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Midpen Open Space receives award for innovation in using technology to protect essential workers

Los Altos, CA — The Municipal Information Systems Association of California recently awarded its 2020 Innovation Award to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Midpen received the award for the design and development of a COVID-19 Health Check application created to streamline required daily self-health checks.

The app allows employees to self-report their health status based on a digital checklist of Centers of Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, immediately and automatically reporting results to the employee's supervisor. The app is easy to use on any device and employee privacy is ensured because details and data are not shared or saved.

"While the majority of Midpen staff were able to pivot to remote work, many essential workers such as rangers and facility staff have needed to report onsite," said Midpen's IST Manager, Casey Hiatt. "Developing this custom solution allowed us to quickly and inexpensively implement a streamlined solution for our staff."

The application has been used daily by Midpen's 100 essential workers since mid-March. IST staff can easily update the checklist as CDC guidelines change. The Midpen COVID-19 Health Check Application is open source and is available to any organization upon request.

This is the second year in a row that Midpen has been awarded the Innovation Award. In 2019, Midpen won the award for development and implementation of the Project Central project management system, a scalable, efficient information-sharing system connecting across departments including remote offices and providing key project information to the executive team at a glance.

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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 since 1972.

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