



County of Santa Clara
Roads and Airports Department

101 Skyport Drive
San Jose, California 95110-1302
1-408-573-2400

April 1, 2026

SUBJECT: Alma Bridge Road Project Newt Neighbor/Stakeholder Update Letter

Greetings Alma Bridge Road Neighbors and Project Stakeholders,

Santa Clara County Roads (Roads) is partnering with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) to improve connectivity for California newts and other small to medium-sized wildlife across Alma Bridge Road near Lexington Reservoir. As interested parties and neighbors, our Roads and Midpen team would like to provide you with the following update on our work to date and on work underway.

We are happy to report that Phase 2 of the project is almost complete! Phase 2 includes environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), engineering designs up to 65%, and permit applications, all with the goal to provide safe passage for small and mid-size wildlife across the road. More specifically, over the past year, we have completed the following:

- Utility and Right of Way Mapping
- Geotechnical Investigations along the roadway
- Final Biological Resource Assessment
- Final Archaeological Report
- Tree Impact Memorandum
- Draft Drainage and Stormwater Control Plan
- Water Quality and Hydrology Memorandum
- A CEQA Exemption from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Draft 65% engineering design for small to medium size wildlife crossings in four zones along Alma Bridge Road

- Draft permit applications with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the County of Santa Clara
- Draft Monitoring Plan & Mitigation Matrix

As we finalize Phase 2 of the project, we are also looking for funding opportunities for Phase 3, which will advance the project into final design and construction. In addition, we are seeking funding to implement a portion of the overall design as a first phase in the highest-priority zone to inform the project's final design. We are excited to share that Midpen's Board of Directors has recently committed \$650,000 of funding towards implementing this first phase. Midpen's funding commitment is a significant step towards completing a portion of the larger wildlife passage improvements along Alma Bridge Road.


Meanwhile, an independent, volunteer-run effort, known as the Newt Patrol, which has provided input and data to the Roads and Midpen team, continues to actively monitor newt activity and mortality along the road during rainy seasons.

For more information about the wildlife crossing partnership effort, please go online to: [Alma Bridge Road Newt Passage Project | Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District](#)

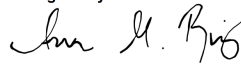
If you have any questions or comments about the project, please contact:
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As a final note: the rainy season has just concluded, meaning newts may still be on the move! To help protect these migrating amphibians, we encourage neighbors and recreational users to minimize vehicle travel on Alma Bridge Road before, during, and after rain events whenever possible. This will reduce the number of vehicles on the road, helping support successful newt crossings during the rainy season. Meanwhile, the Roads and Midpen team continues to advance plans for future roadway modifications to improve habitat connectivity and reduce ongoing newt mortality.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Harry Freitas
Director, Santa Clara County Roads and Airports

Signed by:

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Ana Ruiz
General Manager, Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District



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Project Area Map

