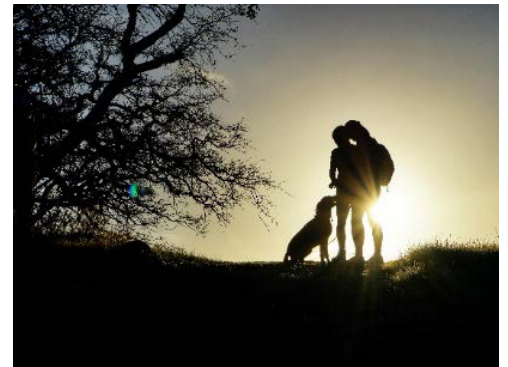




Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Fiscal Year 2018-19

Major Accomplishments



FISCAL YEAR 2018-19 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Mission Statement:

*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.*

Coastside Protection Mission Statement:

To acquire and preserve in perpetuity open space land and agricultural land of regional significance, protect and restore the natural environment, preserve rural character, encourage viable agricultural use of land resources, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

The following accomplishments highlight Midpen's focused efforts on a balanced mission — land acquisition and preservation; natural resources protection and restoration; public access, education and outreach; and for the Coastside, supporting local agriculture.

These extensive and varied accomplishments include major projects to open new preserve areas to the public, including Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve. They also show extensive progress on resource restoration priorities; education and outreach to diverse visitors; collaborative partnerships with other organizations; and the ongoing operational requirements of maintaining nearly 65,000 acres of protected public open space.

On the San Mateo County Coast, accomplishments also include improving agricultural infrastructure to continue conservation grazing in the coastal uplands while preserving the coast's rural character. In addition to completing projects on the land, Midpen has also placed significant effort in strengthening the administrative and organizational systems that are necessary to support our mission, now and into the future.

Fiscal Year 2018-19 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019) was another busy, productive and rewarding year!

LAND ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION

- ❖ Purchased, exchanged or received gifts of 433.59 acres of open space lands valued at \$2.925 million dollars, including:
 - Purchase of 190-acre Woodruff Redwoods property in ***La Honda Creek Preserve*** -- advances land conservation opportunities in Measure AA Portfolio 8 to Preserve Upper San Gregorio Creek Watershed and in Portfolio 15 for Redwood Forest Protection and Salmon Fisheries Conservation.
 - Transfer of 240-acre Giusti property with recorded lot line adjustments -- finishes the Purisima-to-the-Sea Regional Trail corridor at ***Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve*** (escrow closed July 3, 2019).
 - Purchase of 1.87-acre Haight/Peery property in ***El Sereno Preserve*** -- remedies the lack of a trail easement for the Aquinas Trail, which crosses this property.
 - New trail easement from Caltrans and a memorandum of understanding with City of East Palo Alto -- both improve access at ***Ravenswood Preserve***.
 - Purchase of 1.04-acre Cogliandro property in ***Sierra Azul Preserve*** -- remedies lack of a trail easement for the Limekiln Trail, which crosses this property.
 - New 0.68-acre road and right of way easement in ***Saratoga Gap Preserve*** -- for patrol and maintenance access.

NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

- ❖ Continued natural resources protection and restoration projects in ***Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve***, including:
 - Completed 2nd (final) year of cultural resource evaluations for 19 sites within the preserve. Completed final report and monitored parking lot and trail construction to ensure there was no impact to archeological resources.
 - Began 2nd year of targeted invasive species removal in riparian areas, which is partially funded by a five-year grant from the Santa Clara Valley Water District.
 - Received a landmark alteration permit to implement site cleanup and structures rehabilitation consistent with the Alma College Cultural Landscape Plan.
 - Completed construction documents and began the permitting process to improve drainage flow from Mud Lake to Briggs Creek.
 - Completed the characterization of a historic landfill and developed remedial actions.

- ❖ Completed 2nd year of a stream gauge and sediment study at ***El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve*** to assess the effectiveness of erosion reduction projects under the preserve wide Watershed Protection Program.
- ❖ Monitored sensitive species populations to assess success of habitat restoration projects in ***La Honda Creek Preserve***.
- ❖ Completed numerous natural resource protection and restoration projects in ***Sierra Azul Preserve***, including:
 - Year 7 of coordinated monitoring to reduce mercury within the Guadalupe River watershed.
 - Assessment and operations plan for the Cherry Springs water system.
 - Site cleanup and demolition of structures to support land preservation and restoration to improve runoff into two perennial creeks.
- ❖ Continued work to control invasive slender false brome plant at ***Thornewood, El Corte de Madera, La Honda Creek*** and other preserves. Continued our partnership with the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District to conduct outreach and treatment on adjacent private properties.
- ❖ Continued the Highway 17 Wildlife and Regional Trail Crossings project, identifying and analyzing additional crossing alternatives in response to partner, stakeholder and public comments. Drafted the project study report and received Caltrans initial comments. Held meetings with project partners and stakeholders (Caltrans, San Jose Water Company, Committee for Green Foothills, National Wildlife Federation and a 2nd public meeting to receive input on the alternative wildlife crossings.
- ❖ Provided support related to natural resource protection and restoration, including:
 - Compiled database of existing archaeological resources and began developing curation strategies to protect these resources. Supported numerous projects, advising, scoping and reviewing technical reports related to archaeological resources.
 - Made progress on the San Mateo County Vegetation Map; completed orthophoto acquisition and quality control on imagery and started in-the-field quality check.
 - Completed preliminary analysis, mapping, overview and draft report outline for the Water Quality Monitoring Program.
 - Completed review of records to identify 50 potential wells throughout Midpen lands that need to be investigated and decommissioned.

- Completed monitoring of 13 ponds, streams, springs and other regulated aquatic sites where water is diverted for consumptive use. Completed annual report on use to the State Water Resources Control Board.
 - Developed and implemented 5th year of Invasive Pest Management (IPM) Program activities to improve native habitats by removing invasive nonnative plants.
 - Provided annual training for staff and contractors on pesticide safety, the IPM Program and best management practices.
 - Implemented seven new invasive species management projects, adding 6.25 acres to the 1,245 acres under active invasive species management.
 - Continued phytophthora research with Oregon State University regarding soil pathogens at restoration sites to protect native vegetation from the fungal disease.
 - Continued our sudden oak death research partnership with UC Berkeley and U.S. Forest Service to study distribution, spread and treatment methodologies for forest disease pathogen.
 - Continued 2nd year of federally endangered Marbled Murrelet surveys to understand the scale and extent of the current population and completed protocol level nesting surveys at *La Honda Creek* and *Purisima Creek Redwoods* preserves, resulting in evidence of only one potential nest at Purisima Creek Redwoods.
 - Provided ongoing support (permitting, CEQA compliance, preconstruction surveys, construction monitoring) for priority Measure AA projects.
 - Managed 13 on-call biological consultants to support districtwide projects.
 - Actively participated in the Wildlife Society and attended the Western Section Wildlife Society Conference.
 - Collaborated with outside researchers to study rare plants and perform bird counts at multiple preserves.
 - Completed a 2nd Greenhouse Gas Inventory of Midpen administrative operations in support of the Climate Action Plan, adopted October 2018, to reduce in-house operational carbon emissions.
- ❖ Completed numerous resource agency permit streamlining efforts, including:
- Began Endangered Species Act programmatic permitting project with consultant to develop programmatic permit with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to cover routine maintenance activities. Held kickoff meeting with agency staff to discuss the approach and eligible activities.

- Maintained strong relationships with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to support protected species recovery work.
 - Began programmatic permitting renewal with the Regional Water Quality Control Board for routine maintenance project.
- ❖ Completed Midpen conservation grazing program projects, including:
- Completed 2nd year of adjudication compliance monitoring and actions to improve water use and management at San Gregorio Creek.
 - Completed installation of fencing along riparian areas to keep cattle out of a creek at ***Purissima Creek Redwoods Preserve***.
 - Selected a design-build firm to improve ponds at Mindego Hill to support endangered species habitat and livestock use under Midpen’s conservation grazing program at ***Russian Ridge Preserve***. Began project survey, assessment, design and permitting process.
 - Initiated the policy development process for the Agricultural Policy by reviewing agricultural practices, guidelines and holding a policies study session. Met with stakeholders to discuss initial feedback and process to develop new policy language.
 - Developed wildlife and livestock protection policy objectives and met with partners and stakeholders to review and contribute to policy development.

PUBLIC ACCESS, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- ❖ Opened ***Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve*** to the public in June 2019, improvements included:
- New parking lot, vault toilet restroom, ADA pathway around Upper Lake, new bridge installation, and 6 miles of new and improved trails. Completed design, fabrication and installation of two interpretive signs for the new Alma College parking area and Upper Lake area.
 - Worked with GIS, Visitor Services, and Public Affairs to complete design, content and web development of “Layers of History” online story map at www.openspace.org/bcrstory, educating the public on the area’s rich history, which reached over 800 users in two months.
 - Engaged and trained docents to provide interpretive walks on first two opening weekends.

- Celebrated completion of the Phase I public access improvements and progress on natural resources restoration projects with partner ribbon-cutting and tours, media outreach and public educational outreach during the first two opening weekends.
- Hired consultant for the design, engineering, and permitting of a new multiuse trail, and to complete the feasibility study of new Phase II trails.
- Bear Creek Stables:
 - Continued engagement with Santa Clara County staff on proposed repairs and site improvements. Facilitated site meeting with planning and fire marshal staff to discuss the type of repair and maintenance work that would be permissible under the existing legal, non-conforming use. Met with the county planning director and department staff to discuss proposed repair and maintenance option and clarification on threshold of allowed repairs to existing structures under legal, non-conforming use.
 - Completed a fundraising pre-feasibility assessment to understand the potential for private fundraising contributions to help fund the stables repairs.
 - Received Board approval to proceed with the Deferred Maintenance Repair Option for the stables.
 - Released a Request for Letters of Interest to gauge interest from prospective stables managers in managing the stables under a long-term lease.
- ❖ Began a conditions assessment of Alpine Trail in **Coal Creek Preserve** to develop recommendations and alternatives/cost analysis for repairs. Entered into a memorandum of understanding with San Mateo County to allow Midpen to make repairs on the county road easement and potentially take over management in the long term to ensure that Alpine Trail remains as an important regional trails link.
- ❖ Completed new section of Oljon Trail to provide a new loop trail opportunity from the parking lot and completed most restoration of an eroded, unsustainable section of the Steam Donkey Trail, with poor access off Skyline Boulevard, at **El Corte de Madera Preserve**.
- ❖ Continued efforts to open additional areas of **La Honda Creek Preserve** to the public, including:
 - Formed a new 13-member Board-appointed Public Access Working Group for the La Honda Creek Parking and Trailhead Access Feasibility Study to review and forward public access options for the central area of La Honda Creek.
 - Began the assessment and repair design for the White Barn and Redwood Cabin.

- Submitted permits with San Mateo County for the Phase II Loop Trails; trail design at 90% and rare plant survey and wetland delineations are complete.
- ❖ Completed design and contractor bidding process for site cleanup and removal of dilapidated structures to support expanded public access in **Monte Bello Preserve**.
- ❖ Constructed two new pedestrian bridges on the Stevens Creek Nature Trail in **Monte Bello Preserve**; removed a failing old bridge and restored the construction area. These bridges will allow the use of the Stevens Creek Nature Trail throughout the winter.
- ❖ Received Board approval for a Multimodal Access Study scope of work to conduct Parking and Transportation Demand Analysis at **Rancho San Antonio Preserve** to inform future options for improving parking issues, promoting greener modes of transport, and reducing parking impacts to adjacent communities to improve the preserve visitor experience. Also received Board approval to implement interim short-term measures for improving parking over the next 2 years.
- ❖ Installed a new vault restroom with ADA access ramp in **Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve** as an improved visitor amenity.
- ❖ Continued major actions to close a 0.6-mile gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail at **Ravenswood Preserve** and assist the City of East Palo Alto in developing the adjacent Cooley Landing Park, including:
 - Provided technical assistance to the City of East Palo Alto on the final design and bidding for Phases IV and V of the Cooley Landing Vision Plan, which Midpen is partially funding with a \$1.25 million Measure AA contribution. These new improvements include motion-activated roadway lighting, a freestanding restroom, an outdoor classroom area, a path around the Education Center to complete a trail loop through the site, secondary unpaved trails, and a new entry sign.
 - Completed the third year of plant restoration work with Grassroots Ecology.
 - Completed construction documents for the Ravenswood Bay Trail design and implementation; obtained Caltrans and PG&E permits, solicited construction bids and awarded a contract to Graniterock.
- ❖ Completed Phase II plant restoration and sign installation at the Mount Umunhum Summit at **Sierra Azul Preserve**.
- ❖ Awarded a professional services contract for site surveys, traffic/hazardous material assessments, and environmental and biological services to inform the design of the Beatty Property Parking Area and Trail Connections at **Sierra Azul Preserve**. Completed topographic

surveys; initiated traffic counts, line of sight analyses, Phase I environmental assessments and a conceptual-level design.

- ❖ Partnered with City of Saratoga to fund the design of the Saratoga-to-Sea Trail. City completed the engineering design and environmental review, and initiated permitting. Also, extended the funding partnership agreement to co-fund the trail construction. This partnership project fulfills Midpen's goal for a regional trail connecting Saratoga to the existing Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail and local trail systems.
- ❖ Completed multiple districtwide actions in support of public access goals, including:
 - Hosted annual spring event with docent-led public tours of the historic Woodhills home in **Fremont Older Preserve** for 120 participants.
 - Produced and published quarterly outdoor activities schedules that are included in the Quarterly Open Space Views newsletter, to promote naturalist-led docent hikes and rides.
 - Outdoor Activity Docents provided over 285 guided interpretive activities for public enrichment (serving approximately 2,500 participants).
 - Developed and began executing an implementation plan for the Board-approved Docent and Volunteer Program Structure Study, which was prepared to enhance the beneficial impacts of Midpen's docent and volunteer programs.
 - Docents contributed 4,560 hours in interpretation and education.
 - Hosted a series of 10 hikes for the public in partnership with Latino Outdoors at eight different preserves, reaching 285 participants.
 - Researched options for online reservation and payment of camping and other permit fees to improve calendaring and payment systems for users.
 - Hosted informational booths at 28 community outreach events, providing information about Midpen preserves and programs to the public.
 - Sent out 20 press releases on Midpen projects and activities resulting in dozens of stories in various local media outlets to continue informing the public of recent events.
 - Hosted approximately 130 park district representatives from across the country on a tour of Mt. Umunhum and **Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve** as part of the Special Parks District Forum to share information and lessons learned with other park and open space agencies.

- Expanded ongoing partnerships with local volunteer-based organizations, including the Student Conservation Association, Village Harvest, Grassroots Ecology, Morgan Autism Center and Golden Hour to increase public participation in natural resource management and trail stewardship activities.
- Managed operation of and programming at the Daniels Nature Center in **Skyline Ridge Preserve**, including coordination and scheduling of Nature Center host docents, serving 3,400+ visitors (including 1,000 children) between April and November.
- Volunteers contributed 17,500 hours of natural resource management and trail patrol activities, supporting Midpen's land stewardship and public outreach goals.
- Trail Patrol volunteers completed over 2,600 patrols, enhancing the visitor experience by providing preserve information and providing trail condition and violation reports to ranger staff.
- ARMS (Advanced Resource Management Stewards) volunteers contributed over 600 hours at their assigned resource management project sites, helping to restore native habitat across Midpen preserves.
- Planned, scheduled, and coordinated environmental education programming with outdoor education leader docents and local schools, including: 20 Spaces & Species field trips for 3rd–5th grades (approximately 440 students), and five Redwood Ecology & Climate Change high school field learning excursions (in partnership with Save the Redwoods League; approximately 170 students). An additional 1,100 students participated in field trips to **Monte Bello, Los Trancos and Windy Hill preserves** in partnership with Environmental Volunteers.
- Hosted the Annual Volunteer Recognition Event at **Windy Hill Preserve** to honor and thank our volunteers and docents for their hard work in support of Midpen's mission, which was attended by over 220 volunteers, the Board of Directors, and staff.
- Launched a visitor services request form to process and provide public requests for staff or docent led interpretive/educational activities and general outreach presentations.
- Six rangers completed Certified Interpretive Guide Training to enhance interpretation skills for activities and presentations. Two rangers also received Certified Interpretive Guide Trainer certifications to increase internal capacity for interpretive training in coordination with Interpretation & Education program staff.
- Continued monitoring visitor use data collection, generated and provided reports to various stakeholders, and installed additional counters at **Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve** parking lot and Alma trail.

- Regraded multiple roads and trails for improved drainage.
 - Cleared downed trees and repaired numerous roads and trails.
 - Explored opportunities with regional partners to expand trail connectivity on the Peninsula.
 - Advocated for the passage of key legislative actions in support of Midpen’s mission, including working with the state legislative delegation to secure \$2 million in state funding for the acquisition of coastal open space lands, and successfully extend a \$10 million state budget allocation to protect Upper Guadalupe Creek and Los Gatos Creek watershed lands.
 - Held an annual Legislative delegation visit in Sacramento to discuss key Midpen projects and legislative items of interest with legislators and their aides.
 - Developed a Strategic Communications Plan focused on increasing public awareness of Midpen’s mission; plan will be updated annually to remain consistent with the annual Board-adopted strategic goals and objectives.
 - Issued 2,634 permits for a variety of activities, including research work, public use of the backpack campground, and group hiking events.
 - Actively participated in the National Association for Interpretation and Midpeninsula Environmental Educators Alliance to engage in professional best practices, networking, and partnership development to inform and improve Midpen’s interpretive and educational programs.
 - Standardized the information and look for all Midpen signboards.
 - Received Board approval for standardized, Midpen-branded partner recognition signboards; first signboard was installed in June 2018 for the ***Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve*** opening.
- ❖ Collaborated with partner agencies (Caltrans, Santa Clara County Parks, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Bay Area Ridge Trail) to identify opportunities for a public trail crossing at Highway 17 to close a major gap in the regional trail system; ground-truthed multiple potential crossings and trail alignment options with Santa Clara County Parks.
- Developed preliminary trail design and completed a Trail Connections Report that was shared with partner agencies (Caltrans, San Jose Water Co, Santa Clara Co Parks) and the public; presented the trail connection options at a July 9, 2019 public informational meeting to seek public input.

- ❖ Completed a site feasibility parking study for a potential parking area at the Hawthorns Property addition of **Windy Hill Preserve**. Completed a cultural resources field survey and assessment report.
- ❖ Explored a potential partnership proposal to rehabilitate and reuse the Hawthorns historic complex at **Windy Hill Preserve**. Consulted with Town of Portola Valley on proposed land use entitlements and permitting approach.
- ❖ Developed a preliminary scope with key milestones and schedule for use in seeking grant funding to support the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail connection and parking area project.

GENERAL/DISTRICTWIDE SUPPORT OF MISSION

- ❖ Received Board approval of Midpen’s Climate Action Plan to meet the adopted Climate Change Goals of 20% reduction in operational greenhouse gas emissions from 2016 levels by 2022, 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. Began implementation of the plan by changing fuel tanks to renewable diesel, purchasing 100% renewable electricity for offices, acquiring electric bikes and UTV for field staff, and purchasing carbon offsets for business flights. Completed the 2018 GHG emissions inventory. Held initial talks on carbon sequestration pilot project with San Mateo Resources Conservation District.
- ❖ Continued work to prevent and prepare for wildland fires in response to the increasing fire threat in California:
 - The Board adopted a new objective to increase work with fire agencies and surrounding communities to strengthen the prevention of, preparation for, and response to wildland fires.
 - Cleared vegetation for fire safety and public access along roads and trails and maintained defensible space/fire clearance around Midpen-owned structures.
 - Mowed staging areas and landing zones for emergency helicopter operations.
 - Formed an internal Wildland Fire Coordination Team to improve preparation for and response to wildland fires.
 - During annual mowing along priority fire access roads, increased width of mowing along road shoulders compared to past years to improve fire safety. Began development of the Wildland Fire Resiliency Program including prioritizing and planning for additional fuel management activities, monitoring, development of wildland fire preplans, and use of prescribed fire as a management tool.
 - Published **Rancho San Antonio Preserve** Fire Preplan map as an agency resource.

- Posted directional signs along two neighborhood evacuation routes through ***Thornewood*** and ***Long Ridge preserves***.
 - Adopted more conservative procedures on mowing limitations based on temperature, humidity and wind factors to reduce risk of fire ignition during maintenance activities.
 - Expanded fuel reduction work in ***Windy Hill*** and ***Pulgas Ridge preserves***.
 - Regraded and improved Loma Prieta Ridge Road for improved access.
 - Initiated a three-year contract with Santa Clara County Fire Safe and began permitting process to remove fire-prone eucalyptus trees and improve fire safety at ***Los Trancos Preserve***.
- ❖ Continued implementation of critical Financial and Operational Sustainability Model Study recommendations to enhance Midpen’s delivery of Measure AA and Vision Plan projects, including:
- Held second internal Leadership Academy with 16 graduates, several of whom have promoted since completing the program.
 - Launched the Work Order & Asset Management System (CityWorks), enabling staff to efficiently schedule, plan, manage, monitor and track maintenance activities. Overlaid with Midpen’s GIS database, the new system tracks work history, staff hours, inspections and statuses for facilities, property management, crew, special projects, vehicles/equipment and the ADA transition plan. CityWorks is mobile-enabled, allowing field crews to manage work orders in the field.
 - Launched Project Central, a SharePoint solution that provides a unified platform for project management, status tracking, and documentation. Project Central is proving critical in monitoring and managing Midpen MAA and Action Plan projects.
- ❖ Completed majority of fiber-optics project, upgrading firewalls to allow for higher bandwidth connections, and installing fiber-optics between the Administrative Office and the new South Area Field Office and the Foothills Field Office.
- ❖ Increased data security through testing internal vulnerability to cyberattacks and providing targeted cybersecurity training.
- ❖ Transformed asset data collection in the Land & Facilities Department through deployment of 40 iPad mobile devices for in-field data collection, retrieval, and analysis.
- ❖ Ongoing work to bring new Midpen office facilities on line for improved administrative functions and delivery of projects and services:

- Selected architect consultant team, Noll & Tam, to design the Administrative Office reconfiguration project. Worked closely with the Board and public to select and approve a schematic design layout and budget. Began design development and environmental review phase of the project. Once complete, the AO project will house a majority of staff to save money on office rental and provide project delivery efficiency.
 - Continued the design and began the permitting process for the South Area Field Office, which will improve response and travel times for patrol and maintenance of south area preserves.
- ❖ Participated in regional networks and relationship building with state agencies to maintain open lines of communication with grant funders for future grant funding opportunities.
 - ❖ Received Board approval of the ADA Self-Assessment and Transition Plan Update, which incorporated comments from the public and San Mateo County Commission on Disabilities. Held ADA trainings for docents, volunteers and all staff. Completed repairs to the Cordilleras easy access trail and removal of block stiles that impeded access into preserves.
 - ❖ Initiated the development of a Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan.
 - ❖ Launched over 35 Enterprise GIS web maps and applications to provide critical GIS data to all staff, support interdepartmental collaboration, and streamline asset mapping. This work facilitated the creation of multiple districtwide data inventories: fuel reduction lines, phytosphthora sample sites, cover boards, wildlife cameras, conservation easement photo sites, utility assets, bridges, culverts and more.
 - ❖ Regraded the tread surface, installed base rock, and improved drainages along an important access road at **Monte Bello Preserve**.
 - ❖ Completed repairs to multiple Midpen-owned residences, some of which house rangers and maintenance staff who provide onsite, after-hours monitoring of the preserves.
 - ❖ Facilitated staff meeting with San Mateo County Planning and Development Director and staff on streamlined permitting for Midpen projects that are covered under resource agency permitting. Discussed Master Permit approach, process and timeline.
 - ❖ Completed numerous projects that support local agriculture, including:
 - Began repairs and replacement of water systems at Big Dipper Ranch, Stevens Canyon Ranch, Silva residence and Toto Ranch in support of Midpen's conservation grazing program.

- Installed new waterline, water tank, and trough at **La Honda Creek Preserve** (adjacent to the Sears Ranch staging area) to ensure the continued viability of an employee residence, which provides onsite vigilance, and the grazing operations.
- Completed asphalt work to improve the Tunitas Ranch driveway at **Tunitas Creek Preserve** to continue facilitating the onsite grazing operation.

AWARDS/GRANTS/RECOGNITION

- ❖ Completed three successful grant applications totaling \$1,530,234:
 - \$1,355,328 for the Ravenswood Bay Trail at **Ravenswood Preserve**, which includes a \$300,000 gift from Facebook and \$1,055,328 from the California Natural Resources Agency.
 - \$149,906 from the Santa Clara Valley Water District for the Beatty trail connection to Priest Rock Trail at **Sierra Azul Preserve**.
 - \$25,000 anonymous grant in support of Midpen’s mission.
- ❖ Successfully launched a revised Grantmaking Program under three funding priorities and received 21 proposals requesting over \$750,000. The Program will distribute \$248,104 to seven organizations over the next three years.
- ❖ Received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the third year in a row. Also received the Operating Budget – Excellence Award from California Society of Municipal Finance Officers for the first time (Operating Budget – Meritorious Award was received the year prior).
- ❖ Applied for the Outstanding Financial Reporting Award from both the Government Finance Officers Association and the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers for the Consolidated Annual Financial Report (CAFR, second year) and Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR, first year).
- ❖ Received the Technology Innovation: Leadership award from Special Districts West.
- ❖ Received an award for Innovation in Green Community Planning from the Northern Section of American Planning Association for Midpen’s Climate Action Plan. Midpen is among the first few regional open space agencies in the country to adopt a Climate Action Plan and set formal goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- ❖ Received the Integrated Pest Management Achievement Award from the State of California.

- ❖ Received the Community Partnership Award from the San Jose Conservation Corps + Charter School (SJCC+CC) for our ongoing partnership work in providing life-changing, outdoor conservation experiences and skills training to SJCC+CS members.

FRONT COVER PHOTO CREDITS

Top (L to R): Russian Ridge Preserve by Bob Mazawa; Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve by Mike Kahn/Midpen; Rancho San Antonio Preserve by Hongyan Liu

Bottom (L to R): Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve by Alisha Laborico; Russian Ridge Preserve by David Henry; Sierra Azul Preserve by Xun Li