



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Memorandum

DATE: June 13, 2018

MEMO TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Ana Ruiz, Acting General Manager *AR*

FROM: Brian Malone, Acting Assistant General Manager *BM*

SUBJECT: Mount Umunhum - East Summit Closure and Visitation Update

PUBLIC CLOSURE OF EAST SUMMIT:

The abatement project to remove lead and asbestos-containing coatings that remained adhered to the Mount Umunhum radar tower exterior walls was completed earlier this month, in June 2018. Staff originally expected to reopen the area around the tower and the adjacent East Summit pathways to public access following this work. However, during the course of the abatement work, the windshields of two contractor vehicles that were parked next to the tower were broken by falling pieces of concrete. Staff have also documented pieces of concrete that have fallen off the tower measuring up to 1.5 inches in length. Given this new condition, **the public closure will remain in effect** until we obtain more information about the reasons for the fallen pieces of concrete. Staff is preparing to hire a consultant to sample the concrete and determine its integrity. This work will inform whether the loose aggregate was an isolated occurrence, and how to manage employee and visitor access going forward. In the meantime, anyone entering this area is required to wear hard hats. Staff will also explore options that keep the perimeter of the tower closed while allowing visitor access to the hiking only trail that leads to the east summit observation points.

The ADA parking and drop-off area at the summit are not affected by the concrete study, and they were reopened following completion of the abatement project. This area had been closed on the weekdays to accommodate the abatement work and equipment.

VISITATION

The opening of Mount Umunhum continues to be a resounding success with both the summit and trail being quite popular. Visitation levels do appear to be leveling out. We continue to see full parking lots at the summit and at Bald Mountain on weekends when the weather is nice. In April and May, no road closures were required to control traffic, as turnover in parking at the summit is frequent enough to allow waiting cars to park. Visitors continue to have access to the Mount Umunhum Trail to Bald Mountain, the west summit pathways, the trailhead shelter, and the summit shelter.

TEMPORARY PUBLIC ACCESS CLOSURES

Due to ongoing maintenance and monitoring activities around the radar tower, the following areas at Mount Umunhum are temporarily closed:

- The area surrounding the base of the radar tower and pathways leading to the area
- The hiking only section of the Mount Umunhum Trail between the East Summit and Trailhead Shelter Area

The Mount Umunhum parking lot, trailhead shelter, stairs to the summit, west loop trail, summit shelter and trail to the Bald Mountain staging area all remain open.

