiple public and private landowners associated with the underlying ownership to support this national historic trail route. A stated goal of the Committee is to use existing public roads and trails to the greatest extent possible to establish the historic trail route. The Committee has also worked with the NPS staff to identify possible interpretive opportunities that highlight:

- The Ohlone history and culture, including specific people, tribes, and villages encountered by the Portolá Expedition; and
- The historic importance of Spanish "Discovery" of the San Francisco Bay and significance of the Portolá Expedition as an overland expedition.

Overall Schedule and Key Milestones

To date, Supervisor Horsley has facilitated six (6) Committee meetings, which have met quarterly since February 2016. This collaboration has led to the following key milestones:

- Agreement on an official trail name, Ohlone/Portolá Heritage Trail;
- Creation of a working base map showing the proposed historic route along the coast;
- Securing technical NPS staff assistance from their Rivers, Trail, and Conservation Assistance Program to develop a scope for the trail feasibility study;
- Working with NPS and the Interpretation Sub-Committee to draft the Interpretive Plan;
- \$200,000 in Measure K funds allocated for system improvements to the Sanchez Adobe Historical Site Project in Pacifica; and
- \$75,000 in Measure K funds allocated to assess the opportunities and constraints of designating the Ohlone/Portolá Heritage Trail as a National Historic Trail.

The overall schedule for the commemoration of this historic trail designation includes:

- Targeted 2018 opening of an Interpretive Center at the Sanchez Adobe Historic Site (to begin the commemoration);
- Targeted 2019 designation of the Ohlone/Portolá Heritage Trail route as a national historic trail through Congress; and
- Targeted 2019 Anniversary Date of the Discovery of San Francisco Bay with interpretive programs and activities, opening the northernmost portion of the trail at Sweeny Ridge, creation of auto tours, and publications.

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Attachments:

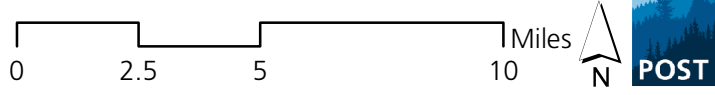
1. Conceptual Overview Map of Ohlone/Portola Heritage Trail (Rancho del Oso Nature & History Center to Discovery Site)
2. East-side Overview Map of Ohlone/Portola Heritage Trail (Discovery Site to El Palo Alto)



- - - Draft Trail Alignment
- Portolá Historic Route
- Camps (1/4 Mile Diameter)
- Tribal Villages (1/2 Mile Diameter)
- Points of Interest
- Major Roads
- · · · · County Line

Ohlone/Portolá Heritage Trail Overview

Scale: 1:300,000 Date: 6/19/17
 Sources: ESRI, CPAD, POST
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Ohlone/Portolá Heritage Trail Overview - Discovery Site to El Palo Alto

- Draft Trail Alignment (~31.5 miles)
- Portolá Historic Route (For Reference Only)
- Camps (1/4 Mile Diameter)
- Tribal Villages (1/2 Mile Diameter)
- Points of Interest
- Major Roads
- County Line

Scale: 1:125,000 Date: 6/19/17
Sources: ESRI, CPAD, POST
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