



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** June 14, 2018

**Contact:** Leigh Ann Gessner

650-772-3638, [lgessner@openspace.org](mailto:lgessner@openspace.org)

### **Ana María Ruiz appointed to lead the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District**

**Los Altos, CA**— The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District’s board of directors appointed Ana María Ruiz as the organization’s new general manager at their regular public meeting last night. The decision follows a competitive national recruitment.

Ruiz is Midpen’s fourth general manager to lead the public agency that was created by voters in 1972. She has been rising through the ranks of the organization for 20 years, earning the role of acting general manager after Steve Abbors retired in December.

“Ana María Ruiz is a trailblazer, and the right person to lead Midpen through this time of transition,” said Midpen’s Board President Jed Cyr. “Ana provides the stability and focus needed to ensure a balanced delivery of our mission. She has an incredible understanding of the organization, a keen analytical mind and passion for stewarding public open space and connecting diverse communities to nature.”

As General Manager, Ruiz oversees the successful implementation of the organization’s mission and [vision plan](#) by more than 170 staff. This includes completing new public access facilities and land conservation projects to meet Midpen’s commitments under the 2014 voter-approved Measure AA. Ruiz will also place great emphasis in strengthening existing partnerships and creating new coalitions to engage surrounding communities in the stewardship and protection of local open space lands and the unique natural resources that make the Bay Area so special.

Ruiz began her career with Midpen as a planning technician in 1998, working her way up to planning department manager in 2009 and becoming assistant general manager in 2013. She holds a bachelor’s degree in geological and environmental sciences from Stanford University and a master’s degree in urban and regional planning from San Jose State University. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, and recently completed the Santa Clara County Leadership Academy and California Local Governance Summer Institute at Stanford University. She lives in Mountain View with her family.

###

*The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a public agency created by voters in 1972. Its mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land of regional significance in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education. Midpen has successfully protected more than 63,000 acres of open space throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.*

[www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org)