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

Preserve Brochure

www.openspace.org

2012 La Honda Master Plan
La Honda Public Access Working Group (WG)

Forward option(s) to PNR

PAWG is almost here

Planning and Natural Resources Committee (PNR)

Recommend option(s) to Board

Board of Directors (final policy decision)

Select and approve final option(s) to analyze further

Final list of option(s) to analyze in feasibility study phase

PAWG work complete

Project design and environmental review follow feasibility study phase
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Site Tour #2 – PAWG-suggested sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 12, 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion of sites/options</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 6, 2020</td>
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<td>Determination of sites/options to forward to PNR</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 5, 2020</td>
<td>330 Distel Circle, Los Altos</td>
<td>Continuation of February meeting – determination of sites/options to forward to PNR</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21, 2020</td>
<td>Woodside Town Hall</td>
<td>Planning and Natural Resources Committee</td>
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<td>May 14, 2020</td>
<td>330 Distel Circle, Los Altos</td>
<td>Respond to PNR feedback (if needed)</td>
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<td>July or Aug 2020</td>
<td>330 Distel Circle, Los Altos</td>
<td>Board Meeting (pending outcome of PNR meeting(s))</td>
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</table>
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 PAWG 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

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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)

www.openspace.org
# PAWG Level of Support for Site Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A Event Center</th>
<th>B1 Sears Expansion of Existing Lot</th>
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| # 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
NEW Site: E4. Red Barn Area – Area of Ranger Residence

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

E1. Site behind Ranger Residence

E2. Corral area below and west of Red Barn

E3. White shed area below Ranger Residence

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

Ranger residence and driveway

Site in distance looking west
E4. Red Barn Area – Area north of Ranger Residence

Site looking east

Driveway out of view to right
Discuss E4 with Goals and Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Specific Site Assessment Criterion</th>
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## Other Options or Iterations

(Homework: Score to Indicate Level of Support)

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- 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

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**Legend:**
- ✔ Majority supportive
- ✗ Majority not supportive
- Blank is not applicable or insufficient data

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Break
Discussion and Selection of Recommendations
Overview of Discussion and Selection Process

- **PAWG** 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

 대해서

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Level of Agreement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I can say an unqualified “yes” to the recommendation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>I find the proposal acceptable. It appears to be the best of the options available to us at this time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>I can live with the proposal, although I am not especially enthusiastic about it.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>I do not fully agree with the proposal, but I am willing to stand aside, remain neutral, so the process can move forward.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>I do not agree with the proposal and I will work actively to oppose it.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
D Gate LH07
- small lot with restroom and trailhead, interpretive signage, e.g. about creek

B1 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

E1 Red Barn – Area behind ranger residence
- docent only
- clear access instructions
- minimally improved
C1 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)
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

C1 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
B1 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

E1 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

E1 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

B1 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)
Are there other combinations to consider?
Closing Comments
La Honda Public Access Working Group (WG)

Planning and Natural Resources Committee (PNR)

Board of Directors (final policy decision)

Final list of option(s) to analyze in feasibility study phase

Forward option(s) to PNR

Recommend option(s) to Board

Select and approve final option(s) to analyze further

PAWG is almost here

PAWG work complete

Project design and environmental review follow feasibility study phase
Chair and Vice-Chair assistance with report preparation

Outline of report

Introduction

• Purpose and Charge
• Membership
• Project Goals and Objectives
• PAWG 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
<table>
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<tr>
<td>November 16, 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>Site Tour #2 – PAWG-suggested sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12, 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion of sites/options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 6, 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Determination of sites/options to forward to PNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5, 2020</td>
<td>330 Distel Circle, Los Altos</td>
<td>Continuation of February meeting – determination of sites/options to forward to PNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21, 2020</td>
<td>Woodside Town Hall</td>
<td>Planning and Natural Resources Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14, 2020</td>
<td>330 Distel Circle, Los Altos</td>
<td>Respond to PNR feedback (if needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 16, 2020</td>
<td>TBD (school closed)</td>
<td>Planning and Natural Resources Committee (if needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July or Aug 2020</td>
<td>330 Distel Circle, Los Altos</td>
<td>Board Meeting (pending outcome of PNR meeting(s))</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you