From:	Tina Hugg						
To:	<u>Melissa Borgesi;</u> <u>Tina Hugg</u>						
Subject:	PAWG - San Francisco Chronicle article						
Date:	Wednesday, February 19, 2020 2:47:15 PM						
Attachments:	SFChronicle StienstraFeb2020LHC.pdf						
	A Reed SF Chronicle.pdf						
	K Lusebrink SF Chronicle.pdf						

Dear Working Group,

Attached for your information is Tom Stienstra's article on La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve from this past Sunday's San Francisco Chronicle. Thank you to Andie and Karl for sending us a PDF and link to it (their emails and questions to us are attached and below are our responses).

The article may generate interest and use in the Preserve for a short time, as we have observed similar results from other articles about the District's preserves. Interest then generally wanes and returns to baseline use. Providing diverse access points and expanding trail opportunities can increase interest and use at a preserve on a more permanent basis.

Mr. Stienstra did not contact anyone at the District for this article and we were unaware that it was being written. Had we been consulted, we would have suggested that he mention the Working Group and share what the group has been doing for the last seven months. He described the future phase as including access near the Red Barn somewhere on Highway 84 between Sky Londa and La Honda. Since his description was general and since this stretch of Highway 84 has largely been the focus of the Working Group's attention, our Public Affairs staff and we determined that we did not need to ask the Chronicle to make a correction to the article online.

Access at the Red Barn itself is not a foregone conclusion, as the Working Group still has to consider options and make recommendations, as does the PNR, and the Board needs to approve options to move into the feasibility study phase. As the group has discussed, access may take different forms, and even then, as part of the feasibility study phase, options need to be further evaluated by qualified civil and traffic engineers against engineering standards for safe access. Safety is the paramount consideration to providing access at any Preserve, and options not able to offer safe access would be deemed infeasible.

The El Corte de Madera Creek parking lot on Highway 35 north of Alice's Restaurant and south of Caltrans' Skeggs Vista Point is a nearby example of the District's safety considerations. The Board closed a Preserve gate to prevent informal crossings over Highway 35 from Wunderlich County Park to the Preserve when traffic studies conducted to find a driveway location for a future parking area concluded that this particular spot did not have adequate sight distances. The Board directed staff to find a pedestrian crossing and a driveway location that met sight distance requirements or the parking area project would stop. A new driveway location was found north of the closed gate, and a pedestrian crossing was found 1.4 miles further north. This crossing adds distance for hikers in Wunderlich to reach the Preserve, but ensures that people cross where sight distance requirements are met. The parking area project moved forward, and District staff have not received reports of issues with either the driveway or crossing.

The Working Group process has been a unique opportunity for District staff, members of the public, and the Board to experience together the challenges and opportunities to finding access to a Preserve. We hope that by participating in this effort, the group learns and shares their knowledge of what this work entails and the District's commitment to providing safe access and offering that access as broadly as possible.

Many thanks for the time you have all invested so far.

Tina Hugg, PLA, ASLA Senior Planner <u>thugg@openspace.org</u> Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA 94022 P: (650) 691-1200 - F: (650) 691-0485 www.openspace.org | twitter: @mrosd

From:	Andie Reed
To:	<u>Tina Hugg; Melissa Borgesi</u>
Subject:	Today"s Chronicle
Date:	Sunday, February 16, 2020 8:26:32 AM
Attachments:	StienstraFeb2020LHC.PDF

EXTERNAL

This was an interesting read in this morning's Sunday SF Chronicle.

Wonder if it will increase usage? Certainly will spike interest. He refers to future plans, but leaves it unspoken that all 6,100 aren't currently accessible.

You can send it around to PAWG if you think it's useful.

Thanks, Andie

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Andie Reed CPA

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SFCHRONICLE.COM | Sunday, February 16, 2020 | ***** **C19**

OUTDOORS

SUNDAY DRIVE La Honda Creek

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What you see: At La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, historic ranch roads are routed down to ravines, through vallevs and up to hilltops. Along the way, the payoffs include a pretty creek in a deep ravine and ridgetop views across rolling hills to the east and west to the San Mateo County coast.

Location: The preserve spans 6,100 acres with access in La Honda on the north side off Highway 84 in western San Mateo County.

Cost: Parking, access free.

The hike, Part 1: At the start, you take the Harrington Creek Trail, a ranch road, that is routed north through rolling hills, and then descends 150 feet to a ravine and pretty Harrington Creek. It's roughly 2 miles to the creek.

The hike, Part 2: From the bridge over Harrington Creek, the trail climbs 400 feet, and at 3.2 miles in, you top out at a 1,000foot ridge and reach the junction with the Folger Ranch Loop Trail. The views are best looking back to the east toward Skyline Ridge. Many turn back here for a 6.4mile round-trip.

The hike, Part 3: At the fork with the Folger Ranch Loop (reopened last week), for the coastal view turn right. You make a short descent then climb up another ridge. This is the coastal payoff-view site. You can hike it out 1.3 miles, then return on the Harrington Creek Trail. Round-trip from parking, 8.8 miles.

Facilities: Parking with space for 22 cars, restroom (no running water), information billboard near trailhead.

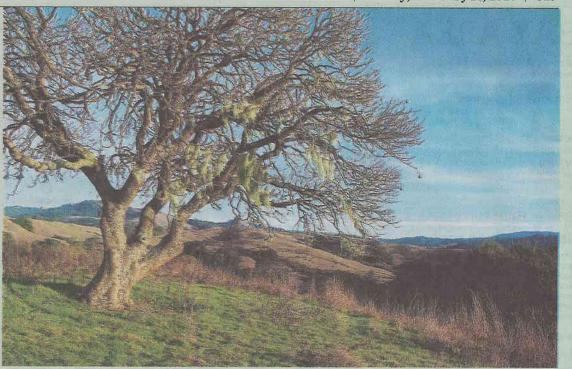
Dogs: No dogs in the featured area of the preserve, Lower Honda Creek. On-leash dog access is permitted at Upper La Honda Creek (access on Allen Road), with a no-fee permit required to park inside the gate at the trailhead.

Rules: No smoking; hikers must stay on trails/roads. No mountain bikes (access is expected in next phase of park operations).

The future: The next phase of opening the preserve will include access near the Red Barn along Highway 84 (between Sky Londa and La Honda) and access for mountain bikes and horseback riding.

Cows/gates: The parkland includes historic cattle ranching. When you encounter gates, leave them as you find them, open or closed.

Contacts: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, 650-691-1200, www.openspace.org.



Frances Freyburg / Special to The Chronicle

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve boasts gorgeous views of the San Mateo County coastal foothills. The preserve spans 6,100 acres and features ravines, valleys and hilltops.

HOW TO GET THERE

GPS: Use 900 Sears Ranch Road, La Honda

From San Francisco/Peninsula: Take Interstate 280 to exit 24 (above Menlo Park/Stanford) for Sand Hill Road. Take that exit to Sand Hill Road, turn west and drive 1.9 miles to Portola Road. Turn right on Portola Road and go 0.2 of a mile to a fork, bear left (still Portola Road) and drive 0.6 of a mile to Highway 84. Turn left (very sharp turn, use extreme care for cross traffic and downhill cyclists) and drive 3.4 miles to Sky Londa and a stop sign at Skyline. Continue straight (crossing Skyline) and drive 6.2 miles to La Honda and Sears Ranch Road. Turn right and drive 1 mile to end of road, parking and trailhead.

Note: Other routes available via Highway 84, Highway 35 and Highway 1.

Distances: 1 mile from La Honda, 12 miles from Woodside, 20 miles from Half Moon Bay, 36 miles from San Jose, 45 miles from downtown San Francisco, 51 miles from Sausalito, 56 miles from Dublin, 57 miles from Berkelev.

From:	Karl Lusebrink
To:	Tina Hugg; Melissa Borgesi; Barbara & Terry Hooper
Subject:	Fwd: article in san francisco chronicle about la honda preserve
Date:	Monday, February 17, 2020 9:21:27 AM

EXTERNAL

Hi Tina, Melissa, and Barb.

Last night I had an opportunity to talk with a few locals about LHCOSP, their impressions of the February 6 meeting, etc. As the forwarded message below shows, Eva is concerned that the decision making process might not be transparent. She cited the linked SF Chronicle article which states that the next phase "will include" access built at the Red Barn, as if it's a foregone conclusion. I assume the author doesn't know about the PAWG effort and pending feasibility studies of site options. But this little mistake can undermine Midpen's credibility in the minds of those skeptical that governing agencies take their best interests into account. I'm sure you've heard similar opinions voiced in other preserve development scenarios. How do you reassure people that feasibility studies are scientifically valid and that safety and aesthetics influence planning as much if not more than a bias to build?

Thanks Karl

Begin forwarded message:

From: eva knodt **Date:** February 16, 2020 at 8:29:41 PM PST **To: Subject:** article in san francisco chronicle about la honda preserve

Hi Karl,

here is the article.

Sunday getaway to La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve - SFChronicle.com

If you scroll down to the section "the future" it appears to present the 84 access as a "fact". They could have said "may" or indicated that the access is still under discussion. Let me know if my impression is correct and if so, please pass it by your working group and if it is indeed an overstatement send a letter to the editor. I think it is important for the morale of this working group and the La Hondans who show up at these meetings to know that it is not merely a rubber stamp of plans that will be implemented regardless. My impression is increasingly that they let the working group and the public express concerns and then write them down and file them away with no consideration.

"The future: The next phase of opening the preserve will include access near the Red Barn along Highway 84 (between Sky Londa and La Honda) and access for

mountain bikes and horseback riding."

Thank you for all you do there! I don't think i'd have the tooth for it. Please send this on to Barbara as as well, i do not have her email. Send a brief conformation you got this email.

thanks,

eva

 $\label{eq:https://www.sfchronicle.com/travel/article/Sunday-getaway-to-La-Honda-Creek-Open-Space-15058591.php$