



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-21-164  
Meeting 21-34  
December 9, 2021

## AGENDA ITEM 1

### AGENDA ITEM

Measure AA Project List Prioritization

### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION *den*

Review, amend as needed, and approve the proposed Measure AA Five-Year Project List and Optional Project List for Fiscal Years 2023-24 through 2027-28.

### SUMMARY

On September 8, 2021, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board of Directors (Board) reviewed and updated the MAA project prioritization criteria to guide the development of the Measure AA Project List for Fiscal Years 2023-24 (FY24) through FY28 (R-21-119). Staff began preparing the proposed new MAA Five-Year List and Optional Project List by first identifying projects that are (1) in-progress and (2) on the current lists that have yet to be activated. In addition, potential new MAA projects that implement the voter approved MAA priorities were also generated by staff and the Board. All projects were then confirmed for MAA eligibility and prioritized using the Board-approved and recently updated prioritization criteria. The proposed lists are included as part of this report and will be reviewed in detail with the Board for consideration of approval.

### DISCUSSION

On October 29, 2014, the Board approved the first Measure AA 5-Year Project List (R-14-130), which was developed using prior Board-approved prioritization criteria. Measure AA provides funding to complete the Top 25 Vision Plan Priorities, as approved by the voters in June 2014. The prioritization criteria and high priority Measure AA 5-Year Project List for FY15 through FY19 informed the District's initial development of the capital improvement program and bond issuance in 2015. On February 1, 2018, the Board updated the prioritization criteria and adopted the next Measure AA Project List for FY19 through FY23 (R-18-13).

The second Measure AA 5-Year Project List expires in FY23. On September 8, 2021, the Board reviewed and updated the MAA project prioritization criteria (Attachment 1) as the first step to develop the next Measure AA Project List for FY24 through FY28. At this meeting, Board members were encouraged to provide their individual project ideas to staff for inclusion in the new MAA 5-year list evaluation process.

To develop the next phase of the Measure AA 5-year Project List, staff reviewed remaining projects on the existing 5-year and optional project lists and evaluated the remaining MAA portfolio priorities. Through four separate, internal cross-functional department meetings, a

preliminary list of projects was compiled, which includes project ideas offered by individual Board members. Staff then applied the Board-approved and recently updated project prioritization criteria and assessed internal project delivery capacity to develop the new MAA 5-year List (Attachment 2) and Optional Project List (Attachment 3). Projects included in the 5-year list are identified as essential (Tier 1 Criteria) or meeting many Tier 2 and Tier 3 criteria. Most projects on the Optional List did not rate as high in priority but could be considered for inclusion in future Capital Improvement and Action Plans if resources are available. Several projects on the Optional List received high ranking but were placed on the optional list because implementation is contingent upon partner capacity.

At the December 9, 2021 Strategic Planning Retreat, staff will present MAA accomplishments to date and the proposed updated high priority MAA 5-Year Project list and MAA Optional Project List for FY24 – FY28.

Prior to upcoming March 3, 2022 Priority Setting Retreat, staff will perform a detailed evaluation of staff capacity by department through the resource loading process to confirm that the highest-ranking projects can be incorporated into future work plans over the next five years. On March 3, staff will also recommend which Measure AA projects to include in the upcoming FY23 Action Plan.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The adoption of the recommended Measure AA 5-Year Project List for FY24 through FY28 and the prioritization of the Measure AA Optional Project List have no direct fiscal impact. However, these lists will provide direction for the development of the FY23 Budget and three-year CIAP for FY23 through FY25. Budgetary impacts per fiscal year will be provided for each MAA project will be provided to the Board as part of the annual budget and action plan review process.

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW**

The MAA Project Prioritization Criteria and Five-Year Project List previously came before the full Board of Directors at the following public meetings:

- August 28, 2014: Board review of MAA Implementation Process (R-14-113)
- September 10, 2014: Board review of Prioritization Criteria for MAA Projects (R-14-114)
- October 29, 2014: Board review of Initial 5-Year MAA Project List, including Projects identified for FY16 (R-14-130)
- February 1, 2018: Annual Board Retreat – Meeting 1 (Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives Review and MAA Optional Project List Prioritization) ([R-18-13](#), [meeting minutes](#))
- March 15, 2018: FY19 CIAP Review, and MAA Five-Year Project List Approval ([R-18-24](#), [meeting minutes](#))
- December 7, 2020: Progress Update on Measure AA Commitments ([Board FYI Memo](#))
- September 8, 2021: Prioritization Criteria for Measure AA Projects ([R-21-119](#), [meeting minutes](#))

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act, as well as to members of the public on the Measure AA interested parties list.

## CEQA COMPLIANCE

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

## NEXT STEPS

On March 3, 2022, the Board will confirm the District-wide priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. The outcomes of the December 9, 2021 and March 3, 2022 Board Retreat Meetings will guide the development of the FY23 Budget and Action Plan, including the 3-Year CIAP.

### Attachments:

1. 2021 Measure AA Ranking Criteria
2. Measure AA Five-Year Recommended Projects List (FY24-FY28)
3. Measure AA Optional Project List

### Responsible Department Head:

Ana Ruiz, General Manager

### Prepared by:

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| Tier 1 Criteria                              | Description  | Weight    |
|--|--|-----------|
| Immediate Public Safety Concern              | Implementation action would address an imminent public safety concern or emergency issue related to District land, facilities, or infrastructure | Essential |
| Existing or Prior Legal or Formal Commitment | Existing or prior formal or legal commitment (e.g. written agreement) has been made to complete the action item                                  | Essential |
| Existing Deadline Within 1-5 Years           | The action is associated with a specific deadline (within 1-5 years) related to an existing grant, agreement, or partner commitment              | Essential |
| Tier 2 Criteria                              | Description  | Weight    |
| Project Underway                             | The action is in the middle of implementation and/or the action is an essential part of a multi-phase project that is currently underway         | 2         |
| Need for Timely Action                       | Timely action to protect a resource at risk (e.g. climate change impacts)  | 2         |

|  |  |               |
|--|--|---------------|
| Quick Implementation (2 years or less)               | High level of confidence regarding the ease and feasibility of implementation  | 2             |
| <b>Tier 3 Criteria</b>                               | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Weight</b> |
| Broad Geographic Distribution                        | Inclusion allows for a wide geographic distribution of benefits and new facilities   | 1             |
| Diverse Public Benefit                               | Inclusion provides benefit to two or more user groups (hikers, bicycles, horses, dogs, families, all-access) and/or underserved populations, greater access for limited mobility | 1             |
| High Beneficial Impact for Public Use and Recreation | The action would result in a significant, beneficial impact to public use and recreation   | 1             |
| High Beneficial Impact for Natural Resources         | The action would result in a significant, beneficial impact to natural resource values   | 1             |
| Partnership Opportunity                              | Implementation action enhances or leverages opportunities for partnerships   | 1             |
| Support Sustainable Agriculture                      | Emphasis on the San Mateo Coast  | 1             |

## MAA 5 Year Recommended Projects List FY 2023-24 through FY 2027-28

| MAA Portfolio No.   | Project Name                               | Project Description  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>AA01- Miramontes Ridge:</b><br/><i>Gateway to the Coast Public Access, Stream Restoration and Agriculture Enhancement</i></p> | Madonna Bridge Replacement                 | Replace current interior bridge with bridge or culvert crossing. The current bridge is weight limited and does not allow for emergency vehicle access.   |
| <p><b>AA01- Miramontes Ridge:</b><br/><i>Gateway to the Coast Public Access, Stream Restoration and Agriculture Enhancement</i></p> | Water Infrastructure Development           | Investigate and implement alternative water supply at Madonna Creek Ranch to replace agricultural water currently provided through in-stream impoundment on steelhead fisheries stream. Complete evaluation of restoration plans for Madonna Creek for steelhead and California-red legged frog.   |
| <p><b>AA01- Miramontes Ridge:</b><br/><i>Gateway to the Coast Public Access, Stream Restoration and Agriculture Enhancement</i></p> | Public Access and Land Preservation        | Continue to work with City of Half Moon Bay, State Parks and other public and private entities to improve public access and preserve scenic open space at Johnston Ranch area of Miramontes Ridge Open Space Preserve. Partner with the City of Half Moon Bay on shared/expanded parking and new trails at Johnston House and Johnston Ranch Uplands properties. |
| <p><b>AA02- Regional:</b><br/><i>Bayfront Habitat Protection and Public Access Partnerships</i></p>                                 | Stevens Creek Tidal Wetland Restoration    | Implement Board direction to improve snowy plover habitat in the short term. Pursue partnership opportunities with South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project, San Francisco Estuary Institute, NASA, SCVWD, Google, and local Cities.   |
| <p><b>AA03- Purisima Creek Redwoods:</b><br/><i>Purisima-to-Sea Trail, Watershed Protection, and Conservation Grazing</i></p>       | Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail and Parking Area | Pursue new trail alignment from Bald Knob to Verde Road, with a new parking area off Verde Road and trail connection to the Cowell parking area along Highway 1; the new preserve trail would connect the Bay Area Ridge Trail on Hwy 35 to the Coastal Trail on Hwy 1.  |
| <p><b>AA03- Purisima Creek Redwoods:</b><br/><i>Purisima-to-Sea Trail, Watershed Protection and Conservation Grazing</i></p>        | Pond Restoration                           | Restore upland ponds to enhance habitat for California red-legged frog and other sensitive aquatic species and improve water availability for cattle grazing.  |

## MAA 5 Year Recommended Projects List FY 2023-24 through FY 2027-28

| MAA Portfolio No.   | Project Name                                | Project Description   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>AA03- Purisima Creek Redwoods:</b><br><i>Purisima-to-Sea Trail, Watershed Protection, and Conservation Grazing</i> | Site Clean Up and Soil Remediation          | Conduct site clean up and soil remediation around existing empty oil tank to address safety issues that predate District acquisition of the property (Purisima Uplands)   |
| <b>AA04- El Corte de Madera Creek:</b><br><i>Bike Trail and Water Quality Projects</i>                                | Pursue Land Conservation Opportunities      | Continue to seek or respond to opportunities to acquire open space lands to complete gaps in the Bay Area Ridge Trail in the vicinity of El Corte De Madera Creek Open Space Preserve.  |
| <b>AA05- La Honda Creek:</b><br><i>Upper Area Recreation, Habitat Restoration and Conservation Grazing Projects</i>   | Phase 2 - Bridge Replacements (2)           | Design, engineering, permitting, CEQA, and replacement of one bridge if necessary and replace one major culvert at LH04 off Skyline Boulevard (located in northernmost area).   |
| <b>AA05- La Honda Creek:</b><br><i>Upper Area Recreation, Habitat Restoration and Conservation Grazing Projects</i>   | La Honda Creek Parking and Trailhead Access | Implement Board direction to proceed with Public Access Working Group input and Planning and Natural Resources Committee recommendations to conduct a feasibility study for a suite of options to open public access to the central area of the preserve. |
| <b>AA05- La Honda Creek:</b><br><i>Upper Area Recreation, Habitat Restoration and Conservation Grazing Projects</i>   | Grazing and Water Systems Infrastructure    | Complete grazing infrastructure improvements at Lone Madrone Ranch that improve fences, corrals, and stockwater to continue supporting the conservation grazing program while providing greater protections for streams and habitat.                      |
| <b>AA05- La Honda Creek:</b><br><i>Upper Area Recreation, Habitat Restoration and Conservation Grazing Projects</i>   | Pursue Land Conservation Opportunities      | Continue to seek or respond to opportunities to acquire open space lands to complete gaps in the Bay Area Ridge Trail in the vicinity of La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.  |
| <b>AA05- La Honda Creek:</b><br><i>Upper Area Recreation, Habitat Restoration and Conservation Grazing Projects</i>   | La Honda Fisheries Restoration              | Address erosion and sediment input from legacy roadcuts/skid roads within the Conservation Management Unit to improve water quality and fisheries/riparian habitat.   |

## MAA 5 Year Recommended Projects List FY 2023-24 through FY 2027-28

| MAA Portfolio No.  | Project Name  | Project Description   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>AA05- La Honda Creek:</b><br><i>Upper Area Recreation, Habitat Restoration and Conservation Grazing Projects</i>          | Phase II Trail:<br>Red Barn to Main Ranch Road (connects to La Honda Creek loop)          | Design and construct one of two Phase II trails as approved in the Master Plan (Trail 5 connection to Driscoll Ranch via main Ranch Road OR Trail 9 Weeks Creek).   |
| <b>AA05- La Honda Creek:</b><br><i>Upper Area Recreation, Habitat Restoration and Conservation Grazing Projects</i>          | Phase II Trails:<br>Connection between the Red Barn/Central area and Upper La Honda Creek | Design and construct a new multi-use trail to connect the Red Barn/central area of the preserve to trails located in the former Dyer area of upper La Honda Creek. This multi-use trail would offer an opportunity to extend the regional Bay Area Ridge Trail and in the future, potentially connect trail users to El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve. |
| <b>AA06- Windy Hill:</b><br><i>Trail Improvements, Preservation and Hawthorns Area Historic Partnership</i>                  | Hawthorns Area Plan   | Complete the Hawthorns Area Plan, conduct CEQA review and coordinate with the Town on the permitting process.   |
| <b>AA06- Windy Hill:</b><br><i>Trail Improvements, Preservation and Hawthorns Area Historic Partnership</i>                  | Hawthorns Area Plan Implementation  | Working with partners, implement area plan elements, including new public access improvements and natural resource enhancements.  |
| <b>AA07- La Honda Creek:</b><br><i>Driscoll Ranch Public Access, Endangered Wildlife Protection and Conservation Grazing</i> | Forest Restoration and Road Rehabilitation  | Conduct forestry restoration activities to improve forest health and sustainability and undertake watershed/road improvements located outside of the Conservation Management Unit (covered by MAA05).   |
| <b>AA10- Coal Creek:</b><br><i>Reopen Alpine Road for Trail Use</i>  | Alpine Road Trail Improvements  | Complete engineering design, CEQA review, permitting, and construct trail improvements to properly convert an abandoned road into a sustainable regional trail and reduce erosion of the old roadbed to improve downstream water quality.   |
| <b>AA10- Coal Creek:</b><br><i>Reopen Alpine Road for Trail Use</i>  | Meadow Trail Re-route   | Reroute an existing trail to improve public access and properly decommission a high priority sediment site to improve downstream water quality.   |



## MAA 5 Year Recommended Projects List FY 2023-24 through FY 2027-28

| MAA Portfolio No.   | Project Name   | Project Description   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>AA11- Rancho San Antonio:</b><br><i>Interpretive Improvements, Refurbishing, and Transit Solutions</i> | Non-Motorized Mobility, Transit Connections and Parking Alternatives | Engage stakeholders and partner agencies to explore and implement non-motorized mobility, transit options and parking alternatives for Rancho San Antonio. Currently underway, this project would provide high beneficial impact for recreational users and leverage partnerships.  |
| <b>AA16- Long Ridge:</b><br><i>Trail, Conservation and Habitat Restoration Projects (Saratoga)</i>        | Long Ridge Parking   | Initiate discussions with Santa Clara County Parks, Caltrans and other stakeholders to scope potential sites to formalize parking. Conduct feasibility study for parking/trailhead/restrooms options.<br>(Requested by Director Kishimoto)  |
| <b>AA16- Long Ridge:</b><br><i>Trail, Conservation and Habitat Restoration Projects</i>                   | Long Ridge Trail Connections to Eagle Rock and Devil's Canyon        | Formalize new 1-mile trail connections to the highly scenic Devils Canyon waterfall and Eagle Rock overlooking the Pescadero Creek watershed to prevent social trails that can degrade soils and vegetation. It may be possible to connect both sites with a loop trail through Tafoni sandstone formations. Consider opportunity to partner with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. |
| <b>AA19- El Sereno:</b><br><i>Dog Trails and Connections</i>  | Regional Trail Connection to Sanborn & Lexington County Parks        | Pending the securing of trail easements, this project would complete a regional trail connection between El Sereno Open Space Preserve and Sanborn and Lexington Reservoir County Parks via the regional trail crossing at Highway 17.  |
| <b>AA19- El Sereno:</b><br><i>Dog Trails and Connections</i>  | Spooky Knoll Trail   | Located in the southeastern area of El Sereno Open Space Preserve, this proposed trail loop would enhance a regional trail corridor and potentially add to section to the Bay Area Ridge Trail from the Hwy 17 crossing to Sanborn County Park. Also provides a rare loop experience in the preserve.   |
| <b>AA20- South Bay Foothills:</b><br><i>Wildlife Passage and Ridge Trail Improvements</i>                 | HWY 17 Bay Area Ridge Trail Crossing                                 | In conjunction with the wildlife crossing, implement a public trail crossing across Highway 17 to connect trail systems located to the east and west of the highway.  |
| <b>AA20- South Bay Foothills:</b><br><i>Wildlife Passage and Ridge Trail Improvements</i>                 | HWY 17 Wildlife Crossing   | Work with partners to engineer and install wildlife crossing improvements at Highway 17.  |

## MAA 5 Year Recommended Projects List FY 2023-24 through FY 2027-28

| MAA Portfolio No.  | Project Name                                      | Project Description  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>AA21- Bear Creek Redwoods:</b><br><i>Public Recreation and Interpretive Projects</i>    | Alma College Site Rehabilitation                  | Complete the Alma College site remediation and stabilization to safely open the area to public access, education, and interpretation.  |
| <b>AA21- Bear Creek Redwoods:</b><br><i>Public Recreation and Interpretive Projects</i>    | Phase II Trails: Multi-Use Links                  | Design and construct new (or improve existing) trails, to provide a multi-use trail through the Preserve, linking the Los Gatos Creek Trail with Summit Road. Fulfills Preserve Plan goals to provide through-access for bikes. Project presents an opportunity to partner with CalTrans and Santa Clara County. |
| <b>AA21- Bear Creek Redwoods:</b><br><i>Public Recreation and Interpretive Projects</i>    | Phase II Trails: Public Loop Trail to the Stables | Provide a new and improved trail connection to the Stables in the northeastern Preserve that remedies existing erosion/maintenance issues and enhances the visitor experience.   |
| <b>AA21- Bear Creek Redwoods:</b><br><i>Public Recreation and Interpretive Projects</i>    | Phase II Trails: Briggs Creek Trail               | Address erosion/maintenance issues on heavily-used trail north of stables and improve stream crossings to allow year-round patrol use.   |
| <b>AA21- Bear Creek Redwoods:</b><br><i>Public Recreation and Interpretive Projects</i>    | Phase II Trails: Alma College Loop Trail          | Improve existing roads flanking ridgeline to reduce erosion and provide year-round patrol access from the Alma parking lot to the eastern Preserve.  |
| <b>AA21- Bear Creek Redwoods:</b><br><i>Public Recreation and Interpretive Projects</i>    | Bear Creek Stables Repairs                        | Implement site repairs at Bear Creek Stables to enhance public safety, improve site drainage, and extend life of existing structures. Confirm long-term water needs and implement water infrastructure improvements.   |
| <b>AA22- Sierra Azul:</b><br>Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Projects        | Wildlife Crossing Improvements on Alma Bridge Rd  | Work with partners to design and construct wildlife crossing structures to reduce road mortality impacts and protect migrating newts traveling across Alma Bridge Road to access Lexington Reservoir for breeding.   |
| <b>AA22- Sierra Azul:</b><br><i>Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Projects</i> | Pursue Land Conservation Opportunities            | Pursue purchase of lands with prior option rights (fee and easement).  |
| <b>AA24- Sierra Azul:</b><br><i>Rancho de Guadalupe Family Recreation</i>                  | Pursue Land Conservation Opportunities            | Pursue purchase of lands with prior option rights (fee and easement).  |

MAA Optional Projects List FY2023-24 through FY2027-28

| MAA Portfolio No.  | Project Name  | Project Description  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>AA02- Regional:</b><br/><i>Bayfront Habitat Protection and Public Access partnerships</i></p>                                  | <p>Pursue Land Conservation Opportunities</p>   | <p>Pursue partnership opportunities to preserve additional bayfront open space.<br/>(Requested by Director Kishimoto)</p>  |
| <p><b>AA03- Purisima Creek Redwoods:</b><br/><i>Purisima-to-Sea Trail, Watershed Protection and Conservation Grazing</i></p>         | <p>Fish Passage / Barrier Removal (Lobitos)</p>                                       | <p>Develop and implement fish passage improvement design plans to remove barriers to steelhead migration at Verde Road (San Mateo County) and Highway 1 (Caltrans) culverts.</p>   |
| <p><b>AA04- El Corte de Madera Creek:</b><br/><i>Bike Trail and Water Quality Projects</i></p>                                       | <p>Single use biking/hiking trails.</p>   | <p>Explore a potential revision to District policies to allow single use, bike only trails. If change is approved, proceed with planning and implementation of single use bike and hiking trails.</p>  |
| <p><b>AA06- Windy Hill:</b><br/><i>Trail Improvements, Preservation and Hawthorns Area Historic Partnership</i></p>                  | <p>Hawthorns Historic Area</p>  | <p>Evaluate partnerships, develop plan for historic area, implement Board direction on structure retention and potential repairs or improvements.</p>  |
| <p><b>AA07- La Honda Creek:</b><br/><i>Driscoll Ranch Public Access, Endangered Wildlife Protection and Conservation Grazing</i></p> | <p>Staging Area and Trail Connections for Event Center and Apple Orchard Property</p> | <p>Explore, and if feasible, implement a new staging area with equestrian parking and trail connections to further Master Plan goals for public access. New staging area would formalize a second general parking area for the lower area of the preserve that accommodates horse trailers. Planned trail connections from the Event Center would connect to the new Harrington Creek Trail in Lower La Honda Creek.</p> |

MAA Optional Projects List FY2023-24 through FY2027-28

| MAA Portfolio No.   | Project Name  | Project Description   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>AA08- La Honda Creek/Russian Ridge:</b><br/>Preservation of Upper San Gregorio Watershed &amp; Ridge Trail Completion</p> | <p>Pursue Land Conservation Opportunities</p>   | <p>Seek or respond to general land conservation acquisition or partnership opportunities to complete Bay Area Ridge Trail multiuse connections and gaps.</p>  |
| <p><b>AA11- Rancho San Antonio:</b><br/>Interpretive Improvements, Refurbishing, and Transit Solutions</p>                      | <p>Rancho San Antonio Welcome Center</p>  | <p>Plan, conduct CEQA review, secure permits, and construct a public welcome center (one option: an open-air "plaza").</p>  |
| <p><b>AA12- Peninsula/South Bay Cities:</b><br/><i>Partner to Complete Middle Stevens Creek Trail</i></p>                       | <p>Stream Corridor Restoration</p>  | <p>Support work by partners to complete stream corridor restoration and steelhead habitat enhancement in areas below the Stevens Creek dam.</p>   |
| <p><b>AA13- Cloverdale:</b><br/><i>Wildlife Protection, Grazing, and Trail Connections</i></p>                                  | <p>Natural Resource Restoration, Grazing Infrastructure Improvements and Minor Public Access Improvements</p> | <p>Contingent on acquisition of Cloverdale property, implement critical natural resource restoration improvements, conservation grazing infrastructure improvements, and install District signage and ADA improvements for existing access trail.</p> |
| <p><b>AA14- Regional:</b><br/><i>Trail Connections and Campgrounds</i></p>  | <p>Pursue Land Conservation Opportunities</p>   | <p>Seek or respond to general land conservation acquisition or partnership opportunities to connect Russian Ridge and Skyline to nearby protected public lands.</p>   |

MAA Optional Projects List FY2023-24 through FY2027-28

| MAA Portfolio No.   | Project Name  | Project Description  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>AA15- Regional:</b><br/><i>Redwood Protection and Salmon Fishery Conservation</i></p>         | <p>Pursue Land Conservation</p>                                       | <p>Seek or respond to general land conservation acquisition or partnership opportunities to protect redwood and fisheries habitat.</p>   |
| <p><b>AA16- Long Ridge:</b><br/>Trail, Conservation and Habitat Restoration Projects (Saratoga)</p> | <p>Jikoji Pond Area Habitat Enhancement</p>                           | <p>Reroute public bicycle trail away from Jikoji Pond to better protect San Francisco garter snake habitat.</p>  |
| <p><b>AA17- Regional:</b><br/><i>Complete Upper Stevens Creek Trail</i></p>                         | <p>Upper Stevens Creek Trail</p>                                      | <p>Partner with Santa Clara County Parks to design and construct a new multi-use trail connecting Picchetti Ranch and Montebello Preserves with Upper Stevens Creek County Park, benefitting a wide range of user groups across the region.</p>  |
| <p><b>AA22- Sierra Azul:</b><br/><i>Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Projects</i></p>  | <p>Parking Area at Beatty property (Santa Clara County agreement)</p> | <p>Plan, design and construct a new parking area and trail connections to Priest Rock Trail in Lexington Reservoir County Park and Sierra Azul Preserve to fulfill a legal commitment with Santa Clara County. Also fulfills Vision Plan #22 goal for public access within the Cathedral Oaks Area of Sierra Azul. New trail would eventually connect to the Highway 17 Regional Trail Crossing.</p> |

**MAA Optional Projects List FY2023-24 through FY2027-28**

| MAA Portfolio No.  | Project Name   | Project Description  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>AA24- Sierra Azul:</b><br/><i>Rancho de Guadalupe Family Recreation</i></p>                                | <p>Staging Area and Trail Connections for Rancho de Guadalupe Area</p> | <p>Complete assessment, planning, design, permitting and construction of a new parking area at (or near) Hicks Road and Pheasant Road. This new parking area and trail connections would open Rancho de Guadalupe area to public access. Cherry Pond and the surrounding preserve provide exceptional family recreational opportunities. This new visitor area would focus on providing easy access for all users.</p> |
| <p><b>AA25- Sierra Azul:</b><br/><i>Loma Prieta Area Public Access, Regional Trails and Habitat Projects</i></p> | <p>Umunhum to the Sea Regional Trail</p>                               | <p>Secure any final land rights necessary and design, permit and construct trail between Mount Umunhum and Nisene Marks State Park to establish a regional trail connection to Santa Cruz County.</p>  |