



MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

La Honda Creek Preserve Parking and Trailhead Access Feasibility Study

La Honda Public Access Working Group
March 5, 2020



Purpose of Forming the Working Group

- Forum for Board members, community and stakeholders to interact and discuss the project
- Local, community perspectives
- District-wide, ward, user group perspectives
- Input to project team, Planning and Natural Resources Committee, and Board on parking and trailhead access alternatives that meet project goals



Charge and Responsibilities of the Working Group

Charge

- Work with the District project team to evaluate option(s) for potential to meet project goals and objectives and recommend option(s) for PNR and Board to forward into feasibility study phase

Responsibilities

- Work with and provide input to District staff
- Understand goals, opportunities, constraints, challenges
- Evaluate parking location/trailhead options to expand accessibility to the central area of the Preserve while meeting the Board-approved project goals and objectives
- Represent Board, community, and stakeholder interests and values
- Provide a forum for Board members to work with Working Group members
- Provide feedback to the Planning and Natural Resources Committee



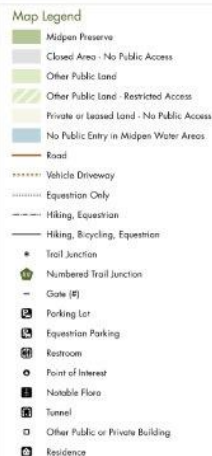
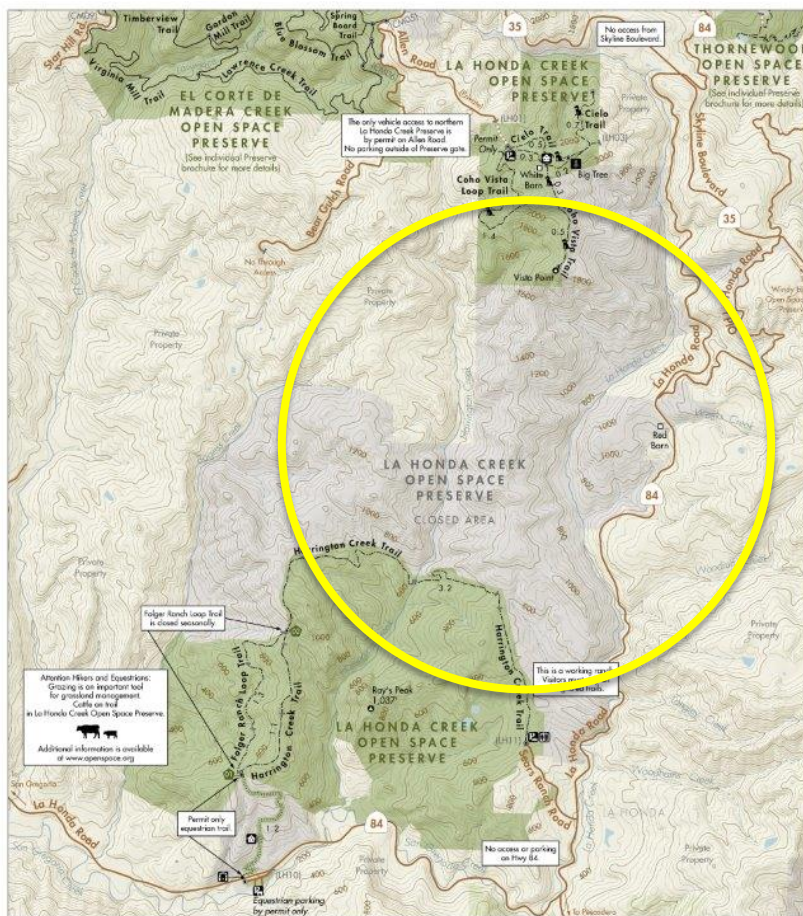
La Honda Parking and Trailhead Access Feasibility Study

Project Goals and Objectives

- ✿ Establish new public access in the central portion of the Preserve.
- ✿ Design elements to reflect the rural character of the site and the Red Barn.
- ✿ Provide safe public access.
- ✿ Balance public access with grazing activities.
- ✿ Include amenities that facilitate environmental education.
- ✿ Protect scenic views of and from the site.



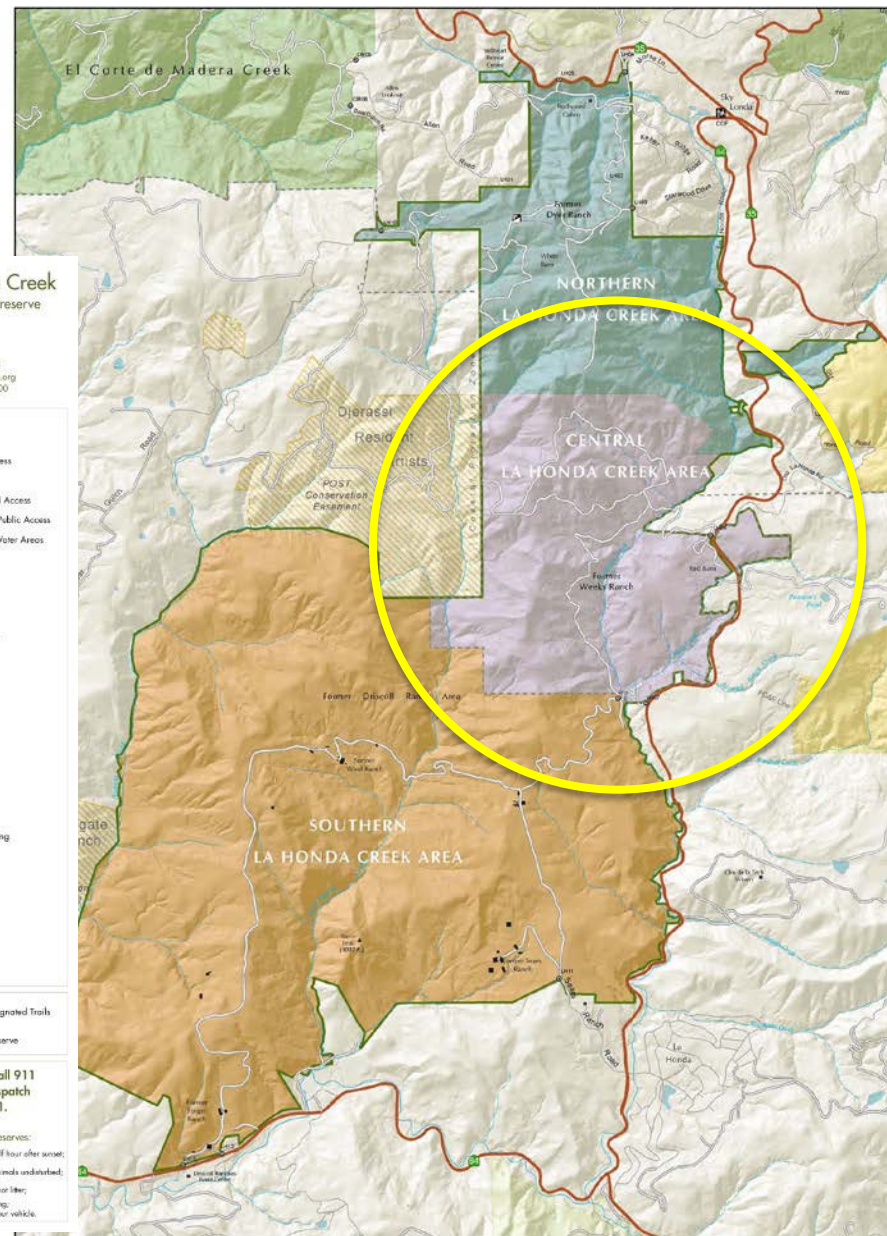
Central Closed Area of Preserve



Dogs on leash Permitted on Designated Trails
Bicycles not permitted in this Preserve

In case of emergency, call 911 or 24-hour Ranger Dispatch at (650) 968-4411.

For your safety, and the protection of the preserves:
The preserve is open from dawn until one-half hour after sunset.
Please leave natural features, plants, and animals undisturbed.
Pack it in, pack it out please do not litter.
Auto burnables are increasing.
Take vehicles with you and lock your vehicle.



La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

Map Projection: UTM Zone 18Q, NAD 1983
Data Sources: U.S.G.S., County of San Mateo, and SANMATA
Map Printed November 2002



Exhibit 2-4: Preserve Areas



Preserve Brochure

www.openspace.org

2012 La Honda Master Plan





Schedule

Date	Location	Task/Milestone
August 22, 2019		Kick off
September 12, 2019		Orientation and background
October 19, 2019		Site Tour #1
November 16, 2019		Site Tour #2 – PAWVG-suggested sites
December 12, 2019		Discussion of sites/options
February 6, 2020		Determination of sites/options to forward to PNR
March 5, 2020	330 Distel Circle, Los Altos	Continuation of February meeting – determination of sites/options to forward to PNR
April 21, 2020 (targeted)	Woodside Town Hall	Planning and Natural Resources Committee
May 14, 2020 (tentative, if needed)	330 Distel Circle, Los Altos	Respond to PNR feedback (if needed)
June 16, 2020 (tentative, if needed)	TBD (school closed)	Planning and Natural Resources Committee (if needed)
July or Aug 2020	330 Distel Circle, Los Altos	Board Meeting (pending outcome of PNR meeting(s))



Agenda

🌿 Welcome / Agenda Overview

🌿 Working Group Business

1. Public comment
2. Review and approve prior February 6th meeting summary
3. Overview of District Interpretation & Education Program
4. Recap of February 6th PAWVG meeting
5. Public comment
6. Discussion and selection of recommendations
7. Closing comments

🌿 Adjournment

Public Comment

Meeting Summary

District Interpretation & Education Program

Renée Fitzsimons, Program Manager





District Interpretive and Education Program

- Environmental education and interpretation
- Public engagement on Preserves:
 - Natural and cultural history, ecology, District initiatives
- Three different programs
 - Docent Naturalist; Quarterly interpretive activities
200+ interpretive activities/year; ~ 2,500 participants
 - Nature Center Docent: Daniels Nature Center, Skyline Ridge OSP
Weekend hosts for 3,400+ visitors
 - Outdoor Education Docents: *Spaces & Species* Field Trips; also
Provide 3rd-5th grade school field trips @ Daniels Nature Center; plus high
school field trips @ Purisima Creek Redwoods

• Request Activities

Education • Inspiration • Stewardship • Engagement • Appreciation

Recap of Feb 6th Meeting



Site Options

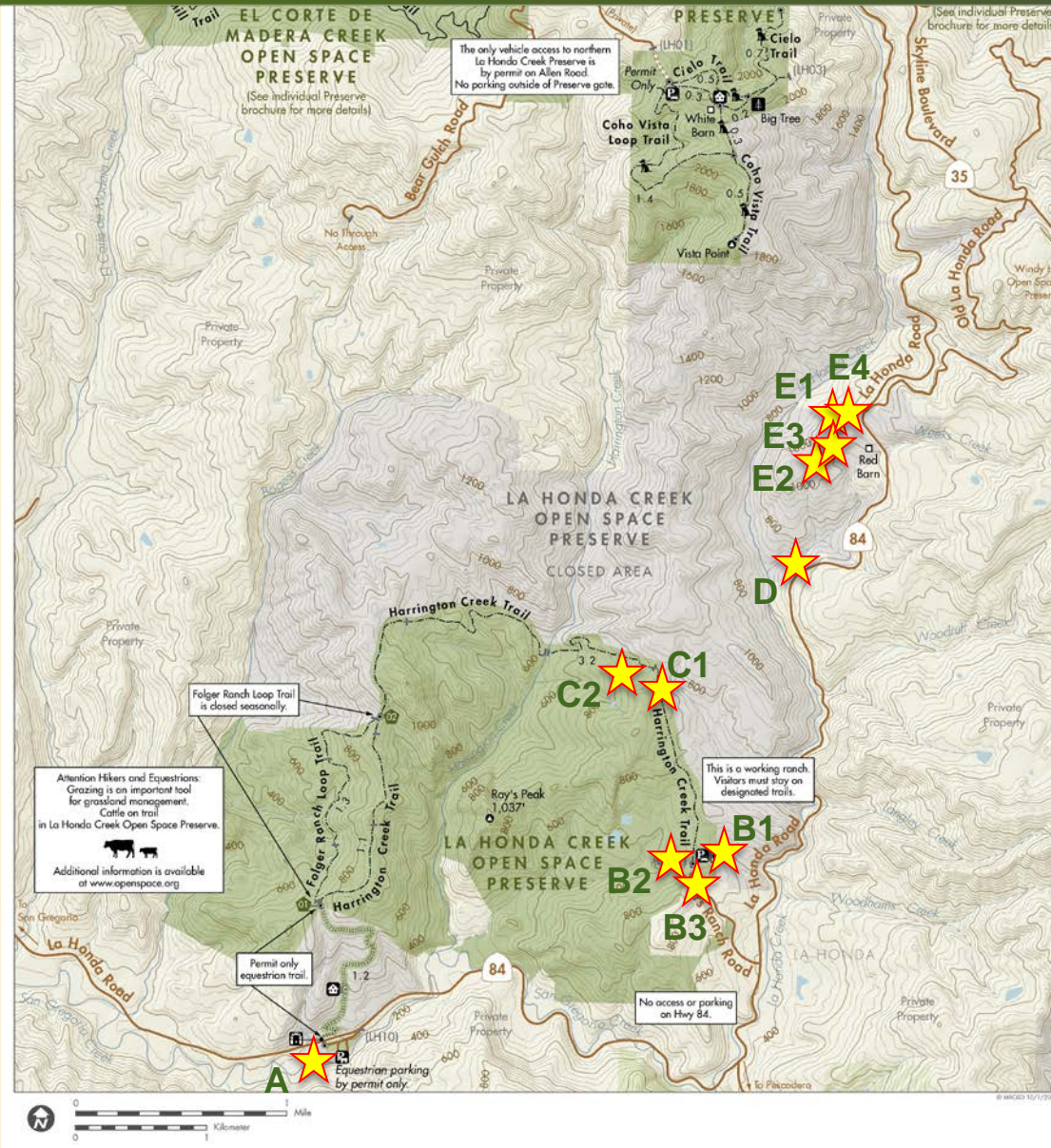
A: Event Center

B1, B2, & B3:
Sears Ranch Road
Parking Area

C1 & C2: Sears
Ranch Road Former
Residence Area (1 mile
north)

D: Preserve Gate
LH07

**E1, E2, E3, &
E4:** Red Barn Area
(E4 new site suggested
on February 6th)



**OPEN
SPACE**

For More Information
Visit www.openspace.org
or call (650) 691-1200

Map Legend

- Midpen Preserve
- Closed Area - No Public Access
- Other Public Land
- Other Public Land - Restricted Access
- Private or Leased Land - No Public Access
- No Public Entry in Midpen Water Areas
- Road
- Vehicle Driveway
- Equestrian Only
- Hiking, Equestrian
- Hiking, Bicycling, Equestrian
- Trail Junction
- Numbered Trail Junction
- Gate (#)
- Parking Lot
- Equestrian Parking
- Restroom
- Point of Interest
- Notable Flora
- Tunnel
- Other Public or Private Building
- Residence

Dogs on Leash Permitted on Designated Trails

Bicycles not permitted in this Preserve

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Pack it in, pack it out please do not litter;

Auto burglaries are increasing:
Take valuables with you and lock your vehicle.



PAWG Level of Support for Site Options

	A Event Center	B1 Sears Expansion of Existing Lot	B2 Sears West of Parking Lot	B3 Sears Preserve Gate LH15	C1 Sears Former Residence Area	C2 Sears Former Cattle Corral Area	D Preserve Gate LH07	E1 Red Barn Area Behind Ranger Residence	E2 Red Barn Area Corral Area Below and West	E3 Red Barn Area Shed Below Residence
Bordi	2	6	1	1	5	1	3	6	6	6
Delay*	1	5	2	6	3	1	5	6	6	6
Heinrich	6	3	3	2	5	5	1	6	6	4
Hooper	1	5	1	6	5	5	6	6	6	6
Lusebrink	1	2	3	2	6	6	4	3	6	3
Moazed	3	1	3	1	1	1	5	6	6	6
Moore	2	4	1	4	1	1	5	6	6	5
Phillips	3	2	3	3	6	6	3	2	6	2
Reed	2	3	5	2	6	6	1	6	5	1
Sommer	5	5	3	3	2	2	1	4	6	2
Wool	6	5	4	3	6	6	3	6	6	1
# Scores 1-4	8	6	10	9	4	5	7	3	0	6
# Scores 5-6	3	5	1	2	7	6	4	8	11	5

🌱 Scores between 1 and 4 are supportive

🌱 Scores between 5 and 6 are not supportive

* A. Delay scores received 2/26/2020



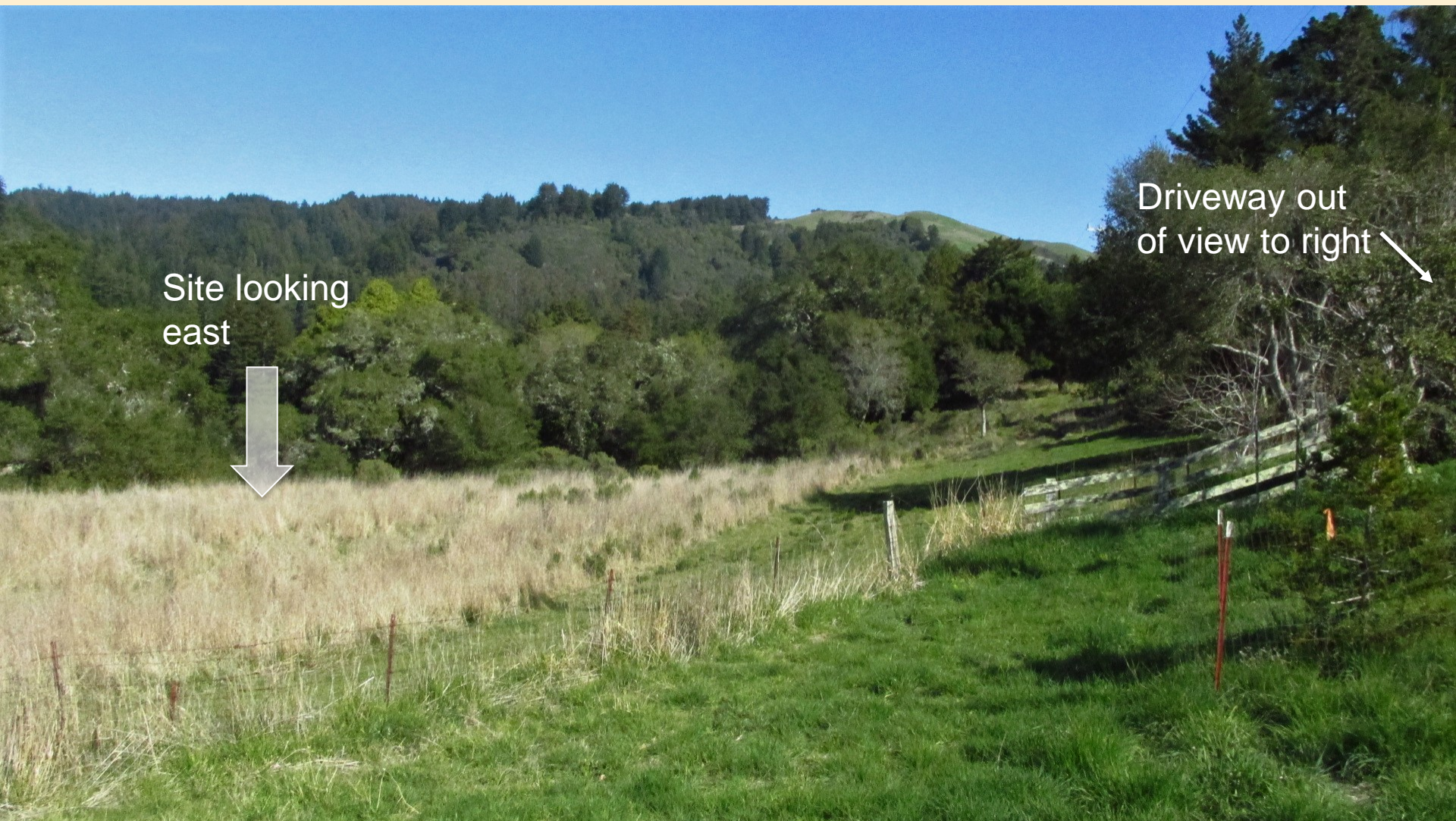
E4. Red Barn Area – Close Up of Area north of Ranger Residence



E4. Red Barn Area – Area north of Ranger Residence



E4. Red Barn Area – Area north of Ranger Residence





Discuss E4 with Goals and Objectives

Project Specific Site Assessment Criterion	E4
Establish new public access in the central portion of La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve	
Design elements to reflect the rural character of the site and the Red Barn	
Provide safe public access	
Balance public access with grazing activities and other uses	
Include amenities that facilitate environmental education	
Protect scenic views of and from the site	



Other Options or Iterations

(Homework: Score to Indicate Level of Support)

Option or Iteration	A Event Ctr	B1 Sears Expansion of Existing Lot	B2 Sears West of Parking Lot	B3 Sears Preserve Gate LH15	C1 Sears Former Residence Area	C2 Sears Former Cattle Corral Area	D Preserve Gate LH07	E1 Red Barn Area Behind Ranger Residence	E2 Red Barn Area Corral Area Below and West	E3 Red Barn Area Shed Below Residence
Permit only										
Docent led hikes										
Distribution of Use: <i>Education/ Interpretation</i>										
Distribution of Use: <i>Picnic/family</i>										
Distribution of Use: <i>Restrooms</i>										
Distribution of Use: <i>Equestrian</i>										
Distribution of Use: <i>Dog access</i>										

- 🌿 Limited access to reduce trips to and from site
- 🌿 Separation and distribution of use to meet project goals
- 🌿 Other iterations besides these?

Level of Support Summary for Other Options and Iterations

Option or Iteration	A Event Ctr	B1 Sears Expansion of Existing Lot	B2 Sears West of Parking Lot	B3 Sears Preserve Gate LH15	C1 Sears Former Residence Area	C2 Sears Former Cattle Corral Area	D Preserve Gate LH07	E1 Red Barn Area Behind Ranger Residence	E2 Red Barn Area Corral Area Below and West	E3 Red Barn Area Shed Below Residence	E4 Area North of Residence
Permit only	✓				✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	
Docent led hikes	✓						✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Distribution of Use: Education/ Interpretation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Distribution of Use: Picnic/family	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Distribution of Use: Restrooms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Distribution of Use: Equestrian	✓	✓	✓	✓			✗	✗		✗	✗
Distribution of Use: Dog access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✗

Legend: ✓ Majority supportive
✗ Majority not supportive

Blank is not applicable or insufficient data

Public Comment

Break

Discussion and Selection of Recommendations



Overview of Discussion and Selection Process

- ✿ PAWVG appears to prefer Suites rather than standalone Sites
 - Confirm Suite approach or discuss other approach
 - If Suite approach confirmed, discuss which combinations to advance
- ✿ Discuss Suites 1, 2, and 3
 - Decide what to change and vote on level of support
- ✿ Discuss Suites 4 and 5
 - Decide what to change and vote on level of support
- ✿ Discuss other Suites to consider
- ✿ Vote on which 3 Suites to advance to PNR



Overview of Voting Process

- ✿ Voting members to vote on which Suites to recommend to PNR
- ✿ Target is to bring 3 Suites to PNR, 5 Suites max
- ✿ Scoring
 - Scores 1-4 are supportive
 - Scores 5-6 are not supportive
 - Simple majority of a quorum of voting members present
 - Suites with majority support would be recommended to be forwarded to the PNR – consensus not required
- ✿ All options and suites discussed during PAWG meetings would be provided as background material to PNR

Voting Using Gradients of Agreement

#	Level of Agreement
1	I can say an unqualified “yes” to the recommendation.
2	I find the proposal acceptable. It appears to be the best of the options available to us at this time.
3	I can live with the proposal, although I am not especially enthusiastic about it.
4	I do not fully agree with the proposal, but I am willing to stand aside, remain neutral, so the process can move forward.
5	I do not fully agree with the proposal. I have some suggestions and I would like the Working Group to do more work to see if we can reach a higher level of agreement.
6	I do not agree with the proposal and I will work actively to oppose it.



Suite #1

D Gate LH07

- small lot with restroom and trailhead, interpretive signage, e.g. about creek

BI Sears Ranch – Expansion of existing lot

- equestrian only

E3 Red Barn – Area by shed below ranger residence

- permit only
- clear access instructions
- minimally improved
- interpretive sign on grazing
- limit # of cars depending on day (potentially more permits issued on weekday because less traffic on Highway 84 vs weekend)



Suite #2

D Gate LH07

- permit lot with no restroom

B2 Sears Ranch – Site west of existing parking area

- equestrian parking

EI Red Barn – Area behind ranger residence

- docent only
- clear access instructions
- minimally improved



Suite #3

CI Sears Ranch – Former Residence

- gravel lot

B3 Sears Ranch – Gate LH15

- equestrian parking

E3 – Area by shed below ranger residence

- permit only
- clear access instructions
- minimally improved
- interpretive sign on grazing
- limit # of cars depending on day (potentially more permits issued on weekday because less traffic on Highway 84 vs weekend)



Suite #4

A Event Center

- full hiking and equestrian access following site planning study
- restroom, picnic, family-oriented short trail loops, dog access (habitat dependent)

B3 Sears Ranch – Gate LH15

- develop as equestrian permit lot

CI and/or C2 Sears Ranch – Former Residence / Cattle Corral

- central staging “hub”, “spoke” trails radiating outwards, and extend paved road
- restroom, family/picnic, short/easy access trails, education/interpretive

D Gate LH07

- small staging area (potential Ridge Trail staging area) and trailhead
- restroom, family/picnic, short trail loop, interpretive signage, upgrade creek bridge

E3 Red Barn – Area by shed below ranger residence

- initially permit / docent access only, limited vehicles, minimal improvements, existing driveways and gates
- feasibility study of Highway 84 speed reduction and safety modifications; if roadway speeds can be reduced to acceptably safe levels, consider area for full public access



Suite #5

BI OR B2 Sears Ranch— Expansion of or site west of existing parking area

- equestrian (and over-flow) parking – gravel or dirt lot
- multi-use access – hikers, cyclists, equestrians, dogs on leash

EI OR E4 Red Barn – Behind or adjacent/north of ranger residence

- docent-led hikes from Red Barn via MidPen provided transportation.
- interpretive sign on grazing for docent-led visits and those entering area from Allen Road and Sears Ranch Road trails
- minimally improved

D Gate LH07

- docent-led hikes from via MidPen provided transportation.
- minimally improved
- interpretive signage, e.g. about creek

A Event Center

- multi-use access – hikers, cyclists, equestrians, dogs on leash
- interpretative signage about ranching, grazing, rodeo history



Suite #6: Near-term Options

EI Red Barn

- Docent-led hikes from Red Barn via MidPen provided transportation
- Red Barn pull-out area (which already exists)
- Information about access to La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

A Event Center

- Permit only for hikers (in addition to equestrians)
- Docent-led hikes

BI Sears Ranch

- Docent-led or Permit hiking towards the La Honda Creek area (via La Honda Creek Loop Trail where the PAWG hiked on the November 16, 2019 site tour)

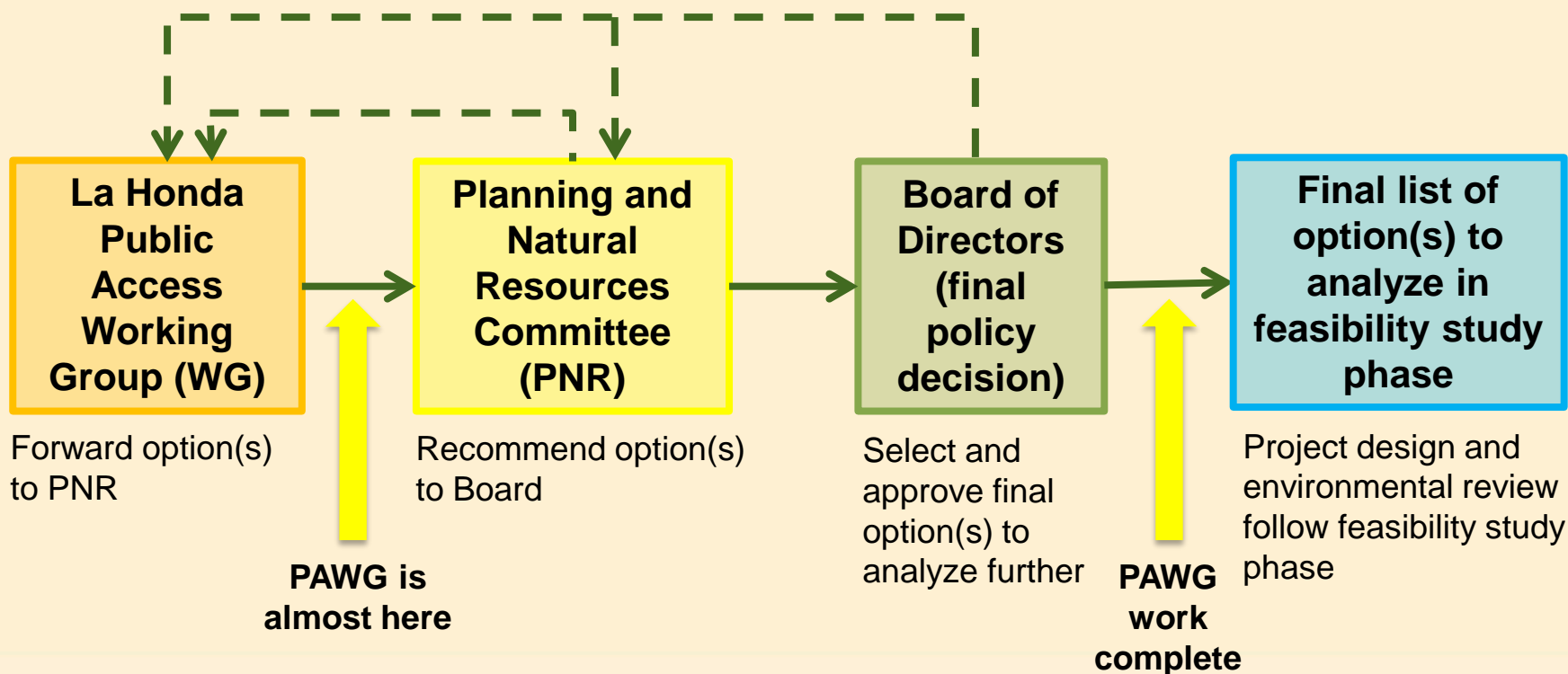


Other Suites?

✿ Are there other combinations to consider?

Closing Comments

Decision-Making Process





PAWVG Recommendations Report Preparation

- ✿ Chair and Vice-Chair assistance with report preparation
- ✿ Outline of report

Introduction

- Purpose and Charge
- Membership
- Project Goals and Objectives
- PAWVG Meeting Process
- Decision Making Process

Recommendations

- Suites of Options
- Site Options
- Other Options and Iterations



April 21 PNR Meeting

- ✿ Chair and Vice -Chair required attendance at PNR meeting
- ✿ Attendance of other PAWG members welcome but not mandatory
- ✿ New Meeting Location:
Woodside Town Hall
2955 Woodside Road
Woodside, CA 94062
- ✿ New Meeting Time:
1:30PM



Next Steps/Schedule

Date	Location	Task/Milestone
August 22, 2019		Kick off
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Thank you

