



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

# Memorandum

DATE: May 25, 2022

MEMO TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Ana Ruiz, General Manager *AR*

FROM: Craig Beckman, Area Manager

SUBJECT: Norton Deck demolition in Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve due to deteriorating conditions

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The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District purchased the former Norton property as an addition to Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve in 1992. At the time of acquisition there was a wooden observation deck with built-in wood benches. The acquisition report stated:

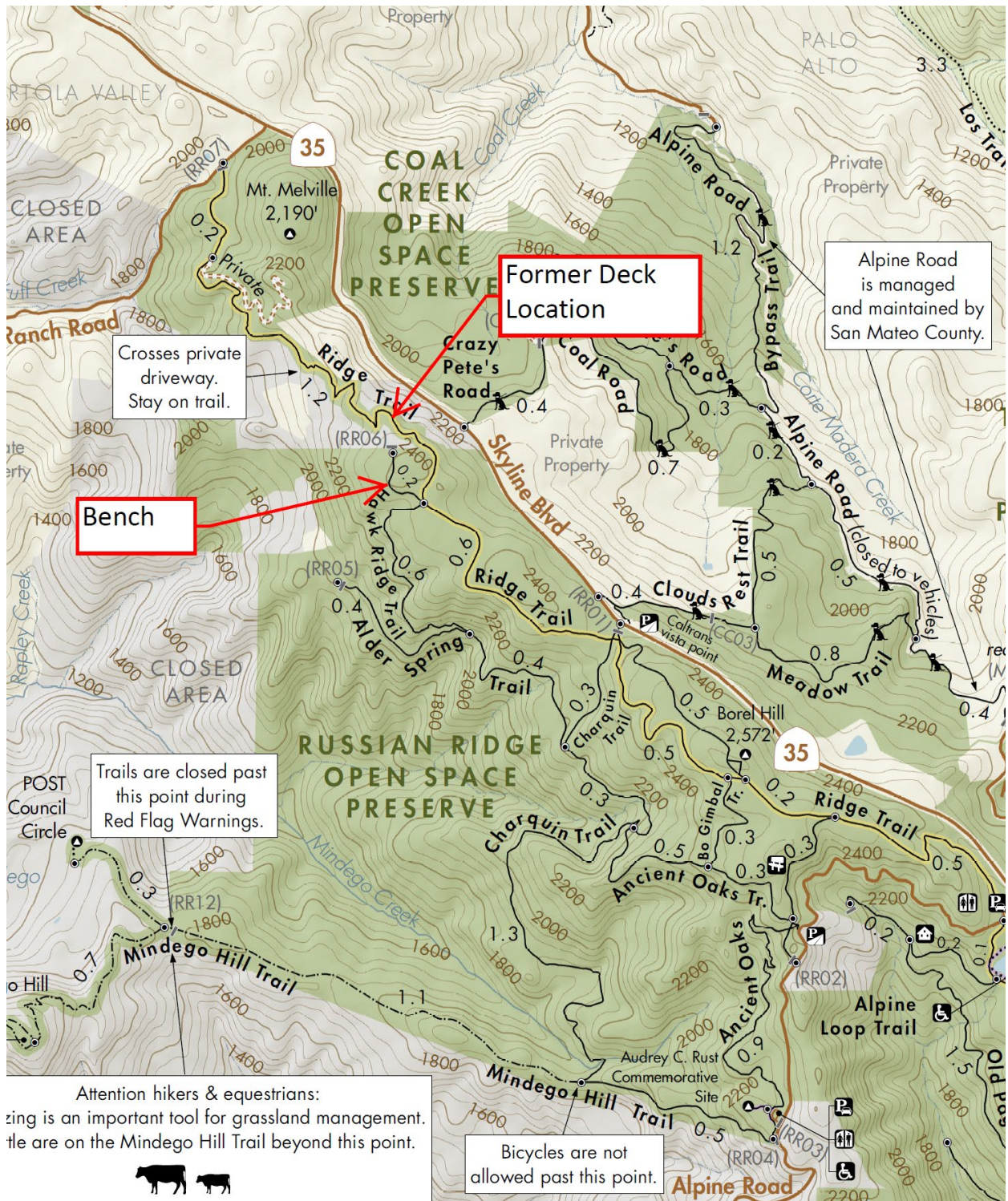
*Structures: Cooperate with sellers in developing their plans to secure and maintain water system, landscape sculpture, and fences and gates necessary to protect privacy; maintain observation deck and remove when it falls into disrepair and becomes hazardous.*

The deck recently reached the end of its useful life. There was significant rot in the support beams and bench supports. Railings did not meet building code and there were parts of the deck that were 4 to 5 feet above the ground. Rebuilding the deck would require a significant amount of time and effort to get it permitted, ADA accessible, and meet current building code requirements.

Visitors often stopped by the deck as a lunch or break spot. Docent hikes occasionally visited the deck. The location had a nice view to the west toward the coast. In 2009, an Eagle Scout project replaced some of the deck and bench boards to keep it functional. Separately, there is a bench that remains just south of the former deck on a spur off the Ridge Trail.

Due to the deteriorating condition of the deck and potential safety hazards, it was demolished earlier this year. Staff recently received a few public comments from visitors about how much they miss the deck. Staff will investigate whether the site can accommodate a District standard picnic table that meets ADA accessibility standards to replace the former use of the deck. If deemed feasible, the District will install a picnic bench in the fall of 2022 (potentially as an Eagle Scout project).

Attached are photos and map showing the prior deck and its location.





*1 View of deck*



*2--Same view after deck removed*



3 *View from deck*



4 *Vandalism to bench December 2021*