



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Midpen Open Space District remains open while Los Altos administrative office physically closes March 12-13

Los Altos, CA — In a proactive effort to prepare for possible increased employee telecommuting due to the COVID-19 virus, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District will remain open while its administrative office in Los Altos physically closes March 12-13. Administrative staff will be telecommuting and will remain available to the public via Midpen’s regular phone, email and web communications.

“While Midpen staff will remain available to the public, this proactive physical office closure drill will test our ability to continue providing high-quality public service remotely, should we need to enact longer term telecommuting to protect public and employee health,” Midpen General Manager Ana María Ruiz said.

Midpen has also proactively cancelled nonessential community gatherings including docent-led activities and volunteer events in the preserves, and community outreach events through March 31. Decisions on future events will be made at a later date.

Midpen’s public board meetings and other essential business meetings are continuing as planned, with increased social distancing and other protective public health measures put in place.

“We are monitoring and following the Santa Clara County Health Department’s recommendations for best practices to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus in our community, while continuing to serve the public and implement our mission,” Ruiz said.

At this time, Midpen preserves throughout the region remain open to the public during regular hours, one-half hour before official sunrise to one-half hour past official sunset daily. Please check openspace.org for updates.

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The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District’s mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land of regional significance in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education. On the San Mateo County coast, our mission also includes preserving agricultural land of regional significance and rural character and encouraging viable agricultural use of land resources. Midpen has successfully protected nearly 65,000 acres of public open space land in the Santa Cruz Mountains region.

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