



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Midpen Open Space addresses predator-livestock conflict

Los Altos, CA— The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District invites the public to participate in shaping its conservation grazing policy to prevent and manage predator-livestock conflicts (primarily mountain lions and coyotes preying on cattle) in the public open space lands it manages.

December 17, 2019 from 6-8 p.m.

Mountain View Community Center

201 S. Rengstorff Ave, Mountain View, CA 94040 ([map](#))

“As a conservation agency, Midpen prioritizes wildlife protection,” Midpen General Manager Ana Ruiz said.

“As a land management agency, our conservation grazing partners are asking for help in managing these conflicts. Based on input from our wildlife advocacy partners and the public at and after our October 22 board committee meeting, we are no longer exploring a three-strikes option currently being used to protect mountain lions in Southern California. We are continuing our current practice of prohibiting lethal removal of mountain lions and coyotes on Midpen lands now and into the future.”

Midpen’s conservation grazing program, in collaboration with small-scale local ranchers, accomplishes multiple goals that align with its mission, including protecting native grasslands and their biodiversity, managing vegetation to improve wildland fire safety and supporting viable agriculture on the San Mateo County Coast.

“Native grasses evolved with regular disturbances that were historically provided by wildlife herds and Native American burning,” Midpen Natural Resource Manager Kirk Lenington said. “Scientific studies show we can recreate those conditions with appropriately managed conservation grazing to benefit coastal grassland ecosystems. Cattle provide an effective way to control invasive weeds and brush.”

Midpen's conservation grazing policy update is aimed at using the best available science and stakeholder input to create a proactive toolbox that protects wildlife and livestock. Options that Midpen is continuing to explore

include reimbursements for livestock losses, reduced rental rates and predator deterrents (e.g., noise/visual deterrents, guard animals, fencing and modifications to grazing operations). Those interested can learn more and provide feedback at the December 17 public workshop.

By working together to find new and better ways regionwide to reduce predator-livestock conflicts, we also reduce the pressure of lethal removal that mountain lions and coyotes face on private land, resulting in overall greater protection for both livestock and native predators.

For more information and to sign up to stay informed on this topic, visit openspace.org/grazing-management-policy-amendment.

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The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a public agency that has successfully protected nearly 65,000 acres of open space throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties since 1972. Midpen was created by voters to acquire and preserve in perpetuity open space and agricultural land of regional significance, to protect and restore the natural environment, to preserve rural character and encourage viable agricultural use of land resources, and to provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

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