



Hosted by  
East Bay  
Regional  
Park  
District  
and  
Midpeninsula  
Regional  
Open Space  
District

SPDF  
2019

# SPDF Newsletter



## Welcome to California!

East Bay Regional Park District and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District are thrilled to host you at the 48<sup>th</sup> annual SPDF! Whether you're a first-time SPDF attendee or a seasoned participant over the years, beautiful parklands and comradery with others from our field will leave you comparing issues, educated on best practices and with new friends for your rolodex.



We kicked off our forum on Sunday night at a reception at the hotel, Marriott Walnut Creek with a welcome from Mayor Cindy Silva of Walnut Creek, our park district host Board Presidents, Ayn Wieskamp (EBRPD) and Pete Siemens (Midpen). Host GM's Bob Doyle and Ana Ruiz told us how important open space is for Bay Area residents and highlighted two tours of park properties that SPDF attendees get to see prior to public opening, namely the Concord Naval Weapons Station and Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve.



## ABOUT SPDF -- BY THE NUMBERS:

**159** people from **11** U.S. states and Canada are registered for SPDF Bay Area.

You'll be traveling about **500 miles** during this Forum.

Our buses will traverse **five busy Bay Area freeways** and **one bridge** to get to our destinations.





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## SPDF Newsletter, *continued*

### HOUSEKEEPING REMINDERS:

You can find the full daily schedule online at <https://spdf2019.com/schedule/>

Daily breakfast starts at 7:30am in the EBRPD ballroom on Level B2. Featured speakers will present at 8:00am during breakfast daily.

Thanks for bringing your water bottles to show that our collective impact on “leave no trace” starts with people and parks. Water and snacks will be on the bus and at the tour stops.

Once you leave the hotel, you won’t be back again until after dinner! Make sure to bring everything you’ll need while on tour (jackets, sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, etc).

### MONDAY TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Concord Naval Weapons Station** – future 2,500+ acre regional park in partnership with National Park Service. Unfortunately, the future visitor center building was off limits due to a resident barn owl.
- **Black Diamond Mines** – former coal and sand mine until the 1940s and the only underground mine museum in California. Learned about EBRPD’s wildfire fuel reduction efforts and how goats and cattle take a bite out of fire risk.
- **Big Break Visitor Center** – the newest and first visitor center opened in 40 years at East Bay Regional Park District. Learned about the California Delta and its challenges. Discovered Big Break gets its name from a large break in 1928 that returned the land back to marshland.



### WE’RE HERE FOR YOU – CALL US!

Change of plans? Not feeling good? Left your stuff in the bus? No problem. Call Brenda or Monique listed on your lanyard...or Carol Johnson (room 663) or Anne Kassebaum (room 667).

### TUESDAY TOURS

**Midpen Tour** - Leaves at 9am.

Visit Mount Umunhum and the soon-to-open Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve.

Dress in layers – it will be cool and breezy at Mount Umunhum – about 56°, and 64° at Bear Creek Redwoods.

Dinner will be on your own before we head back to Walnut Creek. There are many great shops and restaurants in Los Gatos – don’t forget your wallet.

**Alternative NPS Tour** - leaves at 10am...tour the historic sites of John Muir and Eugene O’Neill homesteads. Tours led by NPS staff. See the places where these creative writers wrote some of their prized works.

### CHECK OUT THE HOSPITALITY SUITE NIGHTLY FROM 9-11 PM IN ROOM 663!

Come meet new park colleagues from around the world. Or catch up with folks you already know. Networking is fun in the Hospitality Suite!

We celebrated Cinco de Mayo on Sunday with **Margaritas!** On Monday, our specialty was “**The Duchess’ Delta Cooler**” commemorating the California Delta park visit at Big Break and the arrival of the newest Royal baby by parents Harry & Meghan. The “**Yummy Umunhum**” is on track for Tuesday night recognizing the tour to Midpen’s Mount Umunhum.



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### GUEST DINNER SPEAKER – WEDNESDAY

Hear Bob Doyle and Sam Hodder, president of Save the Redwoods League, on the history and synergy that connects East Bay Regional Parks of the movement to protect the beloved Redwoods in California. Although Jon Jarvis couldn't join us on Monday at Big Break, he will join Bob and Sam to talk about the future of the conservation movement! This will be a GREAT panel of parks and conservation leaders! This event will be held in EBRPD's newest venue, "The Bridge Yard."

Passing of the talking stick to our 2020 hosts and other special surprises are planned! Should be fun.



### FEEDBACK WELCOME!

There won't be any pop quizzes here, but we'd like to know what common interests or issues are being covered with the daily tours. Let us know by emailing us at [CJohnson@ebparks.org](mailto:CJohnson@ebparks.org).

### WEATHER!

Don't let a few clouds fool you. Temps for the week call for low 70s – perfect for **Springtime in the Bay**. Do expect some coastal breezes and partial clouds.

