

**FY20 10 Appropriations Request Form**

Office of Congresswoman Jackie Speier

211 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Phone: 202/225-3531

Fax: 202/226-4183

Website: [www.speier.house.gov](http://www.speier.house.gov)

Individuals/Organizations must respond to all questions on the form. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

All requests will be evaluated before the 12th Congressional District's Citizens Oversight Panel. Appointments to appear before the panel must be made through Cookab Hashemi, chief of staff, at 202/225-3531 or [Cookab.Hashemi@mail.house.gov](mailto:Cookab.Hashemi@mail.house.gov). The panel will convene on the following days; Saturday, March 7, Friday, March 13 and Friday, March 20, 2009. All proposals must be submitted by March 2, 2009.

**Date Submitted:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009

**Project Name:** Cleanup of Former Almaden Air Force Station (AFS), Mt. Umunhum Santa Clara County, California

**Individual/Organization:** *(Is the grantee located in the 12th Congressional District?)*

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD)

The grantee manages open space in the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

**Amount Requested** (requesting report language, please attach.):

\$4,000,000

**Appropriations Bill/Account/Relevant Authorization law/bill/status** (e.g., "Public Law 107-111", "FY2008 DOD Authorization", "Currently pursuing authorization through Agriculture Committee", "Safe Drinking Water Act" or "Hatch Act"):

Department of Defense Appropriations Act; **Account:** Office of Economic Adjustment, Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide

; **Statutory Authorization:** "Military Base Reuse Studies and Planning Assistance," 10 U.S.C. § 2391. "The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, Section 2905 of Public Law 101-510, as amended.

**Local Contact** (Please provide full contact information, including any relevant phone extensions, and indicate if there is a separate D.C. contact.):

Stephen E. Abbors

General Manager

330 Distel Circle Los Altos, CA 94022-1404

(650) 691-1200

[sabbors@openspace.org](mailto:sabbors@openspace.org)

D.C. Contact:

Roger Gwinn

The Ferguson Group

1130 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 300

Washington, D.C. 20036

202-331-8500

[rgwinn@tfgnet.com](mailto:rgwinn@tfgnet.com)

**Organization's Main Activities.** (Please limit your response to 250 words and indicate whether it is a public, private, non-profit or private for-profit entity.)

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a tax district whose purpose is to purchase, permanently protect, and restore lands forming a regional open space greenbelt, preserve unspoiled wilderness, wildlife habitat, watershed, viewshed, and fragile ecosystems, and provide opportunities for low-intensity recreation and environmental education.

The District works to form a continuous greenbelt of permanently preserved open space by linking its lands with other public parklands. The District also participates in cooperative efforts such as the Bay Trail, Ridge Trail, and Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail, which are regional trail systems in the Bay Area that include District lands.

The District has permanently preserved over 57,000 acres of mountainous, foothill, and bayland open space, creating 26 open space preserves (24 of which are open to the public). The District covers an area of 550 square miles and includes 17 cities (Atherton, Cupertino, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Menlo Park, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Carlos, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, and Woodside).

**Please show main items in the project and total cost in a simplified chart form.** (Please include the amount of any Federal/State/Local/Private funds, including any in-kind resources.)

The project is a federal responsibility.

**FISCAL YEAR 2010 OBLIGATION SCHEDULE**

<b>Item</b>	<b>OEA Eligible Expense (\$1,000's)</b>	<b>OEA And FUDS Eligible Expense (\$1,000's)</b>	<b>Total Expense (\$1,000's)</b>
<b>Lead-Based Paint and Asbestos Investigation and</b>			
<b>Abatement</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>
Lead-Based Paint and Asbestos Investigation			
(all buildings)	\$150		\$150
Lead-Based Paint Abatement - (all buildings)	\$240		\$240
Asbestos Abatement - (all buildings)	\$960		\$960
Remediation of lead-contaminated soil at			
building perimeters	\$250		\$250
<b>Building Demolition</b>	<b>\$2,100</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$2,100</b>

Demolish All Structures	\$1,650		\$1,650
Remove hardscape/paving	\$350		\$350
Remove sanitary underground utilities and infrastructure	\$100		\$100
<b>Characterization and Remedial Design for Contamination</b>	\$-	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$400</b>
Complete Additional Soil Investigations		\$100	\$100
Pre-Remediation Design Investigations		\$150	\$150
Remedial Action Plan		\$150	\$150
<b>Remediation of Contaminated Soil</b>	\$-	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
Excavation, off-haul and landfill disposal		\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>Site Restoration Planning and Design</b>		<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<b>Total Fiscal Year 2010 Obligation Funding Requirement</b>	<b>\$3,700</b>	<b>\$3,100</b>	<b>\$6,800</b>

**Project Description, including a timeline, goals, expected outcomes and specific uses of Federal Funds.** (Your response must focus on the requested funds rather than the organization mission and general activities. Please limit your response to 250 500 words.)

In 1986, MROSD purchased land at fair market value, including the former Almaden AFS atop Mt. Umunhum. Prior to transferring the 48--acre property to the District, the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Department of Defense (DOD) acknowledged that the site, which was intensely developed with some 88 structures, underground conduit tunnels and interconnecting pipelines, was contaminated to an unknown extent by DOD activities. Further, GSA and DOD gave MROSD assurances that the property would be decontaminated by the Federal Government.

A significant portion of the cleanup work is being managed under the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program. Cleanup activity, however, has moved at such a slow pace that toxic materials on site have become an increasing danger to public health and the environment, threatening to contaminate area potable water supplies, negatively impacting endangered plants and animals, and preventing residents of the region from using the site for over two decades after its purchase with tax money.

Cleanup of former Almaden AFS must receive a higher priority than DOD has assigned to it. The District seeks the immediate remediation of toxic site conditions at Almaden AFS, including the remediation of petroleum products, solvents, PCBs, friable asbestos, and deteriorating lead-based paint, as well as structural safety issues arising from the two decades of deterioration occurring during the administration of the property while the Army Corps of Engineers' Formerly Used Defense Sites program was (inappropriately) responsible for clean up. At the time the property was transferred, the standard operating procedure was for *all* cleanup work to be completed by GSA and/or the holding agency, in this case DOD, *prior* to transfer. Again, FUDS was not designed to meet current environmental liabilities, but to address contamination on properties already disposed of by DOD, primarily from the WWII and Korea timeframe.

The hazards on the site represent a major threat to the area's drinking water resources. Specifically, Mt. Umunhum holds the headwaters of two key watersheds – Guadalupe Creek and Los Gatos Creek, which in turn drain into four major reservoirs that hold the water supply for the Santa Clara Valley, home to nearly two million people. Hazards on the site also represent a significant threat to a number of federally and state listed species found near the property, including the California red-legged frog, the southwestern pond turtle, the Golden Eagle, and the Coast Horned Lizard.

Assistance from the Office of Economic Adjustment will help the District expedite completion of remediation and reuse work that cannot be handled under the FUDS program and that must be carried out to provide for public access and proper management of the former Almaden AFS, a critical component of the larger 17,000 acre Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve. Addressing the outstanding reuse issues at Almaden AFS will also help protect the unique environmental characteristics of the sensitive Sierra Azul and Bear Creek Redwoods areas and eliminate the threat posed to public health and listed species by uncontained contaminants on the former military facility.

**How will this earmark serve to expand the capacity of your organization and how will your organization sustain this work beyond the federal funding?** (Your response must focus on the impact of the requested funds rather than the organization 's long-term goals.)

Assistance from the Office of Economic Adjustment will help the District expedite completion of remediation and reuse work that cannot be handled under the FUDS program and that must be carried out to permit public access and proper management of the former Almaden AFS, a critical component of the larger 17,000 acre Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve.

**What is the local significance of this project?**

Addressing the outstanding reuse issues at Almaden AFS will allow the District to open the site up to public access, which is an open-space priority for the region. It will also help protect the unique environmental characteristics of the sensitive Sierra Azul and Bear Creek Redwoods areas and eliminate the threat posed to public health and listed species by uncontained contaminants on the former military facility.

**How many residents of the 12th CD will benefit from this project?** (i.e. jobs created, services rendered to, how many people, etc.) Tens of thousands of residents of the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District visit the open space preserves owned and managed by the District annually. A significant number of residents of 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District are expected to take advantage of public access to former Almaden AFS when it is opened up to the general public, which can only occur once the site is fully remediated.

Once Almaden AFS is cleaned up, the public will have access to Mt. Umunhum (3,486 feet), the second-highest peak in the Santa Clara Valley, and nearby Mt. Thayer (3,483 feet). These peaks offer magnificent views of the Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean to the south and west, the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the east, and San Francisco to the north. Since 1986, more land has been purchased by the District for the public so that Mt. Umunhum is now embedded in the nearly 17,000-acre Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve.

**List any other organizations or state/local elected officials who have expressed support for the project in writing.** (Please submit copies of support letters along with the proposal.) (See attached)

**Does the organization have any other funding requests for this project?** (Federal, State, Local or private pending?)  
No.

**Has the organization previously received Federal funds for this project?** (Please list any funds received [by fiscal year] and briefly describe how those funds were spent.) No.

**Please attach a list of your organization's staff and board members** (if any). (see attached information)

Board of Directors

**Ward 1:** Pete Siemens

Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga

**Ward 2:** Mary Davey

Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto, Stanford, Sunnyvale

**Ward 3:** Jed Cyr

Sunnyvale

**Ward 4:** Curt Riffle

Los Altos, Mountain View

**Ward 5:** Nonette Hanko

East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Stanford

**Ward 6:** Larry Hassett

Atherton, La Honda, Loma Mar, Menlo Park, Pescadero, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Gregorio, Woodside

**Ward 7:** Cecily Harris

El Granada, Half Moon Bay, Montara, Moss Beach, Princeton, Redwood City, San Carlos, Woodside

Staff

General Manager - Steve Abbors

The District has two field offices, one located at Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve and one on Skyline Blvd at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve. There are approximately 20 permanent staff at each field office who provide patrol, maintenance, and visitor services.

# Regional Open Space



## MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

### **MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT (DISTRICT) ADDITIONAL WORK AND ASSOCIATED COSTS REQUIRED TO RECLAIM THE FORMER ALMADEN AIR FORCE STATION AT MT. UMUNHUM SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

The cleanup investigations have been greatly protracted and are still ongoing while some potential contamination issues remain unaddressed. In addition to the contamination being addressed by the ACOE, conversion of the site to regional open space recreation requires the demolition of the abandoned dilapidated structures, regrading portions of the site to restore the natural landscape, and significant ecosystem and vegetation restoration work. The following cost estimate has been prepared to complete the remedial investigations currently underway and complete the required planning and projects to restore the site to an envisioned public use as a south San Francisco Bay area destination equal to those already provided in the north and east San Francisco Bay areas.

Construction of an overlook facility could also be completed with interpretive panels designed to enhance the expansive vistas. Finally, an approximate 5-mile stretch of Mt Umunhum Road leading up to the site is severely deteriorated and would not withstand heavy vehicle traffic during remediation, demolition, and construction activities, and would need to be resurfaced before allowing public access. Based on the tasks outlined below, the total budget to open Mt Umunhum as a publicly accessible open space recreation area and scenic overlook is estimated at **\$10.1M.**

#### **RESTORATION EXPENSES TO BE OBLIGATED IN FISCAL YEAR 2010 TOTAL \$6.8M, AND INCLUDE:**

**Lead-Based Paint and Asbestos Investigation and Abatement** – Approximately 37 buildings and 15-20 smaller abandoned structures remain at the site. Buildings of particular interest include the former radar tower (an approximate 5-story concrete monolith), a generator building (still equipped with large generators), 16 residential structures, and 19 operations and maintenance buildings. Significant lead paint and asbestos abatement is required prior to demolition (see attached photographs). In addition, soil contamination around the buildings resulting from at least 25 years of paint deterioration will require remediation. The total investigation and abatement cost is estimated at **\$1.6M.**

**Building Demolition** – All abandoned buildings require demolition and removal from the site. Required also is demolition of associated hardscape, remaining underground utilities (electric, sewer, etc.), and deteriorated pavement. The total demolition cost is estimated at **\$2.1M.**

**Investigation and Remedial Design for Contamination** – Additional soil quality investigations are required to fully characterize the distribution of contaminants in the subsurface related to former

chemical use and storage practices. Pre-remedial design investigations are necessary to ensure development of remedial action plans consistent with protection of public health for future unrestricted public access and sensitive ecosystem restoration. The total cost for investigation and remedial design for contaminated soil is estimated at **\$0.4M**.

**Remediation of Contaminated Soil** – Excavation, off-haul and landfill disposal of contaminated soil is required to meet public health and ecosystem restoration standards. Total cost is estimated at **\$2.5M**.

**Site Restoration Planning and Design** – Significant planning and design work will be performed coincident with site demolition and cleanup to facilitate rapid transition to site restoration in subsequent years. District planning and design work to be performed in Fiscal Year 2008-2009 is estimated at **\$0.2M**.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2010 OBLIGATION SCHEDULE

Item	OEA Eligible Expense (\$1,000's)	OEA And FUDS Eligible Expense (\$1,000's)	Total Expense (\$1,000's)
<b>Lead-Based Paint and Asbestos Investigation and Abatement</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>
Lead-Based Paint and Asbestos Investigation (all buildings)	\$150		\$150
Lead-Based Paint Abatement - (all buildings)	\$240		\$240
Asbestos Abatement - (all buildings)	\$960		\$960
Remediation of lead-contaminated soil at building perimeters	\$250		\$250
<b>Building Demolition</b>	<b>\$2,100</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$2,100</b>
Demolish All Structures	\$1,650		\$1,650
Remove hardscape/paving	\$350		\$350
Remove sanitary underground utilities and infrastructure	\$100		\$100
<b>Characterization and Remedial Design for Contamination</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$400</b>
Complete Additional Soil Investigations		\$100	\$100
Pre-Remediation Design Investigations		\$150	\$150
Remedial Action Plan		\$150	\$150
<b>Remediation of Contaminated Soil</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
Excavation, off-haul and landfill disposal		\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>Site Restoration Planning and Design</b>		<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<b>Total Fiscal Year 2010 Obligation Funding Requirement</b>	<b>\$3,700</b>	<b>\$3,100</b>	<b>\$6,800</b>

**RESTORATION EXPENSES TO BE OBLIGATED IN FISCAL YEARS (2010 – 2011) TOTAL \$3.3M AND INCLUDE:**

**Site Regrading to Natural Topography** – Previously developed areas of the site should be regraded to re-establish natural topography and drainage. The cost, including planning and design, is estimated at **\$0.5M**.

**Vegetation/Habitat Restoration** – Re-establishing native vegetation and ecosystem habitat is a critical element in the overall open space development plan. The cost, including planning and design, is estimated at **\$0.3M**.

**Mt. Umunhum Road Reconstruction** – An approximate 5-mile stretch of Mt. Umunhum Road will require re-surfacing following the heavy use associated with building demolition and contamination cleanup. The total cost, including engineering and construction, is estimated at **\$2.5M**.

**Visitor Facilities Planning and Design** – An interpretive center and public facilities will be developed on the site to encourage and enhance open public access. Planning and design costs are estimated at **\$0.2M**.

**Visitor Facilities Construction** – Construction costs for public facilities at the site are estimated at **\$0.3M**.

**FISCAL YEAR 2010 - 2011 OBLIGATION SCHEDULE**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Other Reuse Expenses (\$1,000's)</b>	<b>OEA and FUDS Eligible Expense (\$1,000's)</b>	<b>Total Expense (\$1,000's)</b>
<b>Site Regrading to Restore Natural Contours</b>		\$500	\$500
<b>Site Revegetation/Restoration</b>		\$300	\$300
<b>Mount Umunhum Road Repair/Repavement</b>	\$2,000		\$2,000
<b>Visitor Facilities Planning and Design</b>	\$200		\$200
<b>Visitor Facilities Construction</b>	\$300		\$300
<b>Total Fiscal Years 2009-2011 Obligation Funding Requirement</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$800</b>	<b>\$3,300</b>

# Regional Open Space



MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

**Cleanup of Former Almaden Air Force Station (AFS), Mt. Umunhum**  
**Santa Clara County, California**  
**Department of Defense Appropriations Act, Office of the Secretary of Defense,**  
**Office of Economic Adjustment, Fiscal Year 2010**

**Request:** \$4,000,000 in the FY 2010 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, under Office of the Secretary of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment, for economic adjustment programs necessary to address ongoing issues that create a barrier to reuse of former Almaden AFS. Specific needed activities include infrastructure improvements and environmental mitigation work prepare the site for public access. The total cost of such work is estimated at \$6.9 million.

**Congressional Districts:** Mike Honda (CA-15); Anna Eshoo (CA-14); Zoe Lofgren (CA-16); Jackie Speier (CA-12).

**Background:** In 1986, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) purchased land including the former Almaden AFS atop Mt. Umunhum, near downtown San Jose, California. Prior to transferring the 48--acre property to the District, the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Department of Defense (DOD) acknowledged that the site, which was intensely developed with some 88 structures, underground conduit tunnels and interconnecting pipelines, was contaminated to an unknown extent by DOD activities. Further, GSA and DOD gave the District assurances that the property would be decontaminated by the Federal Government.

A significant portion of the cleanup work is being managed under the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program. Cleanup activity, however, has moved at such a slow pace that toxic materials on site have become an increasing danger to public health and the environment, threatening to contaminate area potable water supplies and negatively impacting endangered plants and animals. Inaction at the abandoned site has also prevented residents of the region from using the site for over two decades after its purchase with tax money.

Cleanup of former Almaden AFS must receive a higher priority than DOD has assigned to it. The District seeks the immediate remediation of toxic site conditions at Almaden AFS, including the remediation of petroleum products, solvents, PCBs, friable asbestos, and deteriorating lead-based paint, as well as structural safety issues arising from the two decades of deterioration occurring during the administration of the property while the Army Corps of Engineers' Formerly Used Defense Sites program was (inappropriately) responsible for clean up.

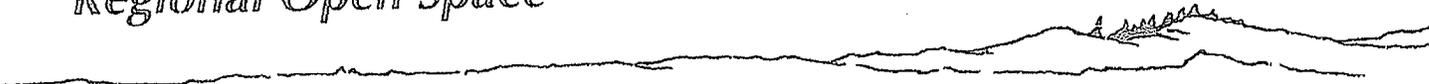
The hazards on the site represent a major and unacceptable threat to the area's drinking water resources. Specifically, Mt. Umunhum holds the headwaters of two key watersheds – Guadalupe Creek and Los Gatos Creek, which in turn drain into four major reservoirs that hold the water supply for the Santa Clara Valley, home to nearly two million people. Hazards on the

site also represent a significant threat to a number of federally and state listed species found near the property, including the California red-legged frog, the southwestern pond turtle, the Golden Eagle, and the Coast Horned Lizard.

Assistance from the Office of Economic Adjustment will help the District expedite completion of remediation and reuse work that cannot be handled under the FUDS program and that must be carried out to provide for public access and proper management of the former Almaden AFS, a critical component of the larger 17,000 acre Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve. Addressing the outstanding reuse issues at Almaden AFS will also help protect the unique environmental characteristics of the sensitive Sierra Azul and Bear Creek Redwoods areas and eliminate the threat posed to public health and listed species by uncontained contaminants on the former military facility.

**Contact Information:** Stephen E. Abbors, General Manager, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, (650) 691-1200, [sabbors@openspace.org](mailto:sabbors@openspace.org); Rudy Jurgensen, Public Affairs Manager, (650) 691-1200, [rjurgensen@openspace.org](mailto:rjurgensen@openspace.org); Roger Gwinn, The Ferguson Group, (202) 331-8500, [rgwinn@tfgnet.com](mailto:rgwinn@tfgnet.com).

# Regional Open Space



MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

February 19, 2009

The Honorable Jackie Speier  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

## RE: MROSD FY 2010 Defense Appropriations Requests

Dear Representative Speier:

On behalf of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), I am writing to request \$4,000,000 in the FY 2010 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, under the Office of Economic Adjustment, Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide, to support work to accelerate the reuse of the former Almaden Air Force Station (AFS). Specifically, MROSD seeks assistance to support environmental assessment and remediation work as well as other infrastructure improvements needed before the site can be opened up to public access. The total cost of such work in FY 2010 is estimated at \$6.8 million.

As we have discussed with your office in the past, in 1986 the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) purchased land including the former Almaden AFS atop Mt. Umunhum, near downtown San Jose, California. Prior to transferring the 44-acre property to the District, the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Department of Defense (DOD) acknowledged that the site, which was intensely developed with some 88 structures, underground conduit tunnels and interconnecting pipelines, was contaminated to an unknown extent by DOD activities. Further, GSA and DOD gave the District assurances that the property would be decontaminated by the Federal Government.

A significant portion of the cleanup work is being managed under the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program. Cleanup activity, however, has moved at such a slow pace that toxic materials on site have become an increasing danger to public health and the environment, threatening to contaminate area potable water supplies and negatively impacting plants and endangered animals. Inaction at the abandoned site has also prevented residents of the region from using the site for over two decades after its purchase with tax money.

Cleanup of the former Almaden AFS must receive a higher priority. The District seeks the immediate remediation of toxic site conditions, including the remediation of petroleum products, solvents, PCBs, friable asbestos, and deteriorating lead-based paint, as well as structural safety issues arising from two decades of neglect as the District has

awaited the conclusion of the Corps of Engineers' cleanup work under the FUDS program.

Hazards on the site represent a major and unacceptable threat to the area's drinking water resources. Specifically, Mt. Umunhum holds the headwaters of two key watersheds, Guadalupe Creek and Los Gatos Creek, which in turn drain into four major reservoirs that hold the water supply for the Santa Clara Valley, home to nearly two million people. Hazards on the site also represent a significant threat to a number of federally and state listed species found near the property, including the California red-legged frog, the southwestern pond turtle, the Golden Eagle, and the Coast Horned Lizard.

Assistance from the Office of Economic Adjustment will help the District expedite completion of remediation and reuse work that cannot be handled under the FUDS program and that must be carried out to provide for public access and proper management of the former Almaden AFS, a critical component of the larger 17,000-acre Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve. Addressing the outstanding reuse issues at Almaden AFS will also help protect the unique environmental characteristics of the sensitive Sierra Azul and Bear Creek Redwoods areas and eliminate the threat posed to public health and listed species by uncontained contaminants on the former military facility. If you have any questions, please contact me at (650) 691-1200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen E. Abbors".

Stephen E. Abbors  
General Manager

# **Clean Up and Environmentally Restore the Former Almaden Air Force Station**

**Atop Mount Umunhum, San Jose, California**

**February 2009**



**Plan for the Future: Protect the natural environment,  
restore the site to a healthy condition, and provide public access  
to the mountain's spectacular vistas of the greater Bay Area.**

- Mountain-top Area: 44 acres
- Former Air Force Station is now embedded in the more than 17,000-acre Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve adjacent to San Jose, California
- Elevation: 3,486 feet
- Purchased at Fair-Market-Value from the United States Government in 1986
- Public interest and involvement in a plan to open up the entire Sierra Azul area and gain access to Mount Umunhum is extremely high, but due to the health and safety risks posed by the deteriorating Almaden Air Force Station the site remains closed to the public.

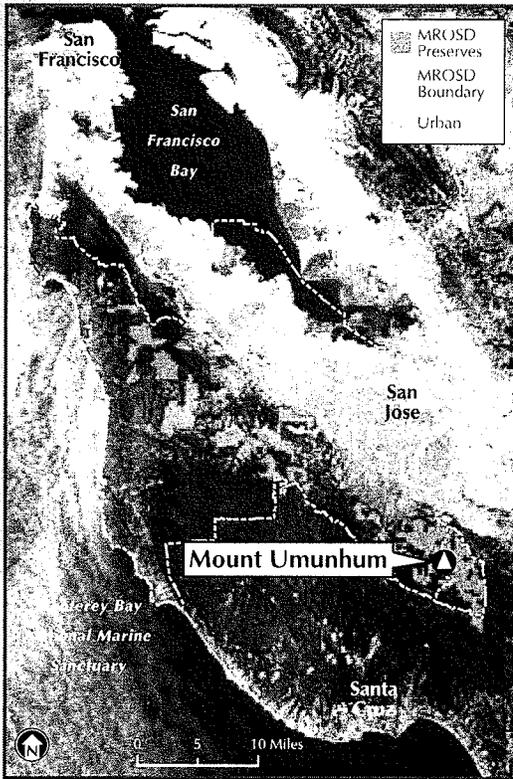


# Restore Mount Umunhum's Natural Environment

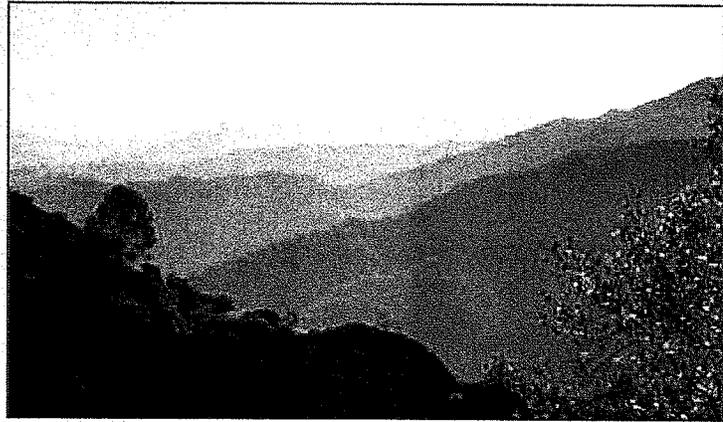
## Background

Mount Umunhum is among the Bay Area's highest peaks and is one of its most prominent and beautiful locations. Rising to an elevation of 3,486 feet, the summit provides a viewing area of approximately 2,000 square miles and spectacular 360-degree views of San Francisco to the north, Monterey Bay to the south, Mount Hamilton to the east, and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

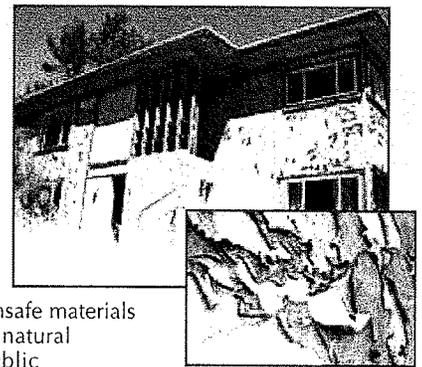
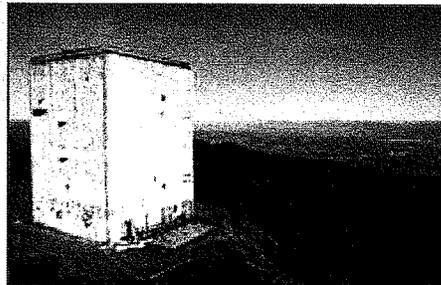
The mountain supports a unique and thriving natural ecosystem that includes several special-status species and holds vast outdoor recreation opportunities. Mount Umunhum has the potential to provide a South Bay summit destination on par with its sister summits Mount Tamalpais (North Bay) and Mount Diablo (East Bay), but has remained closed to the public for more than 20 years due to the health and safety risks posed by the deteriorating Almaden Air Force Station.



Mount Umunhum is located only a few miles from San Jose, California, the 3rd largest city in the State and the nation's 10th largest city.



The vista point at Mount Umunhum will provide visitors with unparalleled panoramic views of the surrounding area.



88 deteriorating buildings, toxins, and other unsafe materials need to be removed to protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for public enjoyment and education.

Mt. Umunhum  
3,486'

Mt. Tamalpais  
2,571'

Lead-Based Paint and  
Asbestos Investigation  
and Abatement—\$1.6M

Characterization and  
Remedial Design of  
Contamination—\$0.4M  
Building Demolition—\$2.1M

Remediation of  
Contaminated  
Soil—\$2.5M

Site Restoration  
Planning and  
Design—\$0.2M

Site Regradin  
Topography—

\$1.6 Million

\$4.1 Million

\$6.6 Million

\$6.8 Million

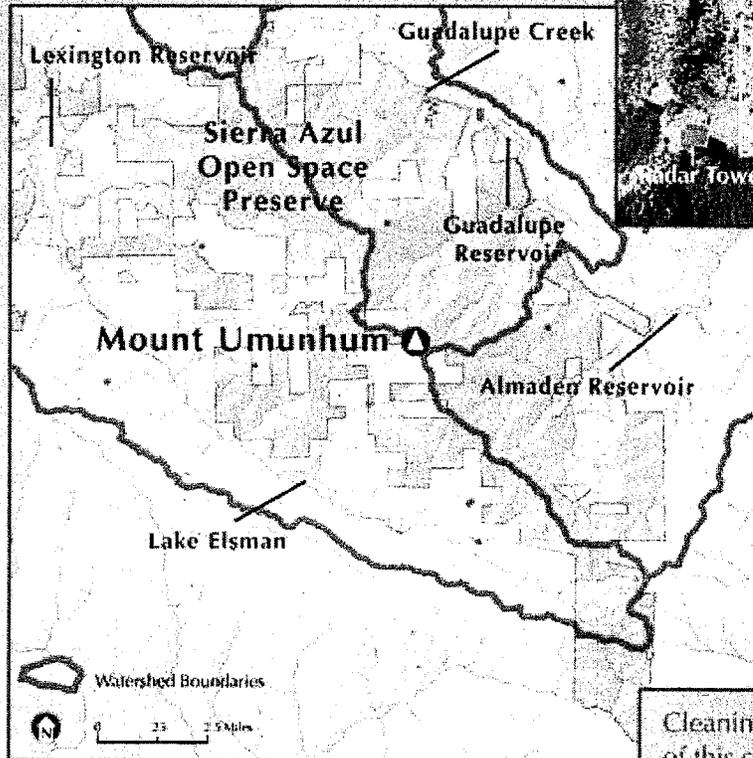
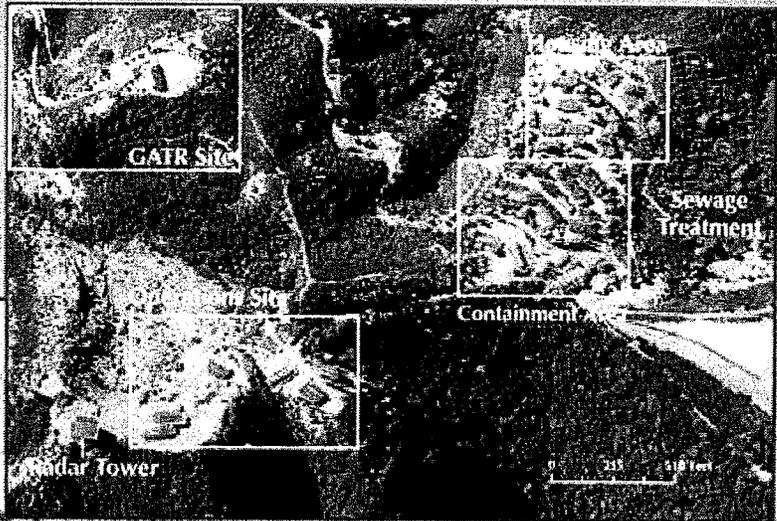
\$7.3 M

**Cumulative Cost to Restore and Open the Mount U**

# ent, Protect Public Health, and Provide Public Access

## Threats to Public Health

Reservoirs providing drinking water to San Jose, California are fed by creeks originating on Mount Umunhum. Without the cleanup, toxic materials at the Air Force Station from stored fuel and chemicals, lead paint, asbestos, and PCB-containing transformers will continue to leach downslope into the watershed.



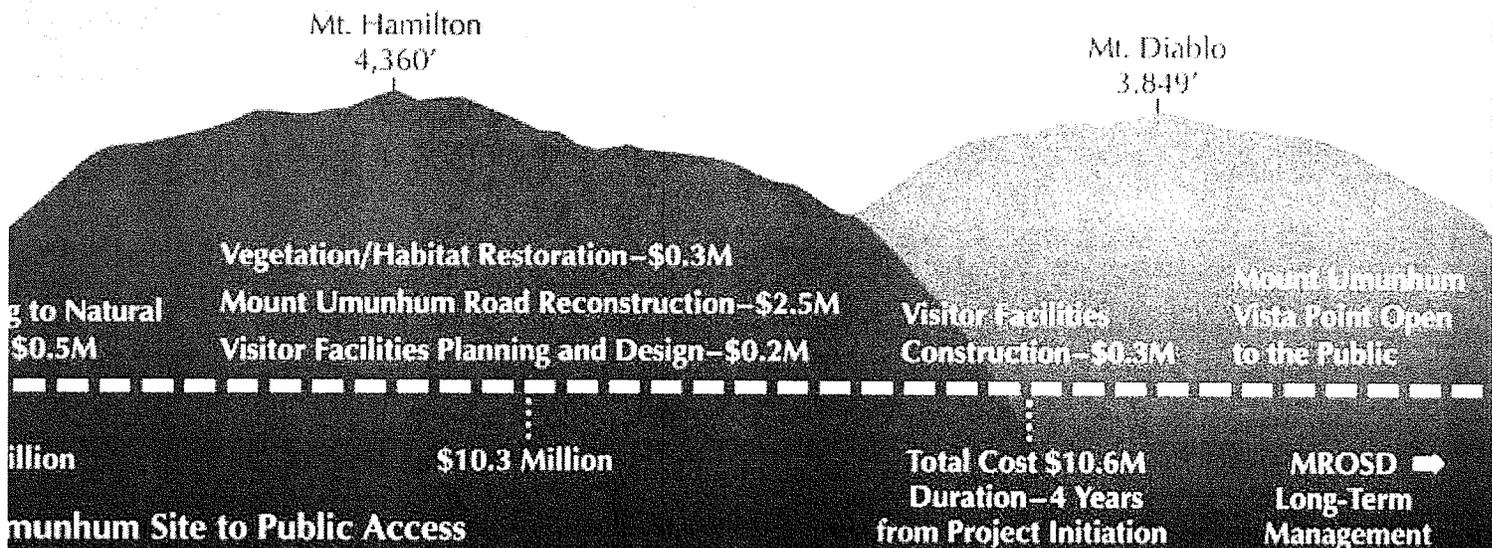
Mount Umunhum's headwaters drain into four reservoirs holding 9.5 billion gallons: the water supply for Santa Clara Valley, home to nearly two million people.

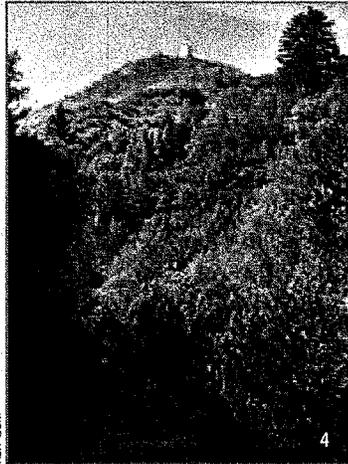
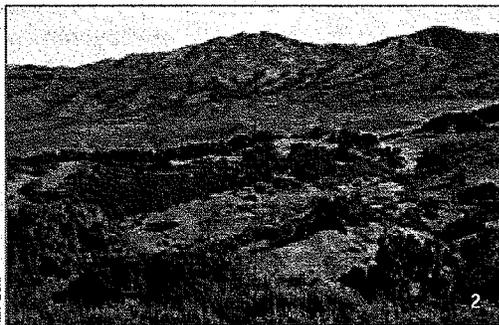
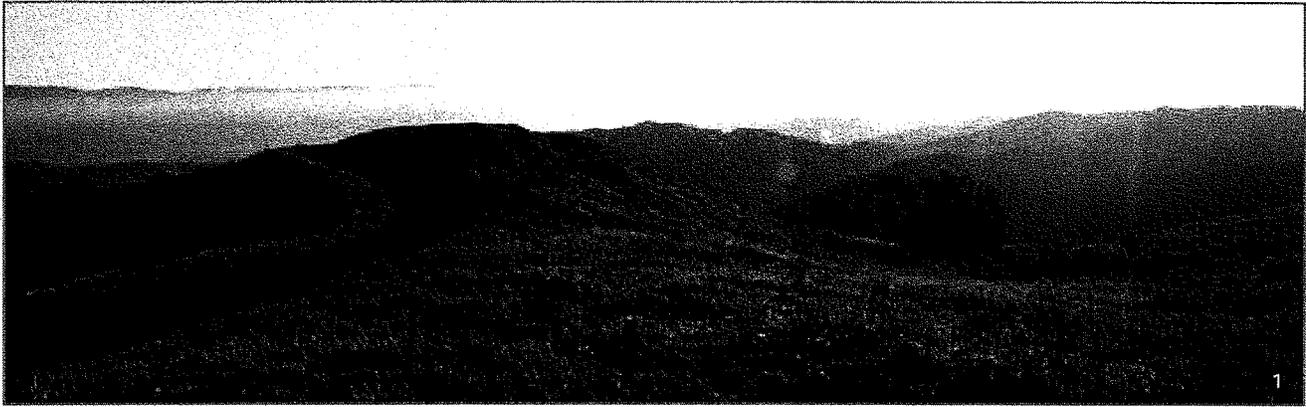
Many of the Air Force Station's 88 buildings contain deteriorated lead-based paint and friable asbestos.

## Threats to the Natural Environment

Contaminants from the Air Force Station imperil Mount Umunhum's complex ecosystem, which includes 63 unique plant communities and several endangered and special status species such as the California red-legged frog and golden eagle. These lands also provide important uninterrupted habitat for mountain lion, bobcat, deer, coyote, and many other animal species.

Cleaning up the Station is essential to restore the health of this special mountain-top environment; to protect the quality of drinking water in downstream reservoirs, and to provide public recreational access to an exceptional place.





2002 Pierre Fidenzi  
[http://www.midpen.org/website/collis\\_default/29/6/press\\_of\\_the\\_press.asp](http://www.midpen.org/website/collis_default/29/6/press_of_the_press.asp)

Photos: 1. View from Mount Umunhum;  
 2. View toward Mount Hamilton from the Woods Trail; 3. California Red-legged Frog;  
 4. Summit of Mount Umunhum; 5. Duddleya;  
 6. Bobcat; 7. Serpentine Grassland

*The District's mission is 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.*



MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT  
 330 Distel Circle \* Los Altos, California 94022-1404  
 Phone: 650-691-1200 \* Fax: 650-691-0485  
 E-mail: [info@openspace.org](mailto:info@openspace.org)  
 Web site: [www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org)