District Introduction and Update

Jed Cyr, Board Member, Ward 3

Karen Holman, Board Member, Ward 5

September 15, 2026



Russian Ridge, Judith Zimmermann

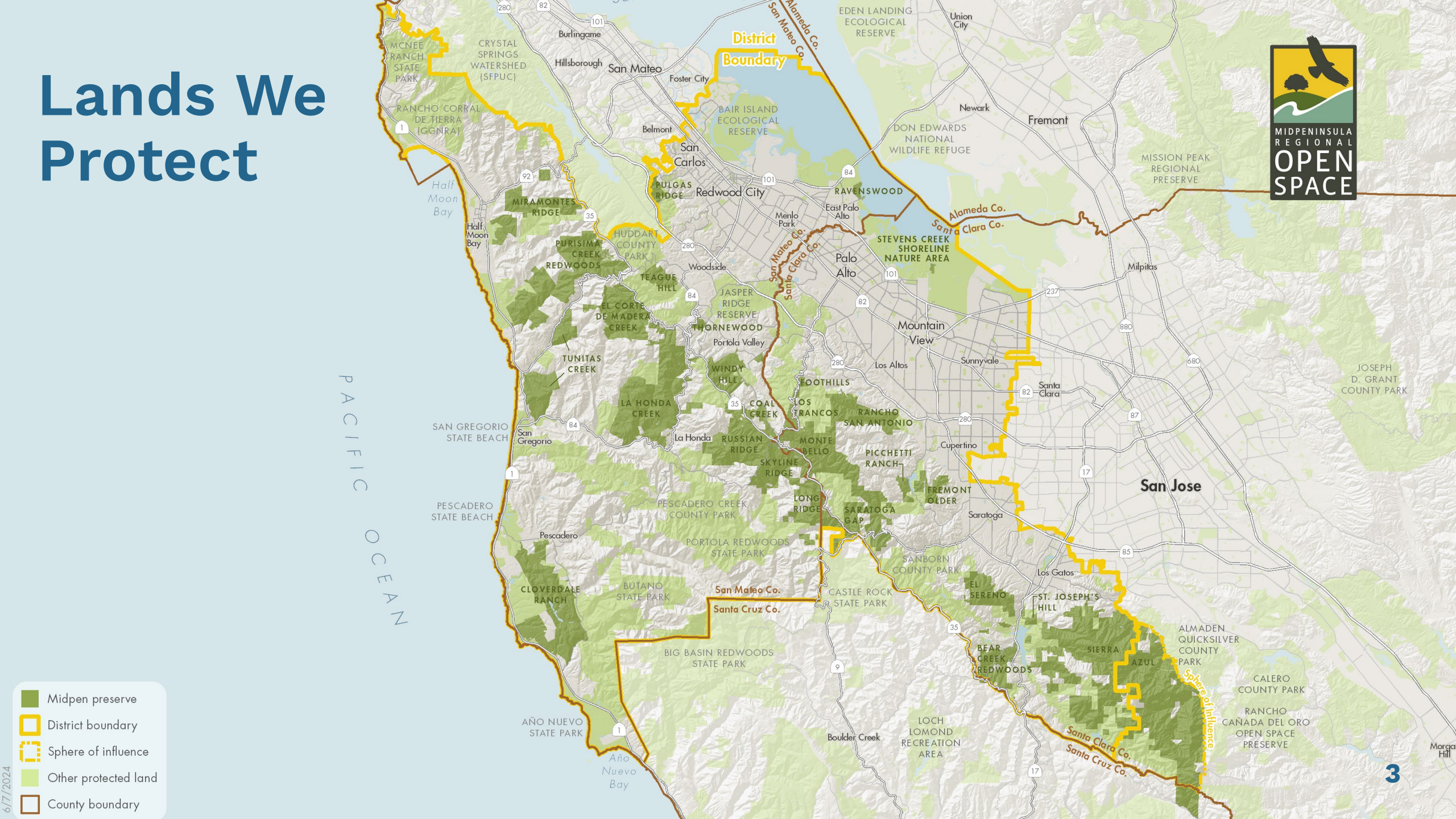


Midpen's mission: to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

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.

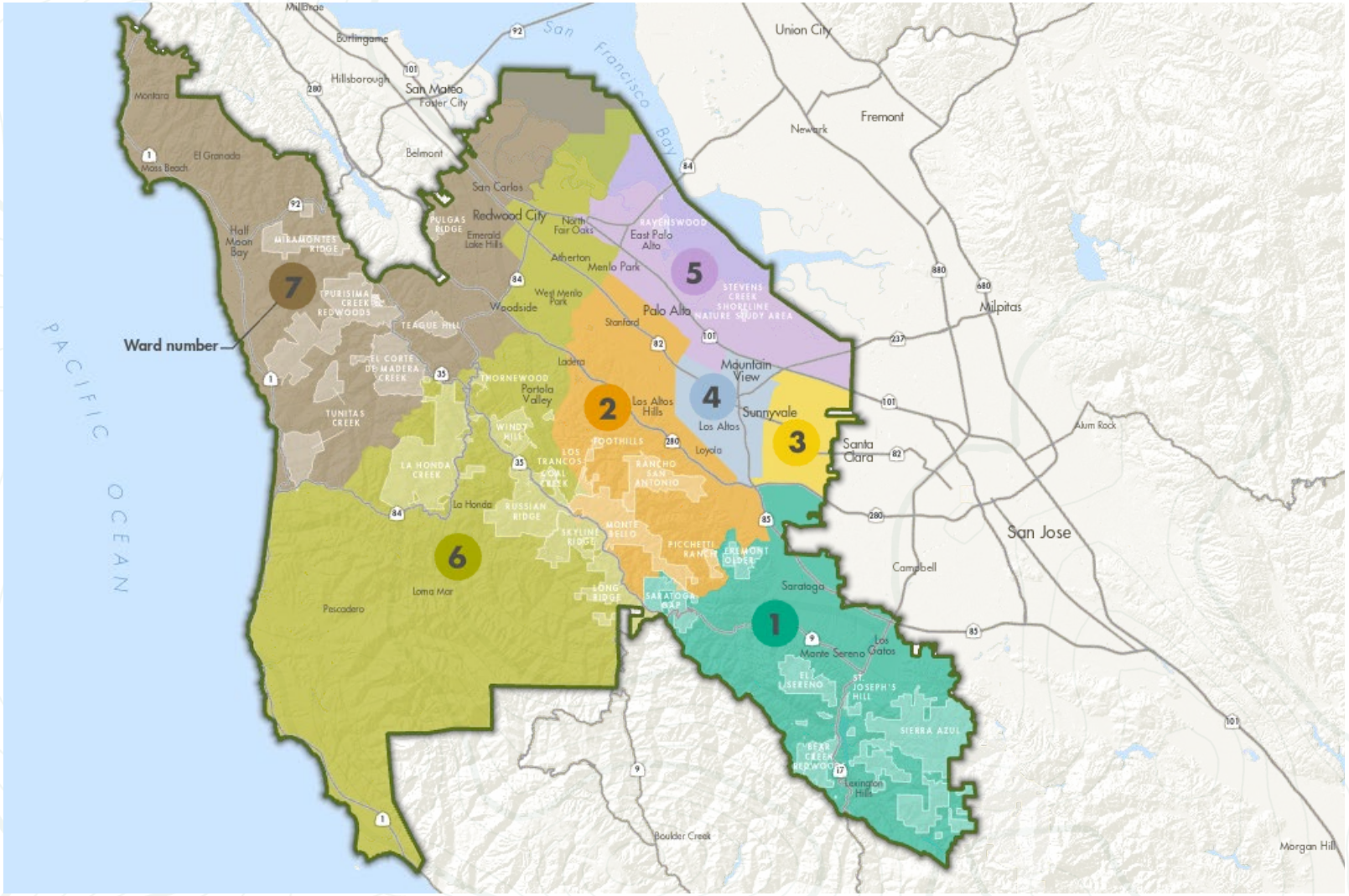


Lands We Protect



6/7/2024

Midpen's Board of Director Wards











Protected by Midpen to date:

- 7,400 acres of redwood forests
- 6,900 acres of grasslands
- 40 acres of serpentine grasslands
- 288 special status species (87 wildlife, 201 plants)
- 23 threatened or endangered species
- 77 miles of perennial creeks; 1,400 ac. riparian veg
- 103 water bodies ..... *AND GROWING!!*









Some Midpen Facts

- Public agency, created in 1972 by a grassroots voter initiative
- 763,000 constituents (2020)
- Elected Board with seven directors
- Funded primarily through property tax
- 27 Preserves in Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties
- Preserved over 72,000 acres & 260 miles of trails
  - Over 15,000 acres of grazing land on the San Mateo Coast
- Preserves are free and open to the public every day of the year
- Main office in Los Altos + field offices
- ~250 employees, ~1000 volunteers
- Measure AA: $300 million voter-approved general obligation bond passed in 2014 to support public priorities



Nearby Preserves



Photo: Erica Namba

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve



Photo: Hongyun Liu

Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve



Photo: Karl Gohl

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve



Photo: Jessica Lucas



Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area

Ravenswood Open Space Preserve



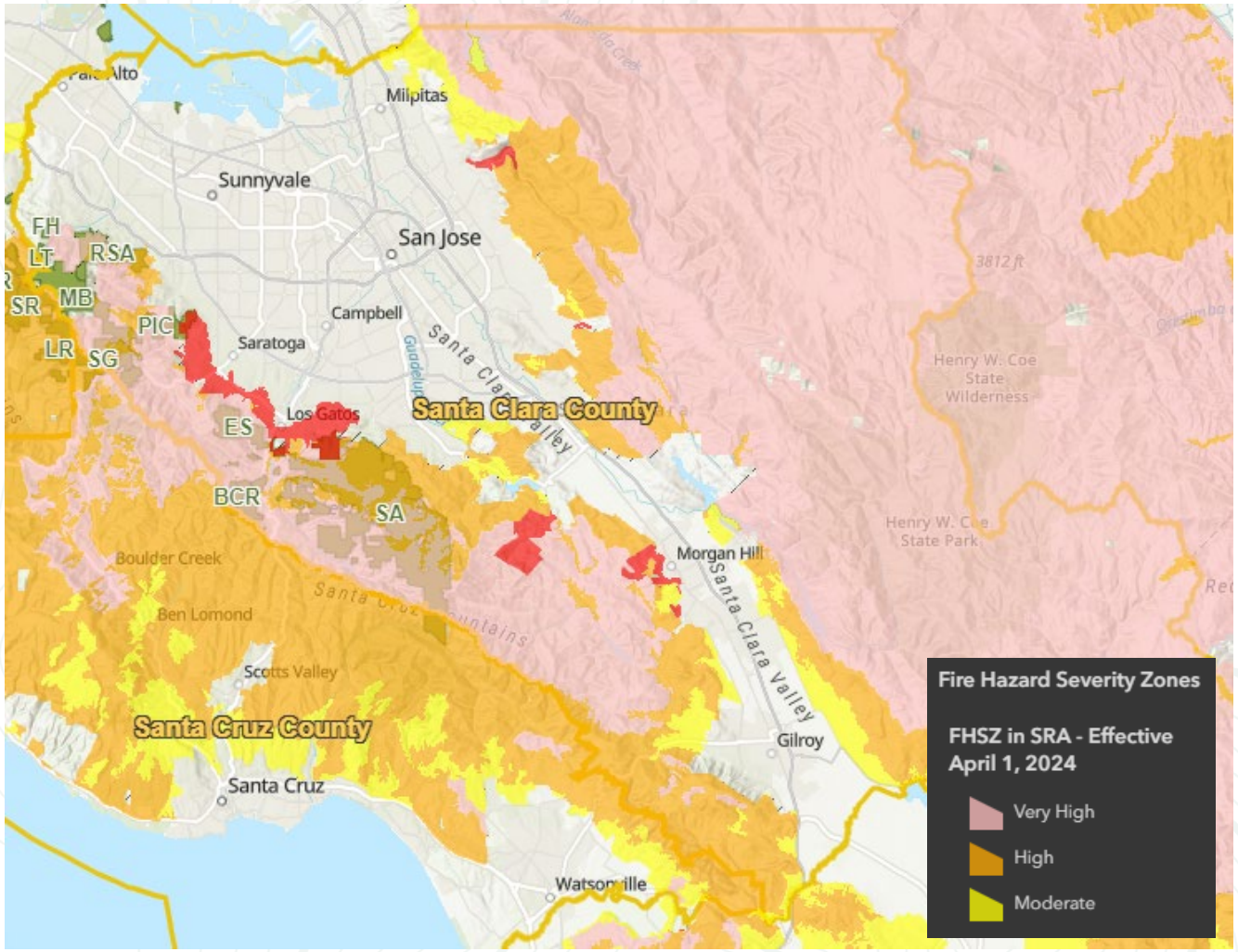
Photo: Madhur Kulkarni

Program & Project Updates



Long Ridge. Charles Tu

Wildland Fire Resiliency Program: Santa Clara County





For more information, please visit www.openspace.org/fire

Prescribed Burns

- Benefits of Prescribed Burns
  - Reduces wildfire risk and intensity
  - Helps preserve grassland habitats by burning encroaching shrubs and trees
  - Cycles carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus through the ecosystem
  - California's native plant community is adapted to and dependent on periodic fires sweeping through the landscape
- Burn Goals
  - Training for Midpen staff
  - Ecosystem restoration
  - Fuel reduction



Midpen Staff at Prescribed Burn, 2024
Photo: Michael Gorman

Enhancing ADA Accessibility within Preserves











Conservation Career Fair 2026





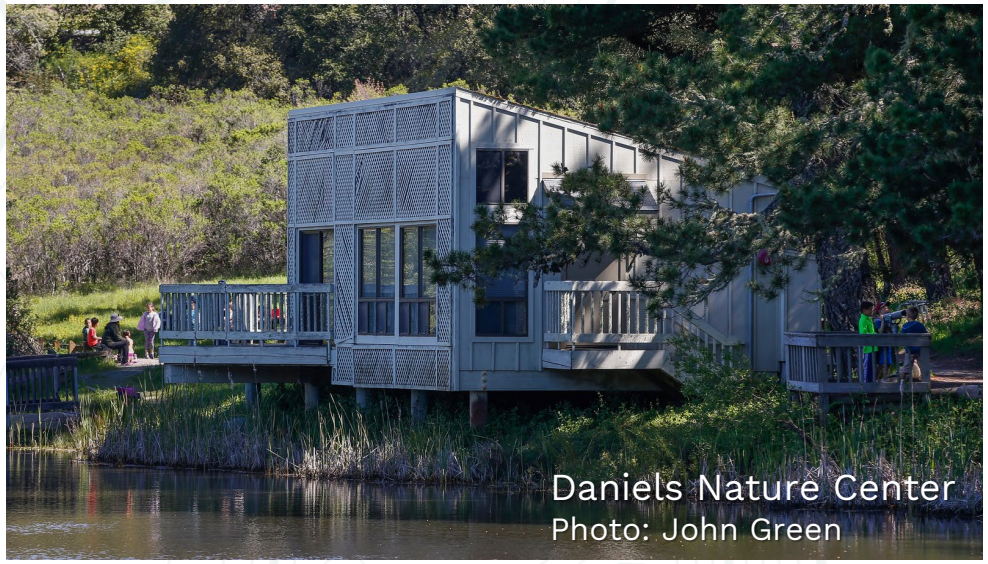








Interpretation & Education Programs



Daniels Nature Center
Photo: John Green



Spaces & Species Field Trip
Photo: Anouchka Gaillard



Docent-Led Hike
Photo: Karen DeMello

Docent Naturalist Program

- ~100 Docent Naturalists (DNs), who lead guided activities on preserves
- Activity topics are diverse, creative, intentionally thematic, and place-based


Photo: Dave Kocsis


Photo: Catherine Crawford-Swent


Photo: Joyce Tang


Photo: Lindsay Joye

2025 Highlights: Partnership Program



Saved by Nature at El Corte de Madera Preserve

"As we reflect on our work in 2025, it is clear that our impact is a direct result of the collaborative partnerships we share with organizations like yours."

-Aurora Cortes, SF Bay Area Regional Coordinator
Latino Outdoors



Student Conservation Association at Los Trancos Preserve



Latino Outdoors at Bear Creek Preserve

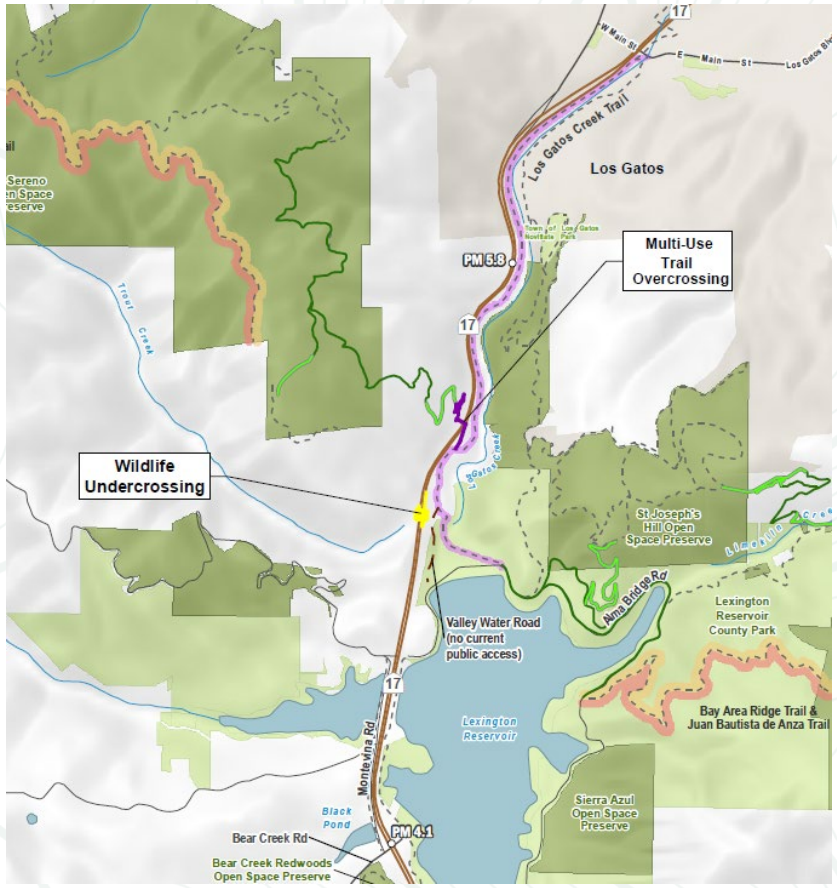
Critical Wildlife Linkages

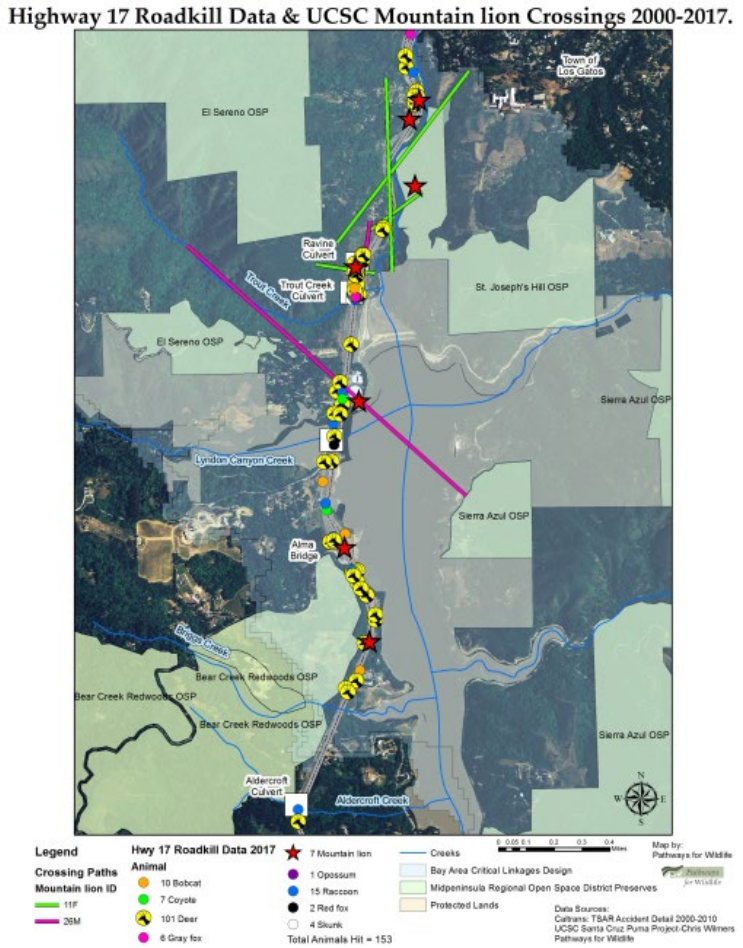
Interconnected habitat is essential

- Supports species with large home ranges
- Facilitates animal movement in response to changes in habitat (e.g. wildfire, pollution, or changing weather patterns)
- Promotes gene flow to keep wildlife populations diverse and healthy



Highway 17 Undercrossing









Highway 17 Overcrossing

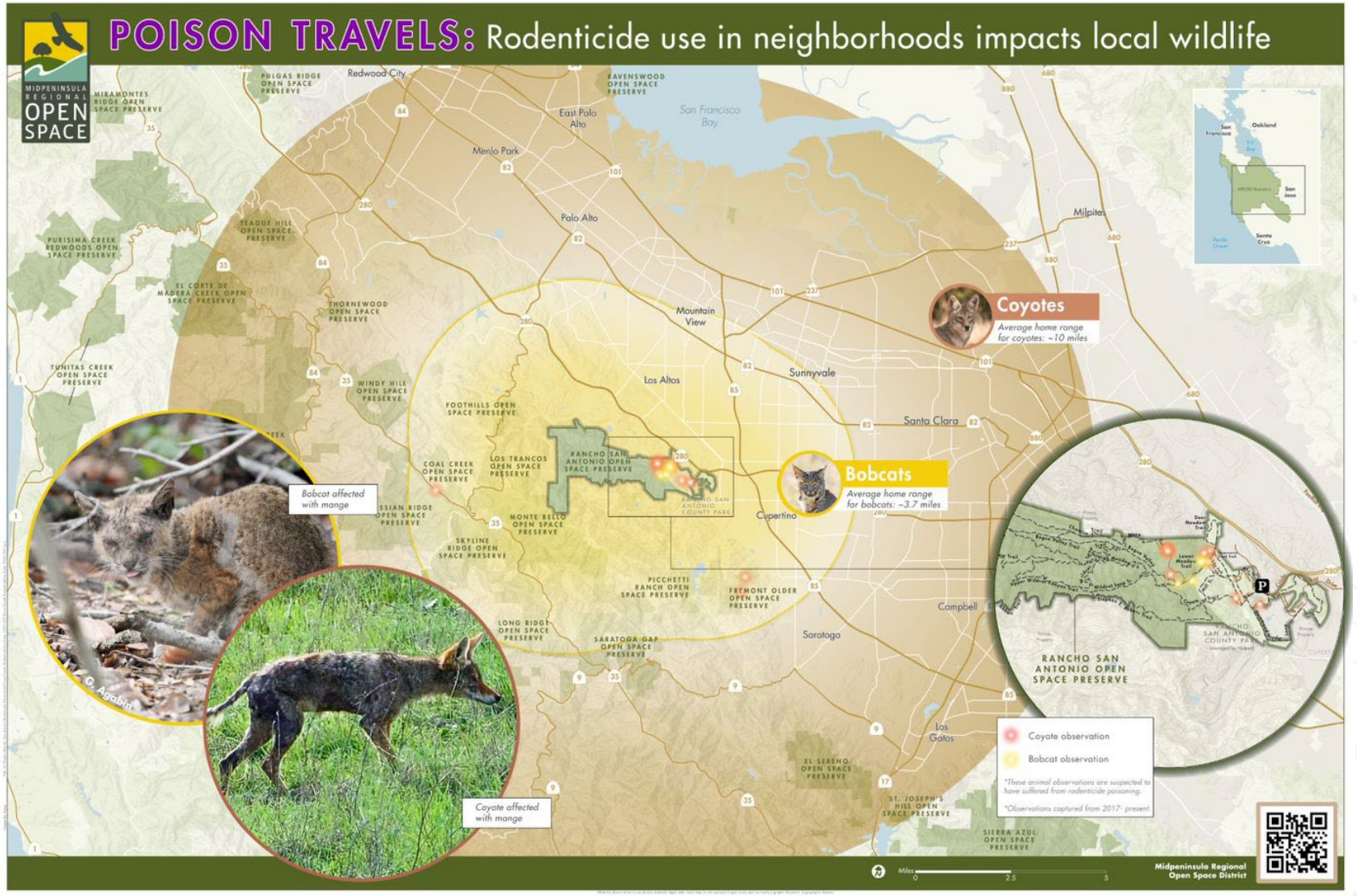


Current Status & Next Steps

Date	Task
2024-2026	Caltrans Plans, Specifications, & Estimates (Final Design) *Fundraising!*
2027 & Beyond	Bidding & Construction *(funding dependent)* VTA is the project delivery partner *Current target groundbreaking – 2027*

Key Partners:

Rodenticide Outreach



The choices you make at home affect open space.

Rodenticides impact the very wildlife that already naturally control rodent populations.



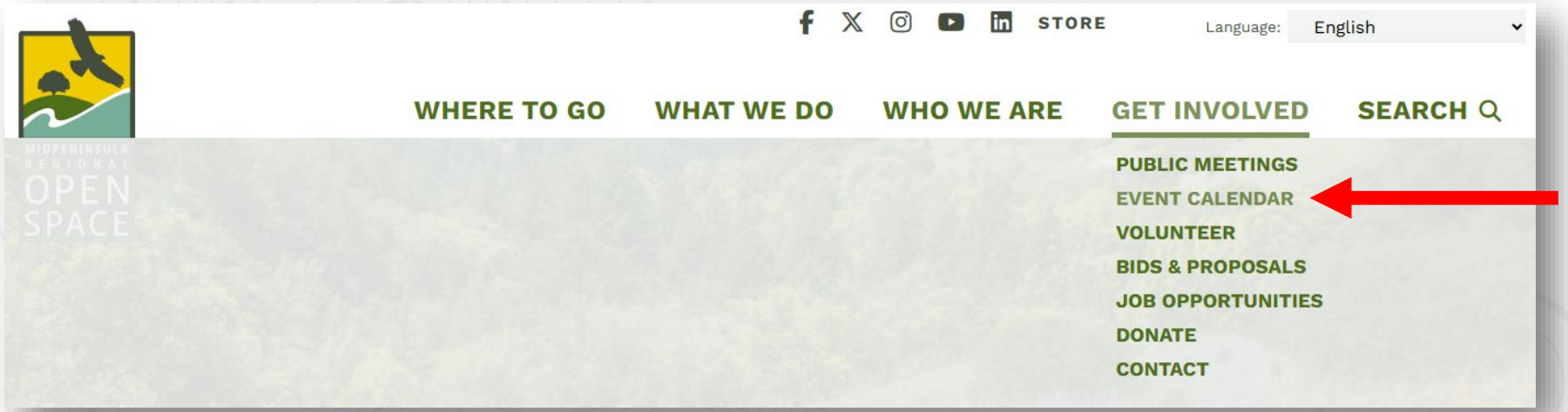
For more information:
openspace.org/rodenticides

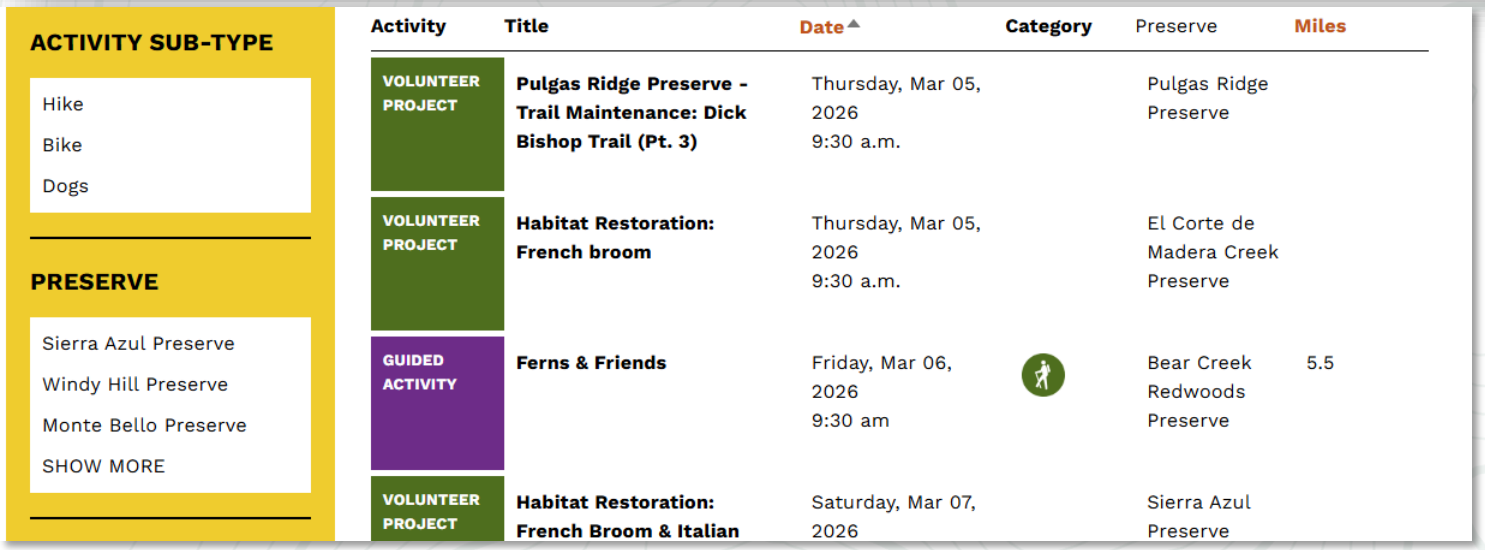
Visit a Preserve & Get Involved



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Join Us! Midpen Events Calendar





Find us at
openspace.org/events

Get Involved!

Follow us on social media
@midpenopenspace

Subscribe to Midpen's newsletter!

Join an event or activity!

Join a volunteer project!

We are Midpen!



Our capacity to innovate, problem-solve, partner, leverage opportunities, and face new challenges showcases our capacity to lead

Questions?

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info@openspace.org

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MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE



Los Trancos, Thirumalai Suresh