

Welcome!

The meeting will begin shortly

**Highway 17 Wildlife and Regional Trail Crossings
Virtual Community Meeting
January 31, 2023
6pm – 8pm**

Agenda

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Welcome & Introductions | 6:00 – 6:05pm |
| 2) Presentation by Midpen Staff | 6:05 – 6:35pm |
| 3) General Q&A/Open Forum | 6:35 – 6:45pm |
| 4) Virtual Open House | 6:45pm – 8:00pm |

This meeting is being held via Zoom Webinar and will be recorded



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Zoom Functions and Q&A

- You will be placed on mute until we open the meeting for Q&A following staff's presentation.
- If you would like to ask a question during open forum, use the "Raise Hand" feature at the bottom of your Zoom tool bar.
 - Attendees will be called upon by staff and unmuted to speak.
 - Participants who call in can press "*9" to Raise Hand.
 - If you are unable to use the "Raise Hand" feature type your question in the Q&A feature located at the bottom of your screen.
- For technical issues please type your question/issue in the "Q&A" feature located at the bottom of your screen, and staff will respond.



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Welcome & Introductions

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Staff

- Jared Hart, Senior Planner
- Mattea Curtis, Planner II
- Aaron Peth, Planner III
- Julie Andersen, Senior Resources Management Specialist

Consultant Team

- AECOM
- WRECO
- Tony Clevenger



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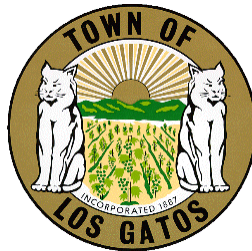
Project Partners and Stakeholders



SANTA CLARA
COUNTY PARKS



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Agenda

Purpose: Provide a status update and provide opportunities to ask questions and receive feedback on the Highway 17 Wildlife and Regional Trail Crossings Project

- 1) Background
- 2) Project Overview
- 3) Schedule & Next Steps
- 4) General Q&A
- 5) Open House (Breakout Rooms)
- 6) Breakout Room Report Outs
- 7) Adjourn



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Midpen Mission



“To acquire 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.”

San Mateo County Coastside Mission (2004):

“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.”



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Background



#	Preserves
1	Bear Creek Redwoods Opening in 2019
2	Coal Creek
3	El Corte de Madera Creek
4	El Sereno
5	Foothills
6	Fremont Older
7	La Honda Creek
8	Long Ridge
9	Los Trancos
10	Miramontes Ridge
11	Monte Bello
12	Picchetti Ranch
13	Pulgas Ridge
14	Purissima Creek Redwoods
15	Rancho San Antonio
16	Ravenswood
17	Russian Ridge
18	Saratoga Gap
19	Sierra Azul
20	Skyline Ridge
21	St. Joseph's Hill
22	Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area
23	Teague Hill
24	Thornewood
25	Tunitas Creek
26	Windy Hill



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Background: Project Purpose and Need

Purpose:

- Improve wildlife passage, habitat connectivity, and regional trail connections in the project area.

Need:

- Maintain healthy wildlife populations through habitat connectivity
- Address wildlife mortality and motorist safety
- Provide more efficient non-automotive recreational access across Highway 17



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Background: Project Timeline

🌿 Midpen Vision Plan (January 2014)

- 18-month vision planning and community engagement process
- 54 Priority Action Portfolios
- Portfolio #20 – Wildlife Passage and Bay Area Ridge Trail Improvements



🌿 Measure AA (June 2014)

- \$300M bond to fund top 25 Vision Plan priority action portfolios



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Background: Project Timeline

2016

- Project initiated with Caltrans - Project Study Report - Project Development Support (PSR-PDS) phase
- Public Meeting #1
- Preliminary Alternatives Report

2019

- Public Meetings #2 and #3 (2018 and 2019)
- Revised Alternatives Report
- Caltrans Project Study Report (completion of Caltrans PSR-PDS phase)

2020

- Begin preliminary design and environmental analysis (Caltrans Project Approval & Environmental Documentation (PA&ED) phase)

2023

- Public Meetings #4
- Environmental Document Circulation
- Complete Caltrans PA&ED phase



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Project Overview



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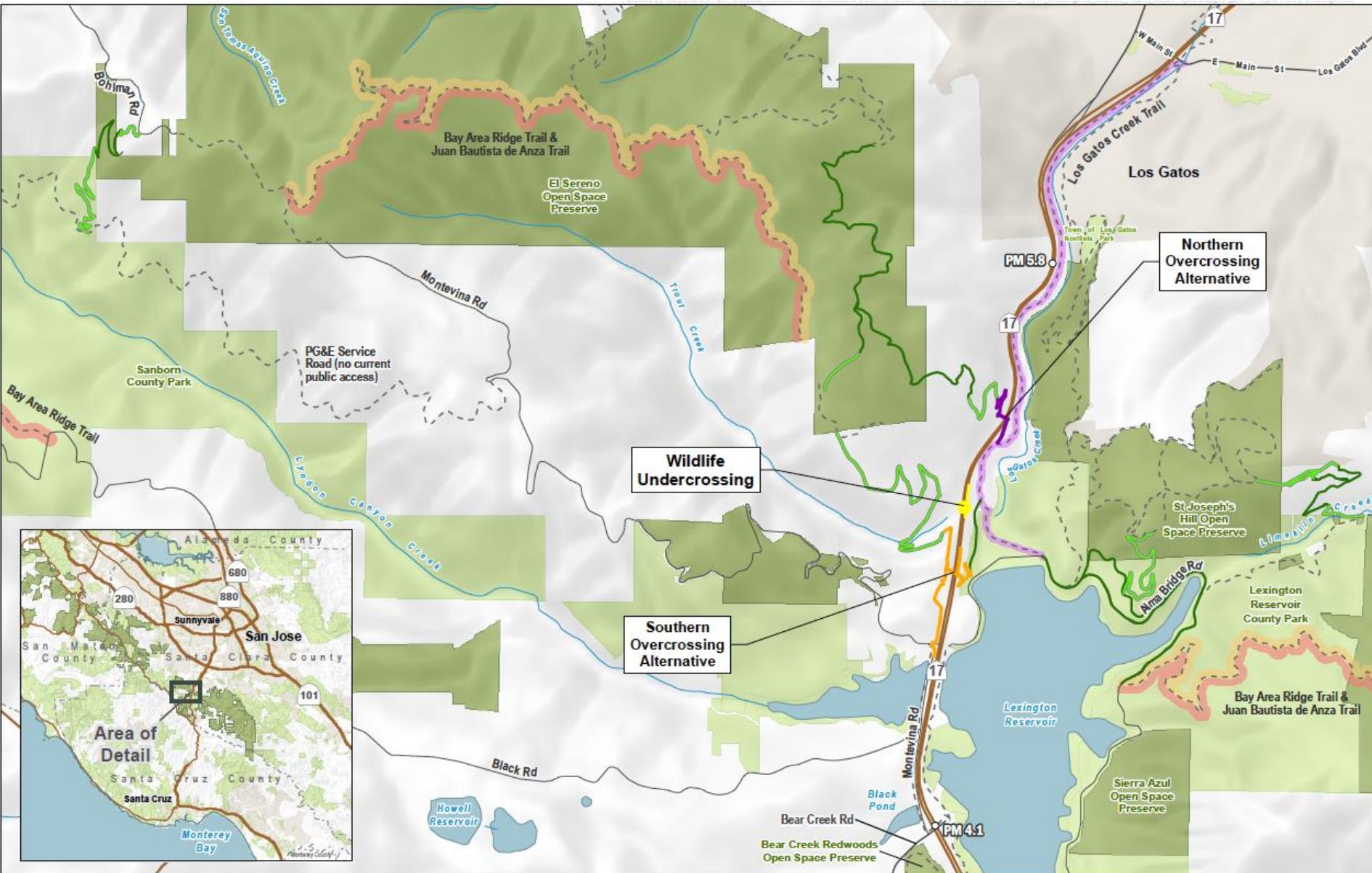


Figure 1: Project Vicinity

○ Project Post Mile	Proposed Crossings	Trails	— Bay Area Ridge Trail
— River/Stream	— Southern Overcrossing Alternative	— Proposed Trail	— Bay Area Ridge Trail & Juan Bautista de Anza Trail
— Midpen Open Space	— Northern Overcrossing Alternative	— Existing Trail - Proposed Improvements	— Los Gatos Creek Trail
— Other Protected Land	— Wildlife Undercrossing	--- Existing Trail	

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen)
1/6/2023

Miles 0 0.25 0.5

Project Components

- 🌿 Wildlife Undercrossing
- 🌿 Wildlife Fencing
- 🌿 Mitigation Credit Agreement
- 🌿 Trail Overcrossing – one alternative to be selected (northern OR southern)
- 🌿 Trail Connections

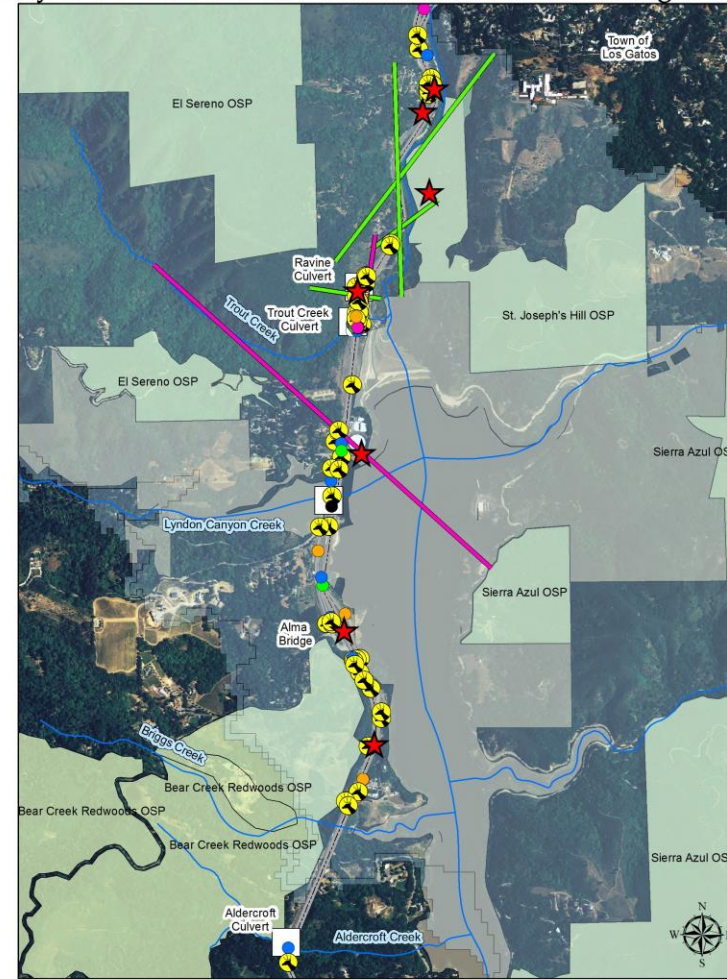
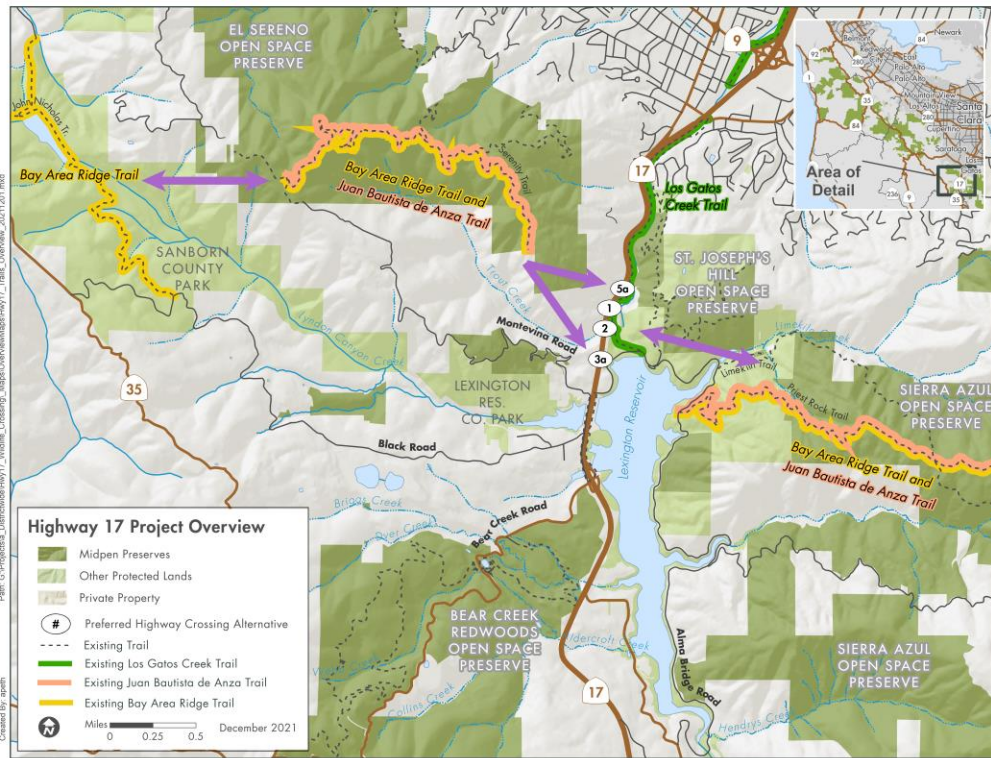


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Why Here?



Highway 17 Roadkill Data & UCSC Mountain lion Crossings 2000-2017.



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Wildlife Undercrossing



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Wildlife Undercrossing

Targeted Species:

- Mountain Lion
- Deer



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Wildlife Undercrossing

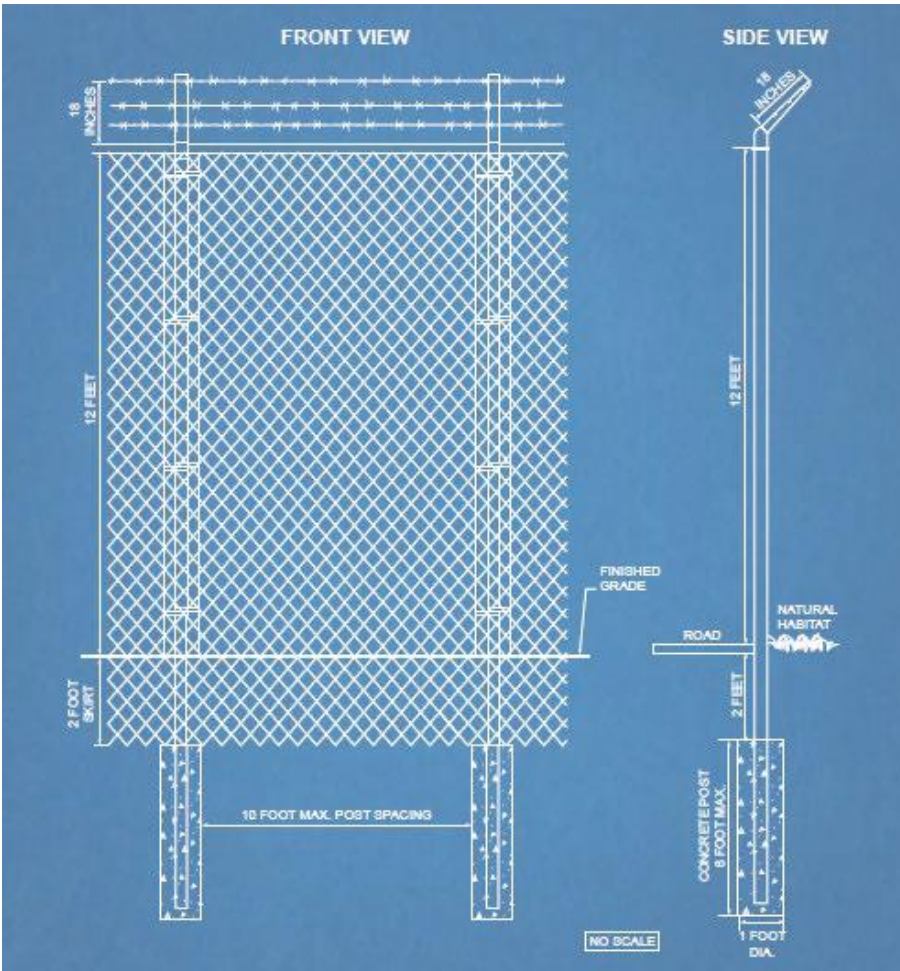


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Wildlife Fencing and Jump Outs



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Mitigation Credit Agreement (MCA)

- 🌿 MCAs create credits that may be used as compensatory mitigation for impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act
- 🌿 Excess credits generated can help fund the project and/or ongoing maintenance
- 🌿 Midpen working with CDFW and other stakeholders

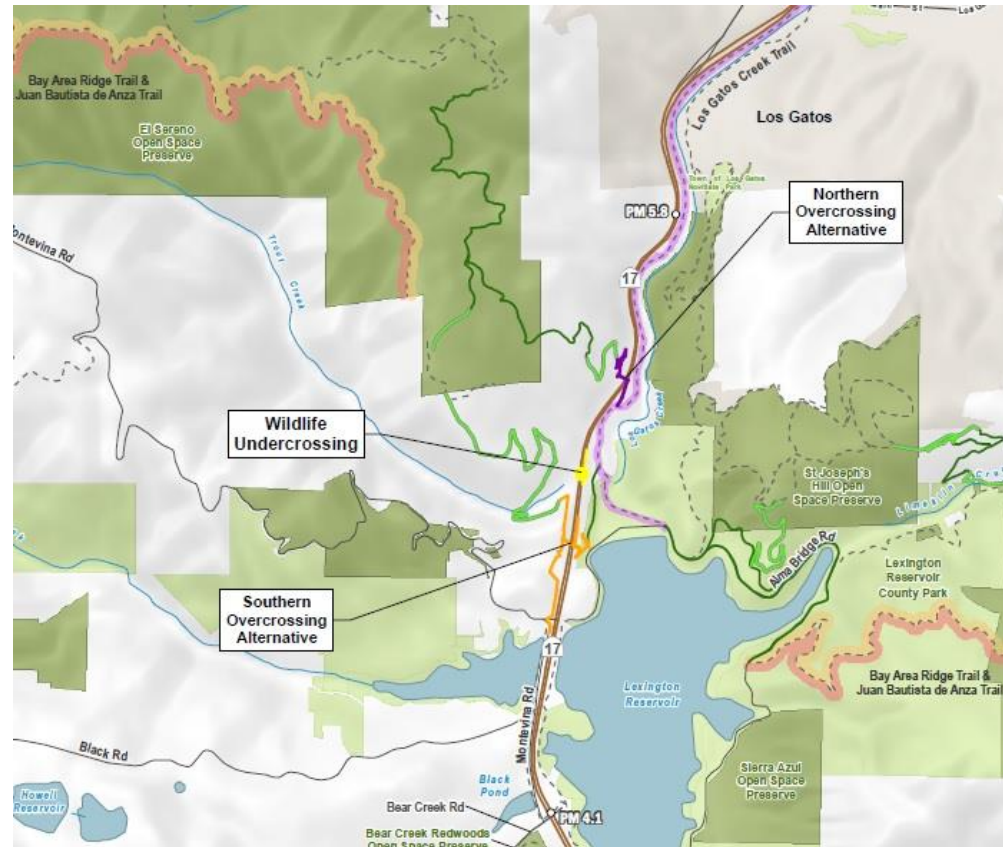


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Trail Overcrossing Alternatives

Two Alternatives (only ONE will be constructed):

- Southern alternative
- Northern alternative



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Northern Overcrossing Alternative



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Northern Overcrossing Alternative



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Southern Overcrossing Alternative



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Southern Overcrossing Alternative



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New Regional Trail Connections and Improvements

- El Sereno OSP to St. Joseph's Hill OSP and Los Gatos Creek Trail
- St. Joseph's Hill OSP to Sierra Azul OSP
- El Sereno OSP to Sanborn County Park
- El Sereno OSP and St. Joseph's Hill OSP to Bear Creek Redwoods OSP (only if Southern Alternative is constructed)
- Jones Trail/Alma Bridge Road to Manzanita Trail



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Potential Trail Connections Being Analyzed



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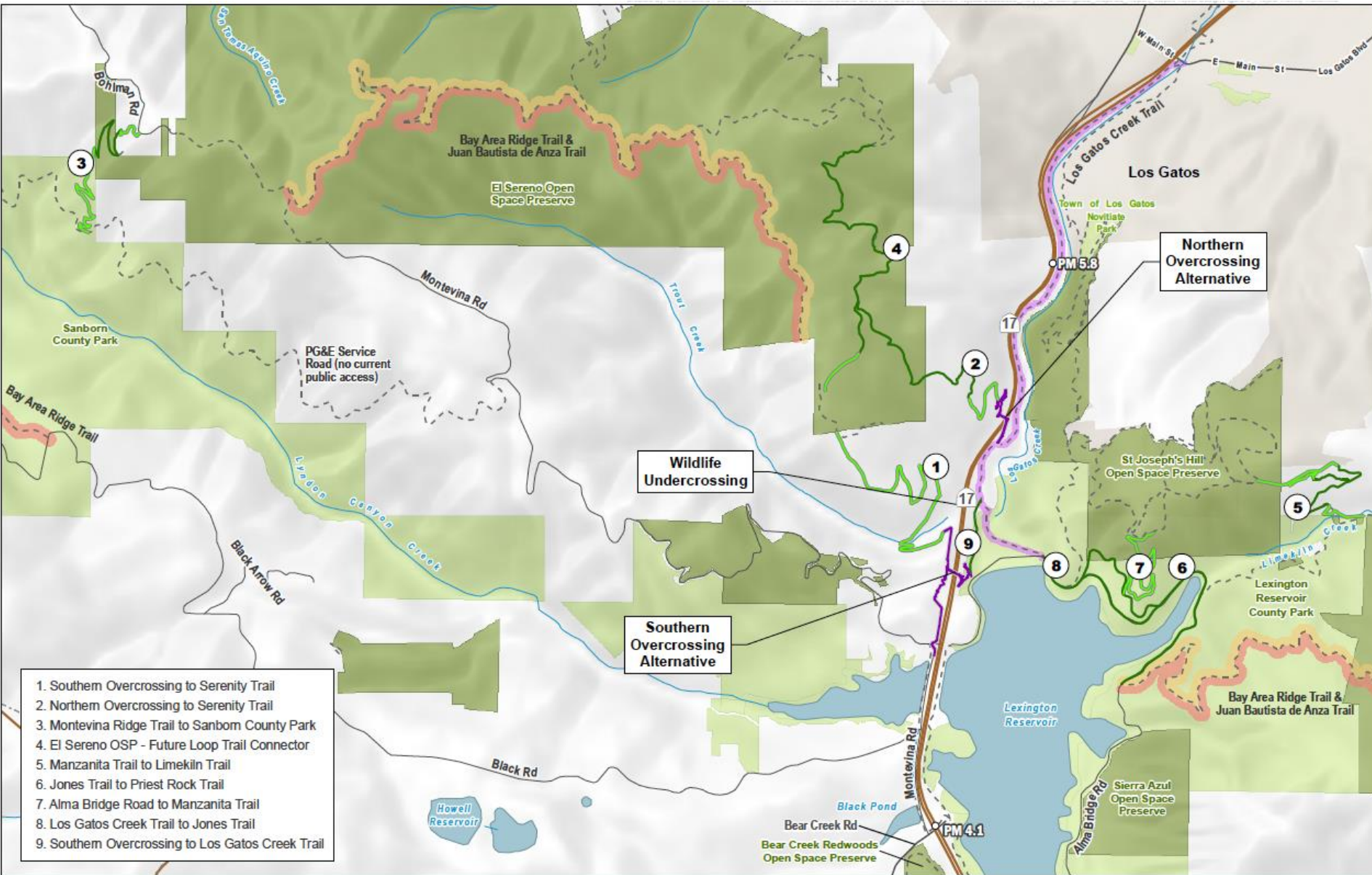


Figure 3: Proposed Trails

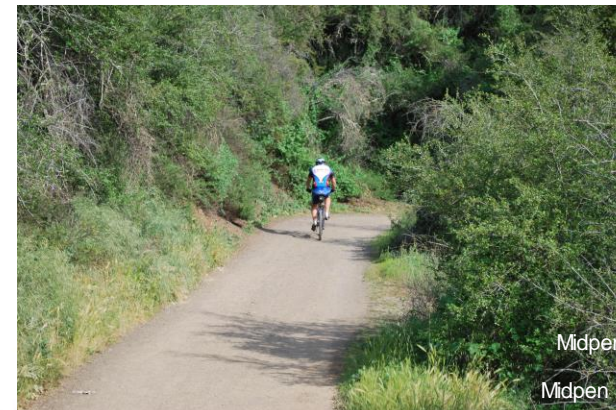
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|----------------------|--|--|
| ○ Project Post Mile | Trails | Bay Area Ridge Trail |
| River/Stream | Proposed Trail | Bay Area Ridge Trail & Juan Bautista de Anza Trail |
| Midpen Open Space | Existing Trail - Proposed Improvements | Los Gatos Creek Trail |
| Other Protected Land | Proposed Overcrossing Trail | Existing Trail |

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(Midpen)
1/6/2023



Trail Uses

- Existing regional trail users
 - bicyclists, equestrians, hikers, dogs-on-leash
- No formal determination at this time on allowable uses for potential trails
- Could vary based on alternative selected



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Environmental Review and Compliance

- 🌿 CEQA – California Environmental Quality Act
- 🌿 NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act
- 🌿 Disclose information about effects proposed project could have on the environment
- 🌿 Identify mitigation measures
- 🌿 Opportunities for public comment:
 - Public circulation of CEQA/NEPA document
 - Board meeting to consider certification of CEQA document



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Project Schedule & Next Steps

Task/Phase	Timeframe
Community Engagement	Winter 2023
CEQA/NEPA Circulation (Public Comment Period)	Summer 2023
Complete Preliminary Design and Environmental Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board selection of preferred overcrossing alternative• Board Certification of CEQA• Caltrans final environmental (NEPA) and Project Report approval	Fall 2023
Permitting and Final Design	2023 – 2025
Crossing Construction	2026 – 2028
Trails Construction	2024 – TBD



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A scenic landscape photograph showing a wooden bench and a wooden railing in the foreground on a dirt path. The background features a vast mountain range with a lake visible in the valley. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in large black text in the center of the image.

Questions?

Open House

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Project webpage: www.openspace.org/Hwy17



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Breakout Rooms for Open House

Breakout Room 1 – Wildlife Undercrossing

Breakout Room 2 – Overcrossing and Trails

Main Room – General Questions

When the breakout rooms open, select the room that you would like to join. You may jump between the rooms as you please. If all of your questions have been answered, feel free to drop off the meeting.



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