MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE COMPREHENSIVE USE AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Date: October 9, 2026

To: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Interested Persons

RE: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve Comprehensive Use and Management Plan

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District or Midpen) is the Lead Agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for the proposed Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve Comprehensive Use and Management Plan (Plan) Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). An Initial Study (IS) has been prepared to assess the six proposed near-term projects identified in the Plan and their potential effects on the environment. Based on the IS, it has been determined that the proposed near-term projects would not have any potentially significant effects on the environment with the implementation of mitigation measures.

Agencies and interested parties are invited to provide written comments via email or USPS mail on the IS during the 30-day public review period that begins on October 9, 2026, and ends on November 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

PROJECT LOCATION

Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (Preserve) is located on the western slopes of the northern Santa Cruz Mountains within unincorporated San Mateo County and is partially within the District's Coastside Protection Area. The Preserve extends from State Route (SR) 35 (Skyline Boulevard) to the northeast and SR 1 to the southwest with access points from Skyline Boulevard, Purisima Creek Road, and Tunitas Creek Road. The City of Half Moon Bay lies northwest of the Preserve, while the outer extent of the Town of Woodside is located approximately 2 miles northeast of the Preserve boundary, along Skyline Boulevard.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
5050 El Camino Real
Los Altos, CA 94022-1530

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Midpen has prepared the Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve Comprehensive Use and Management Plan, which would serve as the overarching guiding document for ecologically sensitive public access, restoration, and land management for the Preserve. Midpen developed the Plan and integrated existing District-wide policies and planning frameworks into a comprehensive planning document for Purisima. The Plan provides long-term management guidance pertaining to natural resources; historic, cultural, and tribal cultural resources; aesthetic resources; public access; and operations and maintenance.

The proposed Plan would be implemented through a series of future projects led by Midpen and/or through partnerships and agreements with other organizations. The Plan identifies six specific, near-term projects to be implemented over the next 5 years. These projects are anticipated to provide enhanced public access and recreation opportunities while improving the ecosystem within the Preserve. The six near-term projects are listed below:

- The Highway 35 Multi-use Trail Crossing and Parking Expansion Project at the existing North Ridge parking lot would improve safety and expand access for hikers, bikers, and equestrians;
- The Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail Project would provide an approximately 7-mile connector between the California Coastal Trail and Bay Area Ridge Trail, and would be supported by the Verde Road Parking Area Project, which would consist of a new parking area and trailhead;
- The Verde Road Parking Area Project would construct a new parking area and trailhead location between Verde Road and SR 1, and add two trail crossings of Verde Road, to support the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail, enhance public access to the Preserve, reduce congestion at existing trailheads, and facilitate multimodal connectivity;
- The North Trail Project would add a new trail connection referred to as the North Trail, and a new trail crossing at SR 1 to improve public access and connectivity;
- The Purisima Multimodal Access Implementation Project would promote sustainable transit options, manage visitation, and guide future access improvements; and
- The Irish Ridge Habitat Restoration Project would provide ecological stewardship within the Preserve with the primary goal of increasing fire resiliency and carbon sequestration by removing invasive plant species from the Irish Ridge area to restore native habitat and improve biodiversity. This restoration project would act as an area to help mitigate impacts that occur as a result of the proposed near-term projects.

No hazardous materials sites listed on the State Water Resource Control Board's GeoTracker database or the Department of Toxic Substances Control's EnviroStor database are present within the project area or within 1,000 feet of the project area.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The Initial Study and supporting documents are available for review online at: https://www.openspace.org/PCR-Plan as well as at the District's Administrative offices at 5050 El Camino Real, Los Altos, CA 94022-1530.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

Agencies and interested parties may provide the District with written comments during the 30-day public review period that begins on October 9, 2026, and ends on November 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Written comments can be provided via email or postal mail and must be electronically submitted or postmarked no later than 5:00pm on November 9, 2026.

Please send all written comments by mail or email to:

Mail: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Attn: Brittany Wheatman, Planner II
5050 El Camino Real
Los Altos, CA 94022-1530

E-mail: PurisimaCEQA@openspace.org

Comments provided by email should include "Purisima Use and Management Plan IS/MND Comment" in the subject line.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
5050 El Camino Real
Los Altos, CA 94022-1530