



PUBLIC NOTICE:
INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION; AND NOTICE OF
AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT INITIAL STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Project Name: Highway 17 Wildlife and Regional Trail Crossings and Trail Connections

Description: The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen), in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), is proposing to construct a wildlife undercrossing and a separate regional multi-use trail overcrossing of State Route (SR) 17 near Lexington Reservoir, south of the Town of Los Gatos in Santa Clara County. The Highway 17 Wildlife and Regional Trail Crossings and Trail Connections Project would include new trails adjacent to the overcrossing and in other locations throughout the project area.

Location: The project area is along SR 17 from the Bear Creek Road overcrossing in unincorporated Santa Clara County (post mile [PM] 4.1) to 0.7 miles south of the Main Street overcrossing in Los Gatos (PM 5.8).

Contact Person: Jared Hart, Senior Planner; Hwy17@openspace.org; (650) 625-6535

Midpen and Caltrans have performed an environmental review of the project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Midpen is the lead agency under CEQA and the project sponsor, and Caltrans is the lead agency under NEPA. The environmental review examines the nature and extent of any potential adverse effects on the environment that could occur if the project is implemented. Based on the review, Midpen and Caltrans have prepared a joint Initial Study (IS) with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)/Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. An MND is a statement by Midpen that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment because the project will include mitigation measures that will reduce identified project impacts to a less than significant level. If Caltrans, as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration, determines that the NEPA action described in the EA does not significantly impact the environment, Caltrans will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The project site is not present on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code.

The public is welcome to review and comment on the Draft IS-MND/EA. The public comment period begins on **Tuesday, February 20, 2024, and ends on Friday, March 22, 2024**. Please send comments on the Draft IS-MND/EA via e-mail to Hwy17@openspace.org or to the following address: 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos, CA 94022 (with attention to Jared Hart). The Draft IS-MND/EA and reference documents are available online at: openspace.org/public-notice.

The Draft IS-MND/EA is also available for review with an appointment during normal business hours at the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Administrative Office, located at 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos; or during normal business hours at Los Gatos Library located at 100 Villa Avenue, Los Gatos. Please contact Jared Hart at (650) 625-6535, or by e-mail at Hwy17@openspace.org for an appointment request or additional questions, comments, or concerns.

A virtual public meeting will be held via Zoom on **Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 6 p.m.** for community members to provide public comments on the Draft IS-MND/EA. Visit openspace.org/hwy17 for instructions on attending.

2/16/2024

Date


Jane Mark, Planning Manager