

2024 District Update

Margaret McNiven, Board Member, Ward 6

April 25, 2024

North Ridge Trail, Purisima Creek Redwoods (Eric Gouldsberry)



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Midpen's Mission(s)



Midpen's mission: to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

On the Coast, Midpen has an expanded mission to acquire and preserve agricultural land of regional significance, preserve rural character and encourage viable agricultural uses of land resources.



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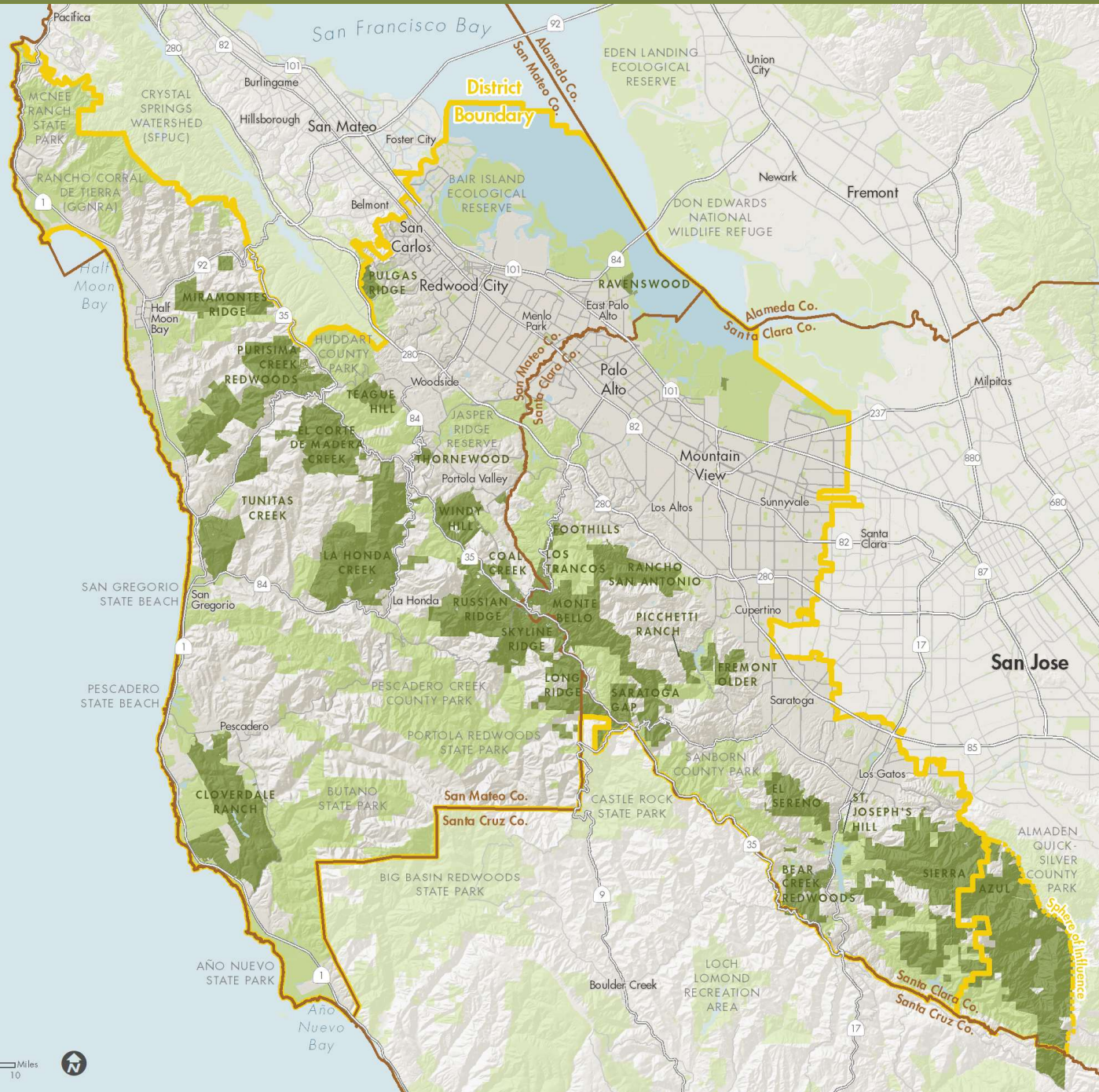
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Midpen's Lands



- Midpen preserve
- District boundary
- Sphere of influence
- Other protected land
- County boundary



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Some Midpen Facts

- Public agency, created in 1972 by a grassroots voter initiative
- 763,000 constituents (2020)
- Elected board: seven directors
- Funded primarily through property tax
- 27 Preserves in Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties
- Preserved over 70,000 acres, 250+ miles of trails
- Preserves are free and open to the public
- Main office in Los Altos + field offices
- 200+ employees, ~1000 volunteers
- \$300 million voter-approved general obligation bond passed in 2014 to support public priorities



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Ravenswood Open Space Preserve



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Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve



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Photo: Lynn Jackson

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El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve



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Photo: Karl Gohl

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve



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Photo: Randy Weber

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Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve



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Photo: Chris Toomey

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Thornewood Open Space Preserve



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Photo: Marcia Hakanson

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Windy Hill Open Space Preserve



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Photo: Vaibhav Tripathi

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Project Updates



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Measure AA 10th Anniversary - 2024

Progress since 2014

- ✓ Preserved over 9,600 acres of open space
- ✓ 4,200 acres opened to the public at five preserves/preserve areas
- ✓ Opened 31.4 miles of trails to public access, with 10+ miles in construction, and 19+ miles of new trails in the planning stages
- ✓ Opened 3 new parking areas, creating a total of 126 new parking spaces



***Thank you for your
trust in us!***

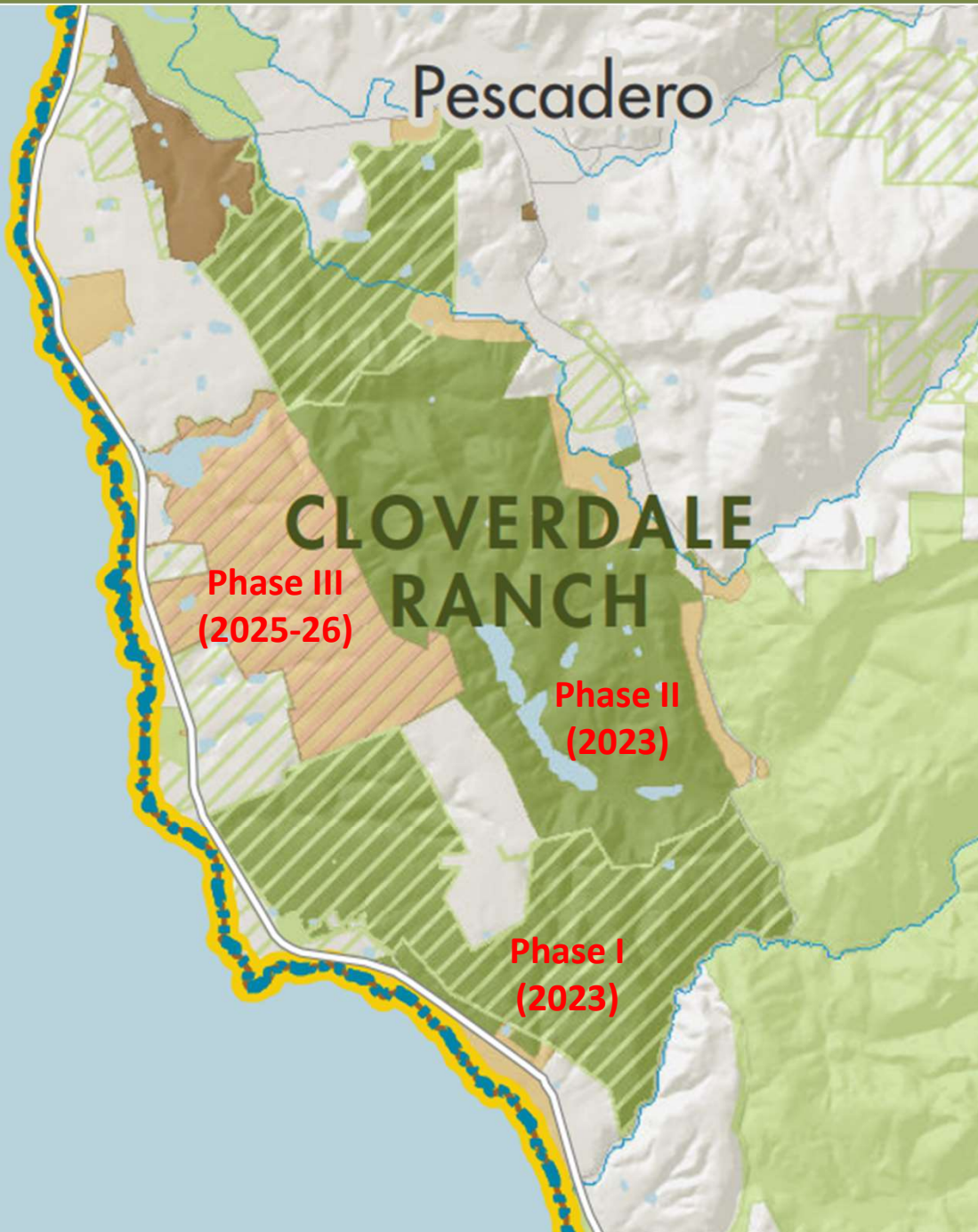
(Karl Gohl)



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Cloverdale Ranch Acquisitions



- Phase I (2023)
 - 1,800 acres
 - Includes the Wilbur's Watch trail
- Phase II (2023)
 - 3,300 acres
 - POST retaining farms
- Phase III (2025/26)
 - 1,200 acres
 - Contains Lake Lucerne Mutual Water Company



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Wildland Fire Resiliency Program Implementation



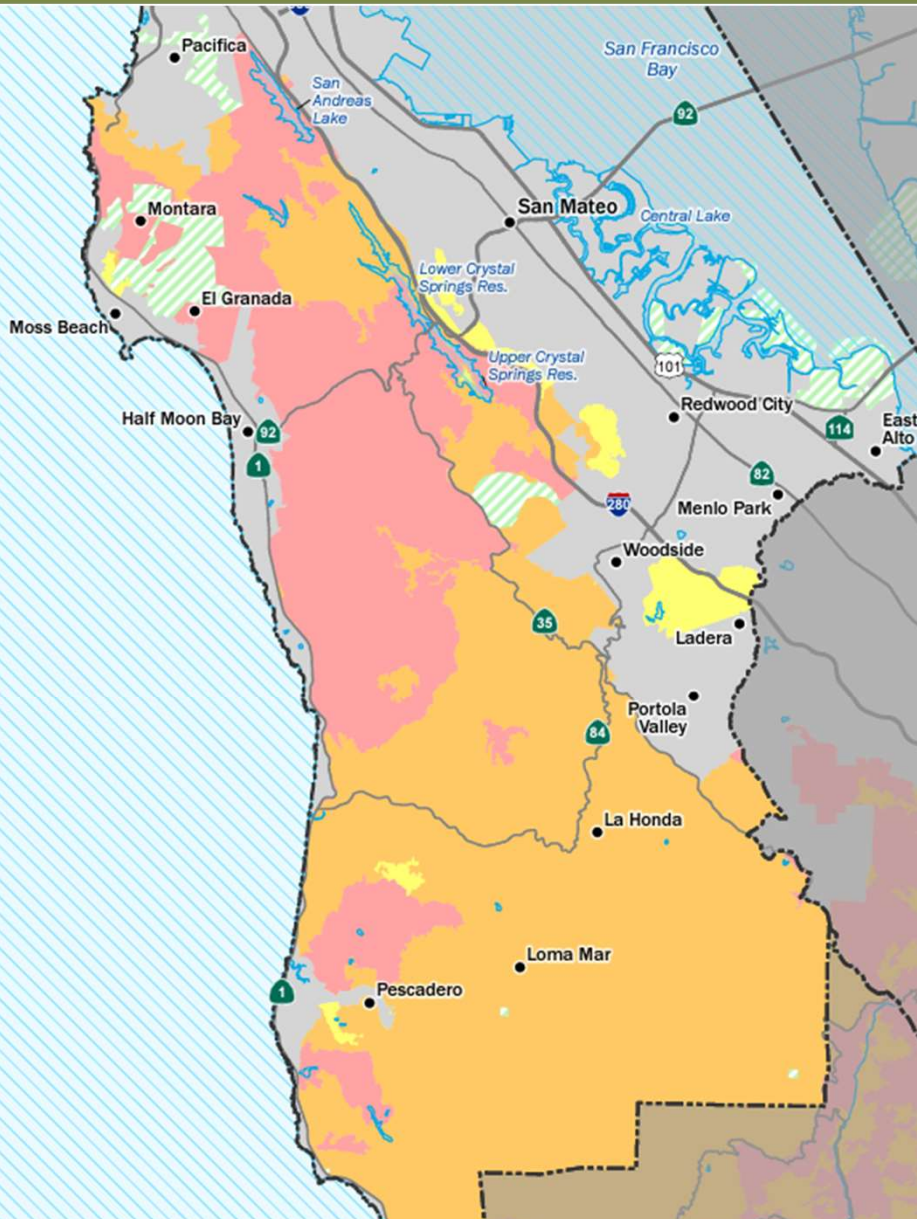
CZU Lightning Complex Fire, 2020
Photo: Brad Pennington



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Wildland Fire Resiliency Program



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For more information visit
openspace.org/what-we-do/projects/wildland-fire-resiliency

Youth Outreach



Saved by Nature at Russian Ridge (Midpen)



Coastside Childrens at Purisima Creek Redwoods (Midpen)



Spaces & Species program at Daniels Nature Center (Anouchka Gaillard)



Spaces & Species program at Skyline Ridge (Anouchka Gaillard)



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External Partner - Siena Youth Center

"Thanks to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, our youth had the opportunity to be immersed in a rare environment not dominated by pollution, noise, and bustle. Not only did they exercise and enjoy clean air, but they also learned about some of the intricacies of our local environment. Jeff, Ellen, and all the volunteers emanated a palpable enthusiasm that created an inviting milieu for our youth. Midpen should be especially commended for welcoming our bilingual and monolingual Spanish speakers – everyone was encouraged to speak in the language they were most comfortable in. For these reasons we hope this summer was merely an auspicious start to a continuing partnership between the Siena Youth Center and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District."

- Joel Flores, Siena Youth Center Program Director



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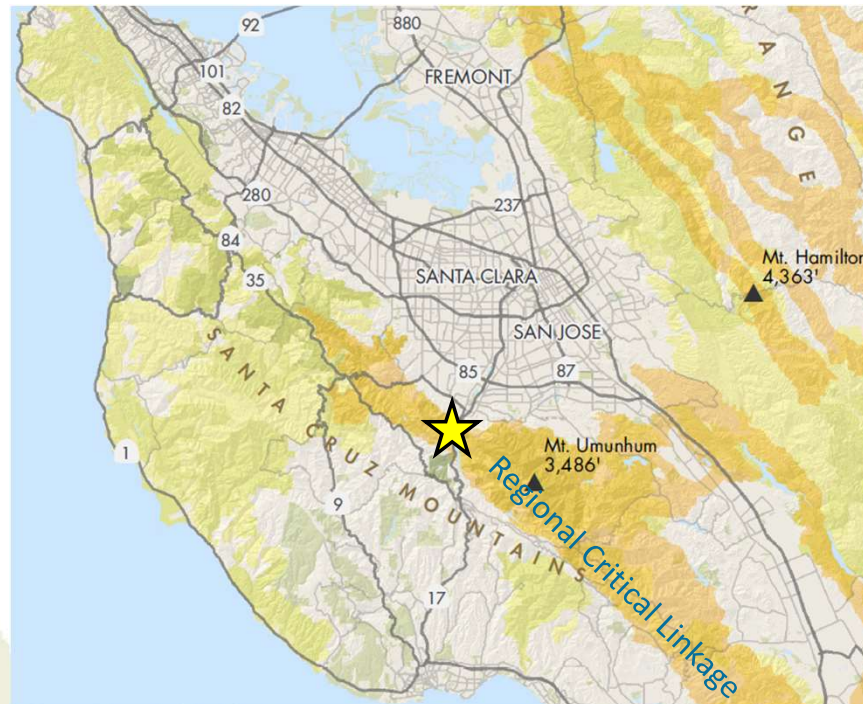
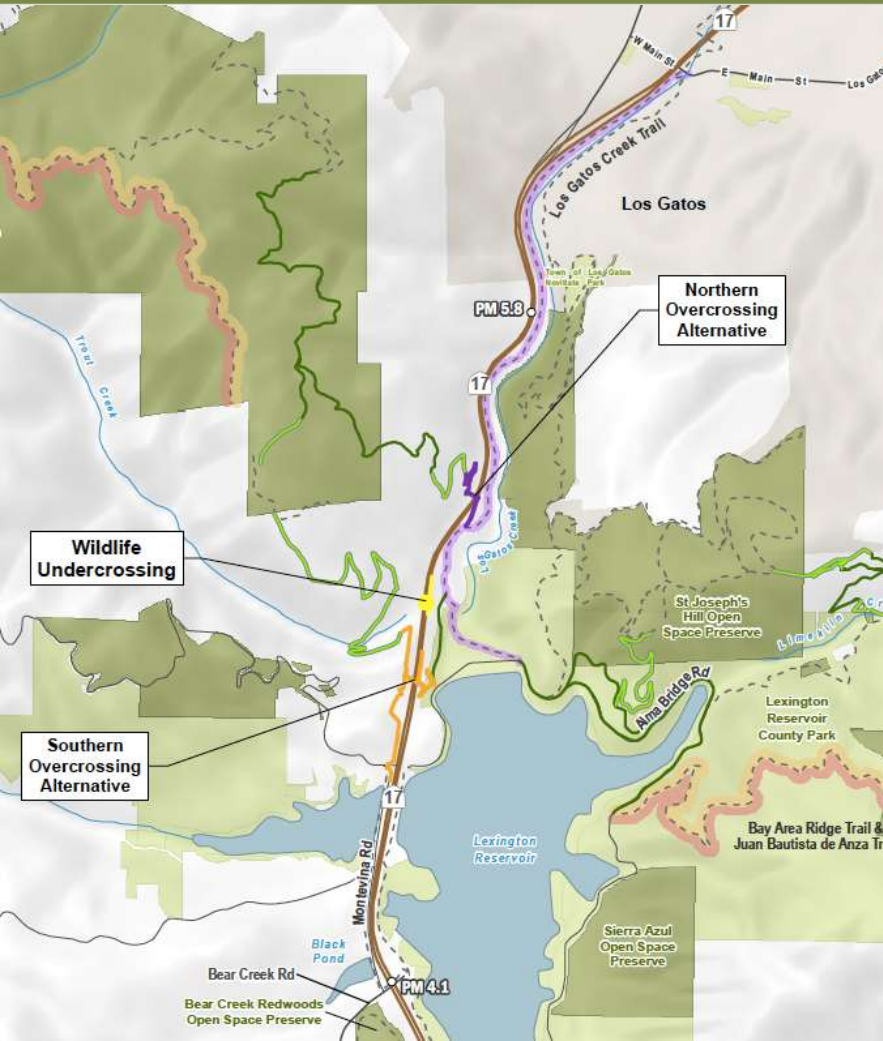
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Highway 17 Crossings

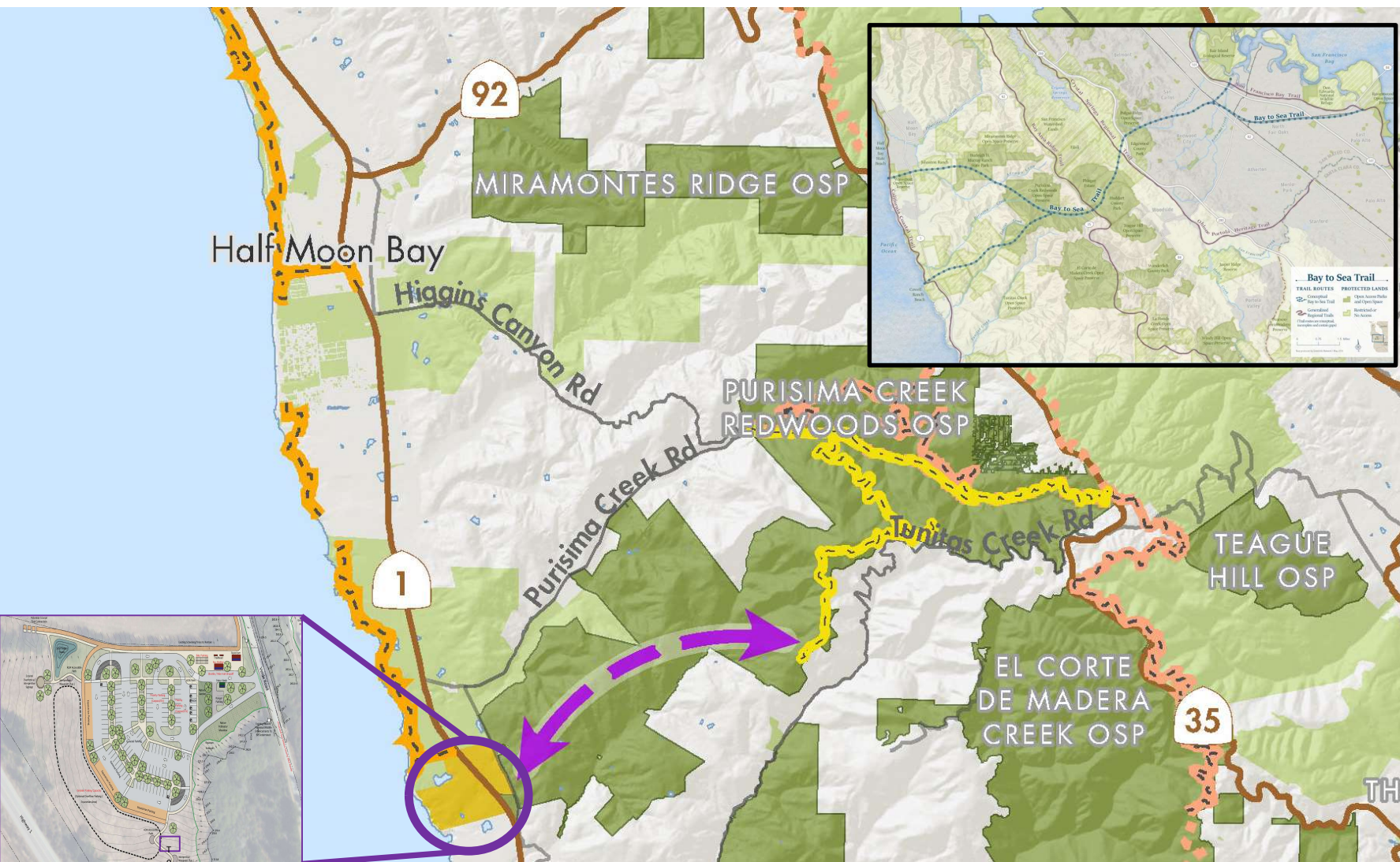


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Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail

Project Description

New parking area and trails connecting the Coastal Trail on Highway 1 to the Bay Area Ridge Trail on Highway 35.



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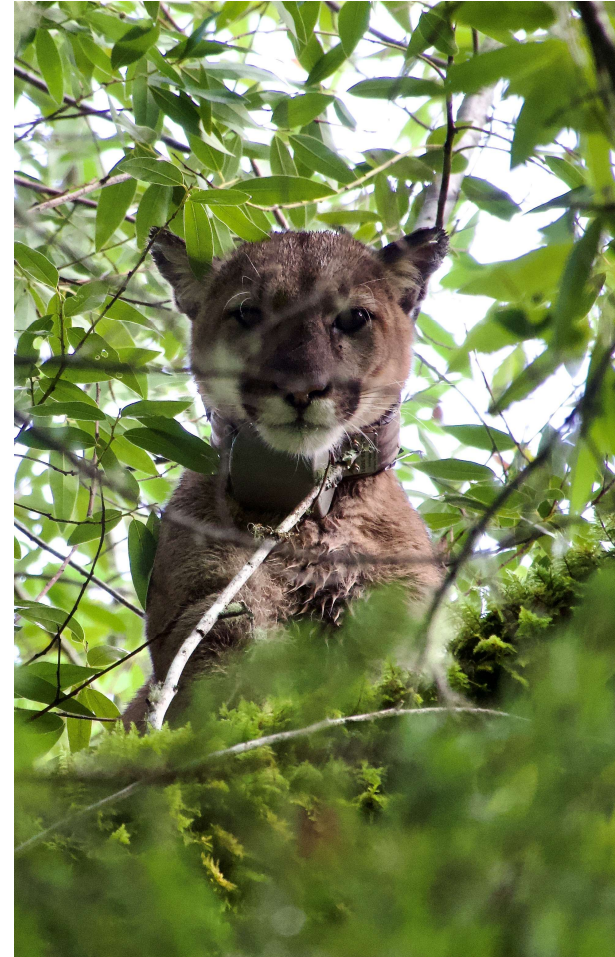
Mountain Lion – Human Interaction Study

- **Project Description**

Track mountain lion use of Santa Cruz Mountain Preserves to inform wildlife management and public use decisions that are protective of wildlife and reduce potential conflicts.

- **Status**

- Collared 25 mountain lions over the past 3 years
- The Puma Project is utilizing spatial data from the collars to analyze factors influencing human/mountain lion interactions
- Behavioral modification used techniques on 5 lions to determine if they can be encouraged to avoid high use trails when humans are present



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For more information visit
openspace.org/what-we-do/projects/mountain-lion-conservation-research

Rodenticide Outreach



POISON TRAVELS: Rodenticide use in neighborhoods impacts local wildlife



For more information visit openspace.org/rodenticides.



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Questions?

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