



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-22-108
Meeting 22-23
September 28, 2022

AGENDA ITEM 5

AGENDA ITEM

Grant Agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy through their Wildfire Resilience Program

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the General Manager to enter into a grant funding agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy for up to \$1,080,000 in funds from their Wildfire Resilience Program.

SUMMARY

The General Manager recommends that the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board of Directors (Board) adopt a resolution (Attachment 1 – Resolution) authorizing the General Manager as a signatory to enter into a grant funding agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) for \$1,080,000 from their Wildfire Resilience Grant Program. The Conservancy announced the opportunity in December 2021 to solicit projects that improve natural lands and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. The Conservancy has a total of \$10 million for planning and implementation projects with a total of \$5 million available for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

The Conservancy invited the District to submit a full application on May 16, 2022 following a successful pre-application for the District's Wildland Fire Resiliency Program (WFRP) Implementation Capacity Project ("Project") that was submitted on January 14, 2022. The Conservancy previously awarded the District \$400,000 on June 7, 2021 to support early implementation of the WFRP. This report provides a description of the new Conservancy grant funding source and the District's WFRP project that is eligible for this grant funding.

DISCUSSION

On April 13, 2021, the Governor signed a bill ([SB 85](#)) passed by the state legislature authorizing a [\\$536 million](#) Early Action Wildfire Package. Of this authorization, \$12M was allocated to the Conservancy. The Conservancy solicited "ready-to-implement" projects that reduce the risk of wildfire on public and protected lands through an initial round for the Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Program. The District was selected for a \$400,000 award from the program to implement fuel management treatments on approximately 114.7 acres in 11 District preserves through September 30, 2022.

The Conservancy has since received a block grant from the Department of Conservation's Regional Fire and Forest Health Capacity program, the California Climate Initiative Program (also known as Cap and Trade), Proposition 68, and Proposition 84. This new block grant will

fund projects through the [Wildfire Resilience Program](#), which has an over-arching goal of building organizational capacity at the local and regional levels to implement forest health and fire risk reduction projects. The District submitted a new proposal for \$1,080,000 through the recent grant solicitation cycle that opened in December 2021.

The District's new grant proposal calls for ecologically-sensitive fuel management/vegetation treatments on 200 acres of District lands in San Mateo County. The proposal includes treatments at Russian Ridge and Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserves along a known community escape route that extends from Highway 35 to Portola State Park Road, as well as treatments at Windy Hill Open Space Preserve along a known community escape route that extends along Alpine Road to Willowbrook Drive (refer to Attachment 2 – Project Area Maps for a map showing all treatment locations). Specific locations for fuel treatment were determined by the criteria laid out in the WFRP, including the presence of special status species that can be further protected through the removal of invasive or fire prone species, areas that enhance and facilitate fire suppression activities, and/or zones recommended by state or local fire management agencies.

If funds are secured, District staff would oversee and manage the implementation of the proposed priority vegetation management work (e.g., shaded fuel break, defensible space, ecosystem resiliency). The on-the-ground treatments would be completed by a combination of Land & Facilities staff, San Jose Conservation Corps crews, and outside contractors. The Project proposal also includes funding support for high priority fire equipment purchases and consultant work to support the District's development of a prescribed burn plan for the WFRP.

Contingent upon Board authorization and with approval by the Conservancy Board on September 22, 2022, District staff are prepared to execute a funding agreement and begin implementation of the Project starting upon notice to proceed from the Conservancy.

FISCAL IMPACT

This funding opportunity would have a positive impact of up to \$1,080,000.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW

The proposed action has not been previously reviewed by the Board or a Committee. District staff have brought the following items for Board and Committee Review concerning environmental review for the proposed grant-funded activities and a previous related grant:

- **May 12, 2021:** Board certified the final WFRP Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and adopted the WFRP ([R-21-58](#), [minutes](#)).
- **June 23, 2021:** Board adopted a resolution authorizing the General Manager to enter into a grant funding agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy for \$400,000 in Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Program funding ([R-21-20](#), [minutes](#)).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The acceptance of grant funding is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The forest health and wildland fire management activities to be completed in the 11 open space preserves include mechanized, handwork treatment, and limited chemical application and are consistent with the WFRP EIR certified by the Board on May 12, 2021. District staff will incorporate the associated mitigation measures and BMPs from the environmental review documents into the project and the contract documents.

NEXT STEPS

If approved by the Board, the General Manager will execute a funding agreement with the Conservancy.

Attachments:

1. State Coastal Conservancy Funding Resolution.
2. Project Area Maps.

Responsible Department Head:

Stefan Jaskulak, Chief Financial Officer, Administrative Services

Prepared by:

Deborah Hirst, Grants Program Manager, Administrative Services

RESOLUTION NO. 22-XX

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT APPROVING
THE GRANT OF FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE COASTAL
CONSERVANCY FOR THE WILDLAND FIRE RESILIENCY PROGRAM
IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY PROJECT**

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 the public agencies and nonprofit organizations to implement the Provisions of Division 21; and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy invited Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (“District”) to submit a full grant application for funding under the Wildfire Resilience Program on March 18, 2022 for the Wildland Fire Resiliency Program Implementation Capacity Project (“Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Conservancy encourages applicants for grant funding to certify through a resolution the applicant’s approval of the application to the Conservancy for an award of grant funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the applicant hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for funding by the Conservancy.
2. Authorizes any of the following named officers or employees of the applicant or any person holding any of the following positions with the applicant to act as a representative of the applicant and to negotiate and execute on behalf of the grantee all agreements and instruments necessary to comply with the Conservancy's grant requirements, including, without limitation, the grant agreement: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District General Manager and General Counsel.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on _____, 2022, at a regular meeting thereof, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Karen Holman, Secretary
Board of Directors

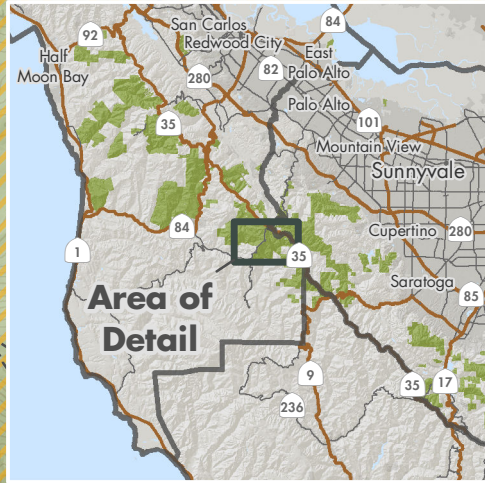
Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, President
Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Hilary Stevenson, General Counsel

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.

Jennifer Woodworth, District Clerk







RIDGE
SPACE
ERVE




MONTE BELLO
OPEN SPACE
PRESERVE

SKYLINE RIDGE
OPEN SPACE
PRESERVE

LONG RIDGE
OPEN SPACE
PRESERVE

State Coastal Conservancy - WFRP - Implementation Capacity Project Russian Ridge and Skyline Ridge Preserves

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Project areas |  Complete or annual vegetation management |
|  Midpen preserves |  Current vegetation management |
|  Future vegetation management | |

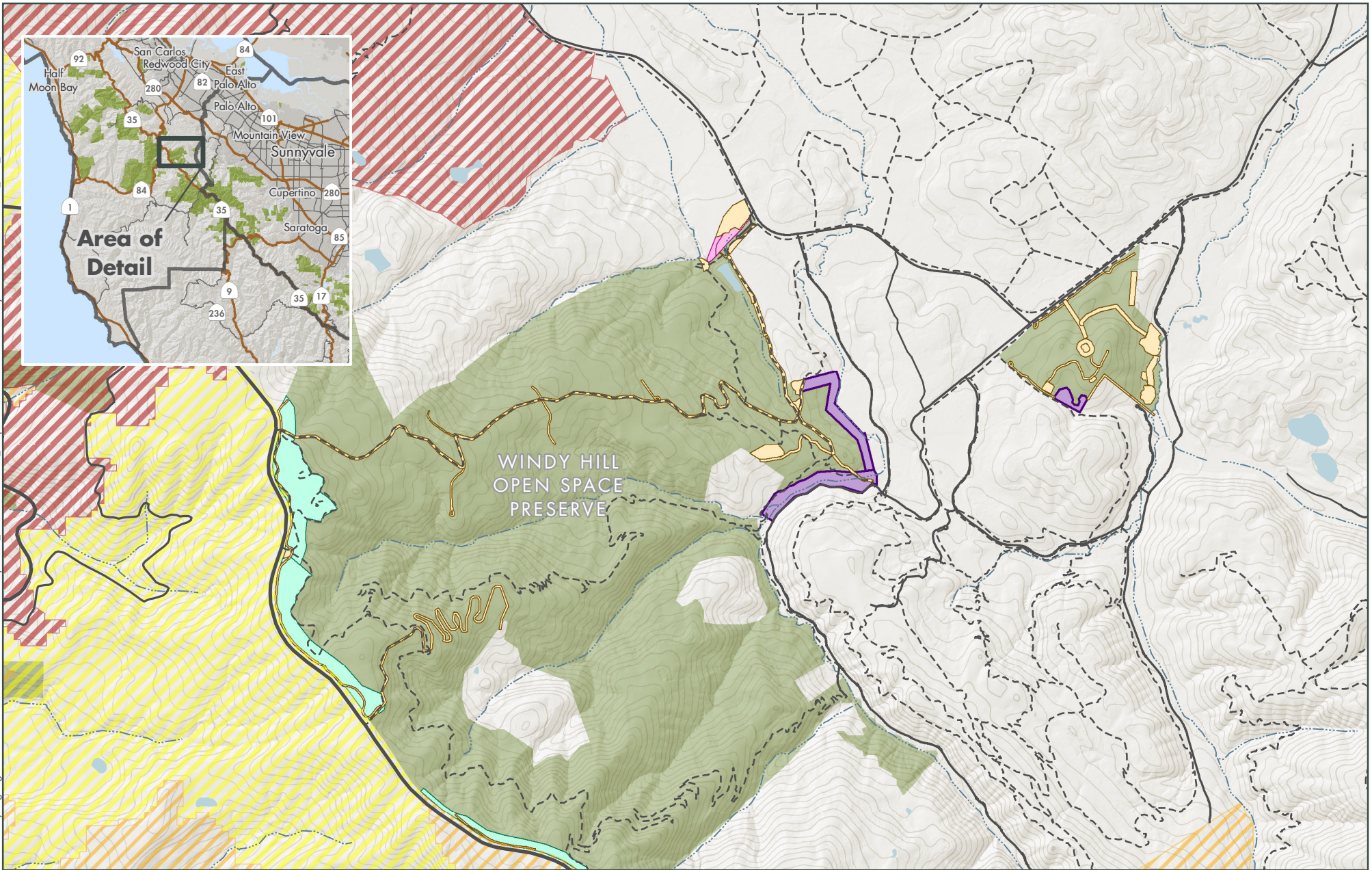
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|  Very High FHSZ |
|  High FHSZ |
|  Moderate FHSZ |

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(Midpen)
5/5/2022



Miles
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State Coastal Conservancy - WFRP - Implementation Capacity Project Windy Hill Preserve

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Project areas | Complete or annual vegetation management |
| Midpen preserves | Current vegetation management |
| Future vegetation management | |

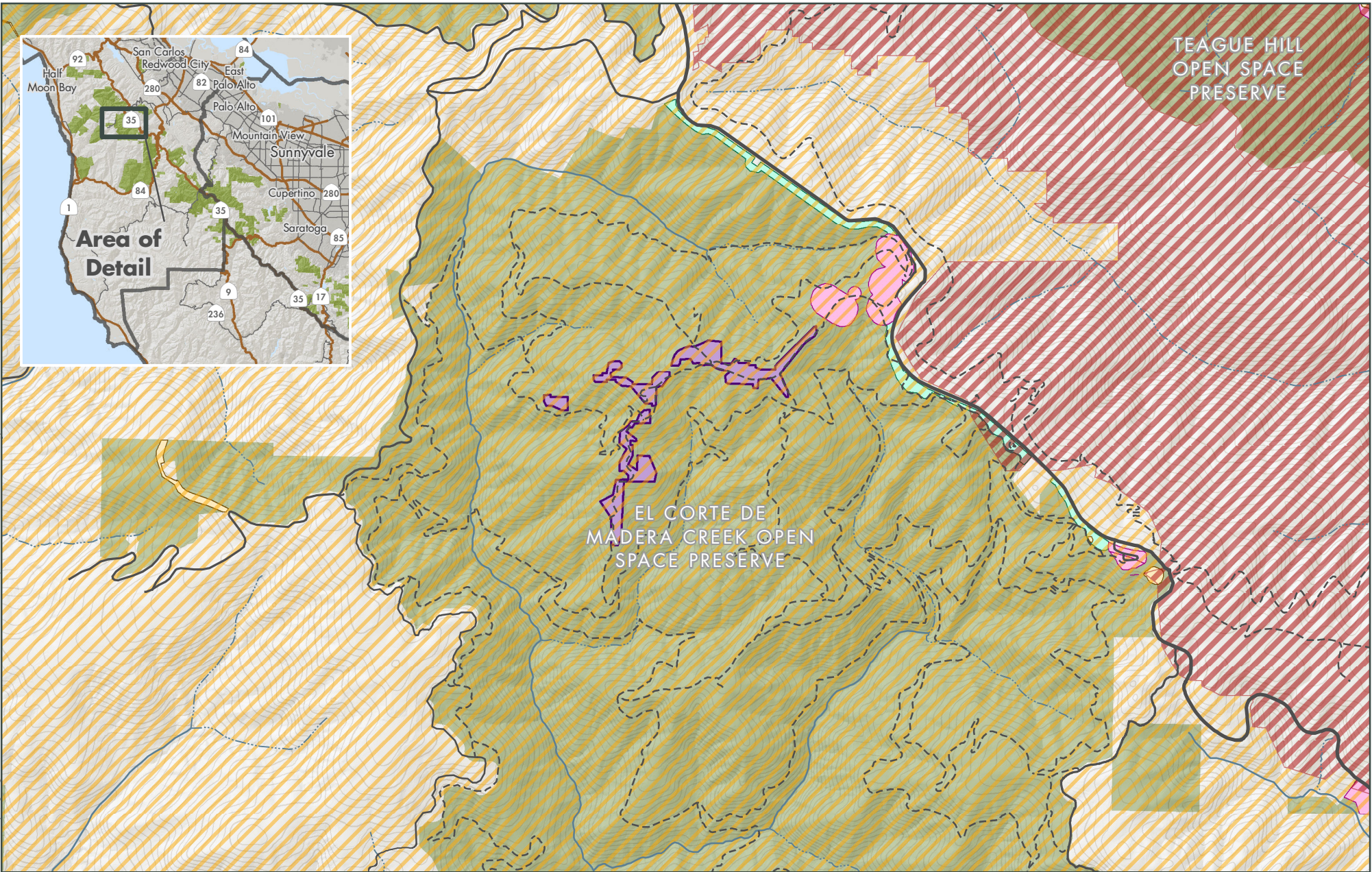
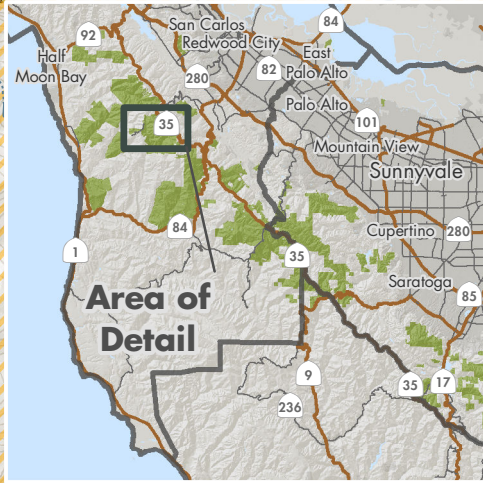
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| Very High FHSZ |
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Midpeninsula Regional
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Miles
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State Coastal Conservancy - WFRP - Implementation Capacity Project El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve

- Project areas
- Complete or annual vegetation management
- Midpen preserves
- Current vegetation management
- Future vegetation management

- Very High FHSZ
- High FHSZ
- Moderate FHSZ

Midpeninsula Regional
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(Midpen)
5/5/2022



While the District strives to use the best available digital data, these data do not represent a legal survey and are merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.