



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-20-142
Meeting 20-29
December 9, 2020

AGENDA ITEM 4

AGENDA ITEM

Designation of the Oljon Trail in El Corte de Madera Open Space Preserve as part of the regional Bay Area Ridge Trail

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION *den*

Designate the existing Oljon Trail in El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve as a new segment of the regional Bay Area Ridge Trail in accordance with the intentions of the California State Coastal Conservancy-Bay Area Ridge Trail Partner Grants

SUMMARY

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) received grants in 2004 and 2011 from the California State Coastal Conservancy-Bay Area Ridge Trail Grant Program to implement trail projects at El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve (Preserve) (Resolution 04-39, Resolution 11-38). These funds were granted for the purpose of extending the Bay Area Ridge Trail (Ridge Trail) in the Skyline region, a vision the District has shared since 1999. With the Oljon Trail at the Preserve completed and open to the public, the General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors (Board) fulfill the original intent of the grants by designating the 1.7-mile Oljon Trail as part of the regional Ridge Trail.

DISCUSSION

Located on the eastern side of the Preserve, the Oljon Trail spans 1.7 miles of multiuse trail. It originates at the intersection of the Gordon Mill and Sierra Morena Trails, just south of Skyline Boulevard near Bear Gulch Road. The trail descends for 0.4 miles before crossing the Steam Donkey Trail and ultimately culminates at the Spring Board Trail intersection 1.3 miles further south (Attachment 1). At its northern extent, the Oljon Trail provides a critical link to the broader Ridge Trail network in the Skyline region. Connecting to the Skyline Trail via the Molder Trail, the Oljon Trail provides access to Huddart County Park and Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve to the north and Wunderlich County Park to the south (Attachment 1).

The designation of the Oljon Trail as part of the regional Ridge Trail has been a goal of the District for over twenty years. From its inception, the intent for this trail segment — referred to as the “perimeter trail,” “Bear Gulch Trail,” “future/proposed Bay Area Ridge Trail,” and the “Oljon Trail” throughout District records — has been in part to fill a critical gap in the Ridge Trail (R-99-34, R-04-37, R-05-31, R-08-56, R-13-51). Board approval of the 2014 Open Space Vision Plan Priority Action 4 and Measure AA (MAA) Portfolio 4 support the Ridge Trail vision with *El Corte de Madera Creek: Bike Trail and Water Quality Projects*. This Vision Plan and

MAA priority specifically calls out completing sections of the Ridge Trail: “Develop and carry out plans for single-use biking/hiking trails, *complete Ridge Trail gaps*, and develop trail system leading to parking area. Restore damaged trails for better water quality.”

In 2004, the District received a \$31,000 grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy-Bay Area Ridge Trail Grant Program in support of the El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve Watershed Protection Program (R-04-37, R-05-31). The grant application states that the grant’s purpose is to build a segment of Ridge Trail at the Preserve and depicts the trail segment on an attached map. Furthermore, the grant resolution includes the following stipulation: “WHEREAS, *the project is compatible with the intention of the grant program to encourage government agencies to plan new segments of the Bay Area Ridge Trail*” (Attachment 2, Resolution 04-39).

In 2009, the District prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the El Corte de Madera Parking/Staging Area and Trail Project. The IS/MND includes the completion of the “perimeter trail” and states the vision for this trail as a future segment of the Ridge Trail. In 2010, the Board adopted the IS/MND alongside an amendment to the Preserve’s Use and Management Plan (R-10-35). Both documents explicitly identify the trail segment described in the Initial Study and previously referred to as the “perimeter trail” as “future Bay Area Ridge Trail” both in text and on a map.

In 2011, the District received a \$282,000 grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy-Bay Area Ridge Trail to complete the trail construction and habitat restoration projects in the Preserve (Attachment 3, Resolution 11-38, Agreement Number 11-096). The California State Coastal Conservancy-Bay Area Ridge Trail Grant Program sought to encourage government agencies and nonprofit organizations to plan, acquire, and construct new segments of the Ridge Trail (R-11-116).

The Board approved the renaming of this trail segment as the Oljon Trail to honor the Ohlone people in 2013 (R-13-51). The Skyline Field Crew finalized construction of the Oljon Trail during the 2019-2020 fiscal year, and the trail was opened to the public in September of 2019. Designating the Oljon Trail as part of the regional Bay Area Ridge Trail will fulfill the original vision for this trail, Vision Plan priority action, and Measure AA, and the intentions of the Board-approved 2004 and 2011 California State Coastal Conservancy-Bay Area Ridge Trail grants.

Project Support

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council (Ridge Trail Council) continues to provide support for this designation.

FISCAL IMPACT

The General Manager’s recommendation has no immediate fiscal impact. Ridge Trail medallions, which have been provided free of charge from the Ridge Trail Council, will be installed by Land and Facilities department staff.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

This item was not previously reviewed by a Board committee. It is being brought directly to the Board to fulfill a long-standing grant fund commitment.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. Members of the public on the El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve interested parties list were also notified.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

While the designation of the Oljon Trail as a segment of the Ridge Trail is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the construction of the Oljon Trail and its designation as part of the Ridge Trail were previously identified and analyzed under the El Corte de Madera Parking/Staging Area and Trail Project IS/MND (2010).

NEXT STEPS

Following Board approval of this designation, staff will implement the designation of the Oljon Trail as a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, including:

- Updating District maps and website;
- Installing Ridge Trail medallions on trail signposts; and
- Preparing an update for the Quarterly Newsletter.

Concurrently, the Ridge Trail Council will work to formally designate the Oljon Trail according to their internal processes. Ridge Trail Council staff will draft a memo stating the trail's designation and multi-use status, as well as the District's commitment to its long-term stewardship. The Ridge Trail Council's Executive Committee approved the Oljon Trail's designation at their November 12, 2020 meeting.

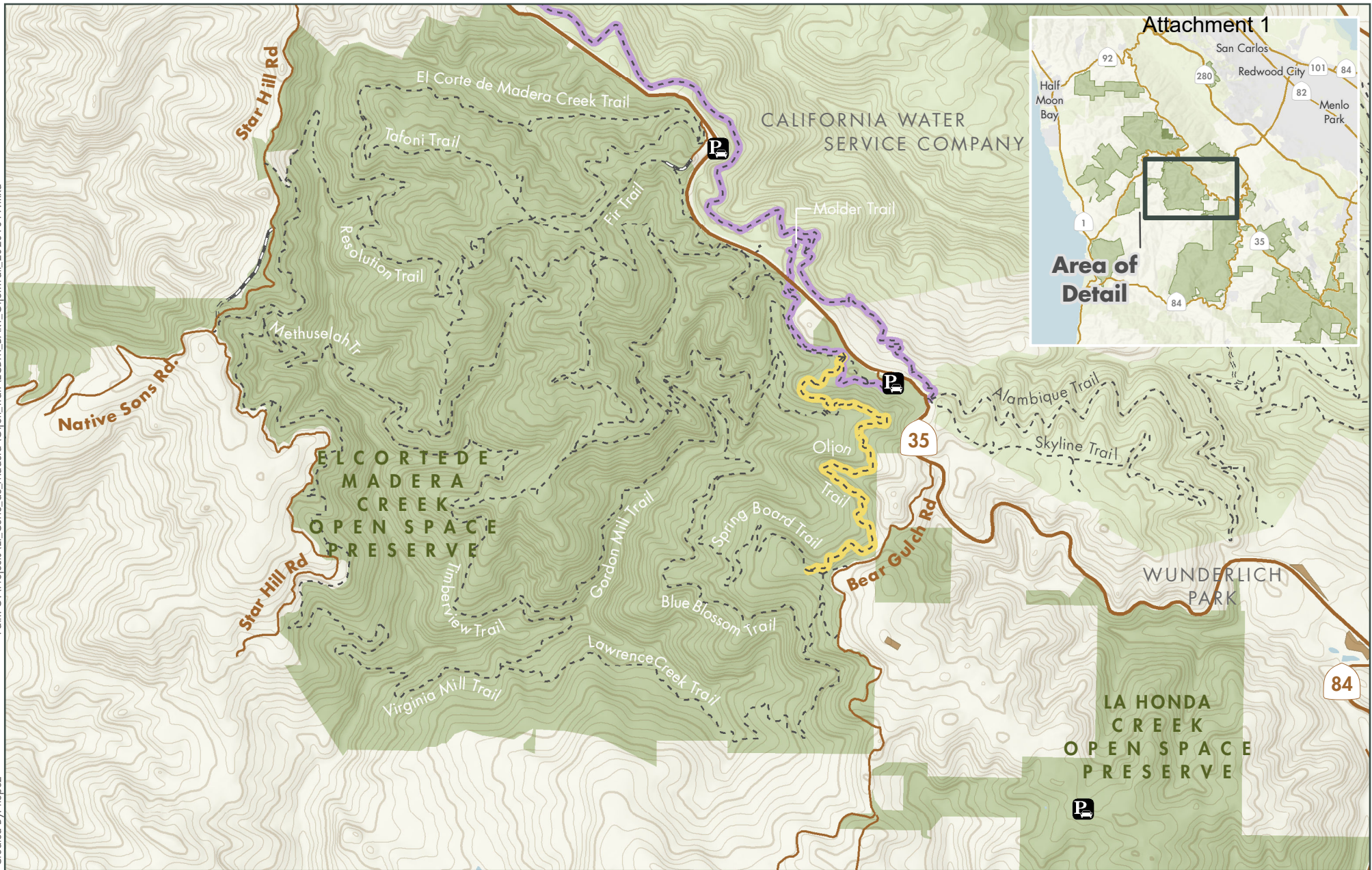
Attachment)

1. Map of the Oljon Trail and Regional Bay Area Ridge Trail
2. Resolution 04-39
3. Resolution 11-38

Responsible Department Head:
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Prepared by:
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Graphics prepared by:
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Bay Area Ridge Trail Designation of the Oljon Trail at El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|  | MROSD Preserves |  | Oljon Trail |
|  | Other Protected Lands |  | Dedicated Bay Area Ridge Trail |
|  | Private Property | | |

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(Midpen)
11/23/2020



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RESOLUTION NO. 04 - 39

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM
THE BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL – COASTAL CONSERVANCY
PROPOSITION 40 GRANTS PROGRAM FOR
PLANNING AND DESIGN OF PUBLIC ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS AT
EL CORTE DE MADERA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

WHEREAS, the voters of California passed Proposition 40, the 2.6 billion "California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002", providing matching funds to the State of California and its appointees for acquiring lands and developing facilities for public outdoor recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the State Coastal Conservancy and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council is responsible for administration of the program within the State, setting up necessary rules and procedures governing application by local agencies under the program; and

WHEREAS, said adopted procedures established by the State Coastal Conservancy and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of applications, the acceptance of the grant if awarded, and execution of the grant contract and related documents; and

WHEREAS, the project is compatible with the intention of the grant program to encourage government agencies to plan new segments of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District hereby:

Approves the filing of an application for Bay Area Ridge Trail Council – Coastal Conservancy assistance; and

Certifies that said agency has matching funds from Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's General Fund and can finance 100 percent of the project, half of which will be reimbursed; and

Certifies that the project is compatible with the land use plans of those jurisdictions immediately surrounding the project; and

Appoints the General Manager as agent of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to conduct all negotiations and execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, billing statements, and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

* * * * *

RESOLUTION NO 11-38**RESOLUTION OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE
DISTRICT APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM
THE STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY**

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has established the State Coastal Conservancy ("Conservancy") under Division 21 of the California Public Resources Code, and has authorized the Conservancy to award grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to implement the provisions of Division 21; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy awards grants for projects that it determines are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code and with the Conservancy's Strategic Plan and that best achieve the Conservancy's statutory objectives, in light of limited funding; and

WHEREAS, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District ("applicant") has applied for or intends to apply for Conservancy grant funding for the El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve Staging Area and Trails Project ("the project"); and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy encourages applicants for grant funding to certify through a resolution the applicant's approval of the application and of certain listed assurances at the time of submission of an application to the Conservancy for an award of grant funds; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the project(s);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for funding by the Conservancy; and
2. Certifies that said applicant has or will have sufficient funds to complete and, following completion, to operate and maintain any property acquired under the project or to operate and maintain any facilities funded as part of the project for a reasonable period, not less than the useful life of the facilities; and
3. Agrees to provide any funds beyond the Conservancy grant funds necessary to complete the project; and

4. Authorizes the General Manager to act as a representative of the applicant and to negotiate and execute on behalf of the grantee all agreements and instruments including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the project and to comply with the Conservancy's grant requirements, including, without limitation; and

5. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-38

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on December 14, 2011, at a Special and Regular Meeting thereof, by the following vote:

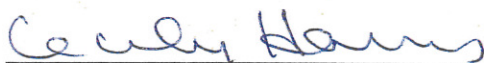
AYES: KISHIMOTO, RIFFLE, SIEMENS, HANKO, HARRIS, CYR AND HASSETT

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ATTEST:



Secretary
Board of Directors

APPROVED:



President
Board of Directors

I, the District Clerk of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District by the above vote at a meeting thereof duly held and called on the above day.



District Clerk