

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, PARKS DEPARTMENT

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

A notice, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code 21,000, et seq.), that the following project: *Complete the Gap Trail*, when adopted and implemented, will not have a significant impact on the environment.

FILE NO.: PLN 12072017

APPLICANT: County of San Mateo Parks Department

LOCATION: The approximately 0.3-acre Project corridor is located in unincorporated San Mateo County near the Lower Crystal Springs Reservoir. The Project would be located on the western shoulder of Skyline Boulevard (State Route 35 [SR 35]), a two-lane highway which runs along the eastern shore of the Lower Crystal Springs Reservoir.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project would involve construction of an 800-foot-long paved trail segment up to 10 feet wide on the western shoulder of Skyline Boulevard. The trail segment would be bordered by a 54-inch metal safety fence barrier on the east side, separating the trail from the roadway's travel lanes for motor vehicles, and a gravel shoulder and six-foot chain-link fence with barbed wire on top on the west side. The northern section of the trail segment would have a 250-foot long, two- to five-foot high retaining wall.

The proposed Project is intended to eliminate a trail gap and connect the existing Crystal Springs Dam Trail segment to the Crystal Springs Regional South of Dam Trail segment. These segments are a part of the 17.5-mile Crystal Springs Regional Trail (CSRT) system that connects the City of San Bruno to the Town of Woodside along the eastern side of the San Francisco Watershed reservoirs. The CSRT serves a variety of users including hikers, joggers, equestrians, and cyclists.

FINDINGS AND BASIS FOR A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The Parks Department has reviewed the initial study for the project and, based upon substantial evidence in the record, finds that:

1. The project will not adversely affect water or air quality or increase noise levels substantially.
2. The project will not have adverse impacts on the flora or fauna of the area.
3. The project will not degrade the aesthetic quality of the area.
4. The project will not have adverse impacts on traffic or land use.
5. In addition, the project will not:

- a. Create impacts which have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment.
- b. Create impacts which achieve short-term to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
- c. Create impacts for a project which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.
- d. Create environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

The County of San Mateo has, therefore, determined that the environmental impact of the project is insignificant.

MITIGATION MEASURES included in the project to avoid potentially significant effects:

Air Quality:

- AQ-1: measures recommended by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to reduce impacts on air quality from fugitive dust emissions during construction

Biological Resources:

- BIO-1: botanical surveys, avoidance, and restoration of special status plants
- BIO-2: preventing spread of invasive weeds to protect special status plants
- BIO-3: pre-construction wildlife survey
- BIO-4: general best management practices for wildlife protection
- BIO-5: Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) to reduce potential impacts to special-status species
- BIO-6: avoidance and minimization of impacts on California red-legged frogs
- BIO-7: avoidance and minimization of impacts on San Francisco dusky-footed woodrats
- BIO-8: avoidance and minimization of impacts on nesting birds

Cultural Resources:

- CUL-1: protection of unanticipated significant cultural resources discovered during ground-disturbing activities
- CUL-2: protection of unanticipated significant paleontological resources discovered during ground-disturbing activities
- CUL-3: protection of unanticipated human remains and notification of County coroner and Native American Heritage Commission

Tribal Cultural Resources:

- TCR-1: protection of unanticipated tribal cultural resources discovered during ground-disturbing activities

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY CONSULTATION

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) has approval authority over fencing and construction staging plans that affect its land surrounding the Crystal Springs Reservoirs.

INITIAL STUDY

The San Mateo County Parks Department has reviewed the Environmental Evaluation of this project and has found that the probable environmental impacts are insignificant. A copy of the initial study is attached.

REVIEW PERIOD: December 11, 2017 – January 10, 2018

All comments regarding the correctness, completeness, or adequacy of this Mitigated Negative Declaration must be received by the County Parks Department, 455 County Center – Fourth Floor, Redwood City, no later than **5:00 p.m., January 10, 2018.**

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