

Portfolio 25

Sierra Azul

Loma Prieta Area Public Access, Regional Trails and Habitat Projects



Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve (Erin Ashford for Midpen)

DESCRIPTION

- Provide public access and recreation, including small campground.
- Develop, improve and connect regional multiuse trails to Forest of Nisene Marks State Park, to protected land to the east, and to Mount Umunhum.
- Protect steelhead habitat, rare plants and grasslands, and restore knob cone pine stands.

Portfolio Allocation: \$7,986,000

Portfolio Expenditures Through 6/30/2023: \$2,398,668

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MAA25-001 Burton Land Acquisition

Prior Years

Purchased the 40-acre Burton/Robinson property to protect additional habitat within the Loma Prieta area.

MAA25-002 Billingsley Property Acquisition and Site Cleanup

Prior Years

Successfully bid the project and completed construction to remove site structures, metal shop, shipping containers and all associated debris from the site following the property purchase. Salvaged four existing water tanks and staged at an existing concrete pad for future use. Completed hazardous materials abatement, performed site grading and installed final erosion control.

Purchased the 130.23-acre Billingsley property as an addition to the Loma Prieta area of Sierra Azul Preserve to facilitate the future Mt. Umunhum to Sea regional trail corridor and eliminate an inholding to the Preserve.

Sent letters of intent and negotiations are occurring on a key 35-acre inholding property near the intersection of Mt. Umunhum Road and Loma Prieta Road.

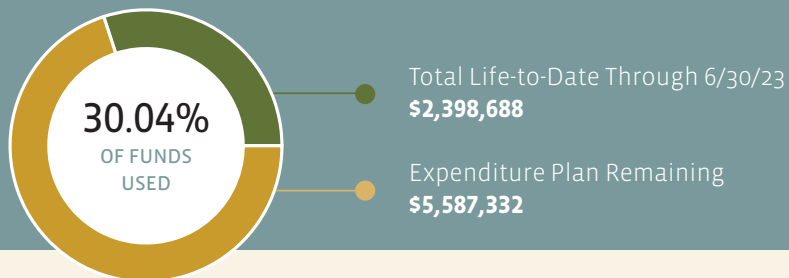
MAA25-003 Burton Property Site Cleanup

Prior Years

Successfully bid the project and completed the site cleanup, abating and removing two unpermitted structures, two horse corral structures and miscellaneous debris from across the site. Performed site grading and installed final erosion control.

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| Project | Expenditure Plan | Total Through Prior Period 6/30/22 | Current Period 7/1/22 Through 6/30/23 | Total Life-to-Date Through 6/30/23 | Expenditure Plan Remaining | Percent Expended |
|--|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Total Portfolio Allocation | \$7,986,000 | | | | | |
| 25-001—Burton Land Acquisition | | \$410,150 | \$0 | \$410,150 | | |
| 25-002—Billingsley Property Acquisition and Site Cleanup | | \$1,936,220 | \$0 | \$1,936,220 | | |
| 25-003—Burton Property Site Cleanup | | \$52,298 | \$0 | \$52,298 | | |
| Grand Total | \$7,986,000 | \$2,398,668 | \$0 | \$2,398,668 | \$5,587,332 | 30.04% |



PROJECT CHALLENGES

Land acquisition requires a willing seller.

Researchers discovered new population of Santa Cruz kangaroo rat, an imperiled species. Additional protection measures are being developed.

POTENTIAL NEXT STEPS

Finalize acquisition of land rights for the Umunhum to the Sea Trail connection to the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park.

Develop a Habitat and Population Management Plan for the Santa Cruz kangaroo rat, initiate CEQA review and prepare permit applications for habitat improvements.