



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 3, 2019

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Midpen Open Space invites public input on trail routes for future Highway 17 wildlife and trail crossing

LOS ALTOS, Calif. – Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is seeking public input on potential routes that would link existing trails as part of the Highway 17 wildlife and trail crossing currently being planned.

Public Workshop on Regional Trail Connections

Tuesday, July 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Los Gatos Methodist Church

111 Church Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030 ([map](#))

Those unable to attend can provide their comments via Midpen's website beginning July 10.

“Connecting open space lands and trails that are divided by dangerous roadways provide both wildlife and people with safe access to the natural areas they need to be healthy and thrive,” said Midpen Project Manager Aaron Peth.

The crossing will link more than 30,000 acres of protected public land, providing safe passage for deer, mountain lions and other wildlife across Highway 17 near Los Gatos. The area has been identified as a roadkill hotspot due to frequent collisions between wildlife and vehicles.

The project also creates opportunities to connect existing recreational trails, including closing a gap in a 50-mile stretch of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and connecting the Los Gatos Creek Trail with Midpen's newly opened Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve.

The Highway 17 crossing was identified by the public as the highest priority in [Midpen's community-supported Vision Plan](#). The project is partially funded by Measure AA, an open space bond passed by local voters in 2014. Midpen's is leading the project in collaboration with many partners, stakeholders and the public. For more information visit www.openspace.org/Hwy17Trails.

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The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a public agency created by voters in 1972. Its mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education. Midpen has successfully protected more than 63,000 acres of open space throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

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