

DATE: February 26, 2020

AGENDA ITEM # 3



TO: Complete Streets Commission

FROM: Tom Madalena, Transportation Services Manager

SUBJECT: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District – Rancho San Antonio Preserve

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and recommend approval of modifications to wayfinding signage for Ranch San Antonio Preserve

INTRODUCTION

Rancho San Antonio Preserve adjacent to the City of Los Altos is the most visited preserve in the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) park system. MROSD manages 26 preserves mainly along the Santa Cruz Mountains from the Pacific Ocean to the Santa Clara Valley covering approximately 65,000 acres of public land. Rancho San Antonio Preserve is comprised of a 3,988-acre open space preserve combined with a 165-acre County of Santa Clara park and is the most visited of the 25 preserves open to the public.

BACKGROUND

Rancho San Antonio Preserve is a popular regional destination with a diverse environment to explore through hiking, biking and equestrian uses. Of the 25 MROSD open space preserves open to the public, Rancho San Antonio Preserve draws the highest number of visitors and recorded over 598,000 visitors and 398,000 cars in 2018. These totals do not include visitors entering via St. Joseph Avenue in Los Altos, one of the 6 other access points into the preserve. The preserve has approximately 315 parking spaces and with the volume of visitors, challenges with parking and congestion occur causing the need to evaluate and improve upon the issue. The MROSD is in the process of completing a Multimodal Access Study in order to improve alternative mode access into the park. Along with this effort, MROSD staff approached the City of Los Altos in 2019 to request that the City of Los Altos replace two existing wayfinding signs along St. Joseph Avenue that direct visitors back to Cristo Rey Drive which leads to the main park entrance and parking lot. MROSD requests that the City replace the two existing wayfinding signs with a new sign design that displays that access to an entrance for bicyclists and pedestrians is available through this route.

DISCUSSION

The MROSD strives to provide public access into Rancho San Antonio Preserve and desires to improve multimodal access as part of their effort to address challenges associated with the limited availability of parking for preserve visitors. MROSD requests that the City replace two current wayfinding signs along St. Joseph Avenue to provide direction for bicyclists and pedestrians looking to access the park. This item is being brought forward in an effort to allow for a discussion in a public forum and to inform the public and commission of the intended sign replacement. City of Los Altos staff considers the modifications as seen on the attached revised sign graphic to be an appropriate modification to the wayfinding signage as it supports multimodal access and complete streets while providing better clarity for visitors traveling on Los Altos roadways. Staff recommends that the Complete Streets Commission recommend approval of the staff determination to replace the wayfinding signs along St. Joseph Avenue for Rancho San Antonio Preserve.

ATTACHMENTS

- Revised Rancho San Antonio Preserve wayfinding sign