



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Parks



Date: July 26, 2015
Board Meeting Date: September 1, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Marlene Finley, Parks Director

Subject: Temporary Suspension of No Parking Signs along Skyline Boulevard near the Trailheads of the New Crystal Springs Regional Trail South of Dam Segment

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the San Mateo County Parks Director to coordinate temporary suspension of the no parking signs at the southern and northern trailheads of the Crystal Springs Regional Trail, South of Dam Segment during hours when the trail is open to the public until County Bridge No. 67 has been reconstructed in 2017.

BACKGROUND:

On April 22, 2014, your Board adopted plans and specifications for the Crystal Springs Regional Trail, South of Dam Project (Trail). The 0.9-mile Trail segment is located between the Lower Crystal Springs Dam (Dam) and Highway 92 adjacent to the Crystal Springs Reservoir in the San Mateo Highlands Area. This Trail was built over an existing SFPUC service road that parallels Skyline Boulevard, approximately 0.3 miles from the Dam and 0.5 miles from Highway 92. Other Trail amenities include a restroom, five benches, rules and regulatory signage, habitat fences and gates.

The Crystal Springs Regional Trail, once complete, will span 17.5 miles between the City of San Bruno and Town of Woodside. A significant amount of the trail has been completed including the 2.6 mile San Andreas segment, 6.0 mile Sawyer Camp segment and 6.7 mile Crystal Springs segment. This trail is one of the gaps between the Sawyer Camp and Crystal Springs segments.

Trail construction was underwritten by two federal grants administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trails Program), a state grant administered by the California Coastal

Conservancy and a contribution from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC).

Two projects to the north of the trail have impacted immediate trail opening to the public. On July 21, 2015, your Board directed the Department of Public Works to call for sealed proposals to be received by October 15, 2015 for the County Bridge No. 67 to be re-built over Crystal Springs Dam (County Project No. R1103). This project also includes a section of trail that will link to Sawyer Camp Trail at the north. This project will be constructed in 2017. Between the County Bridge No. 67 Project and the northern Trail trailhead is another project currently referred to as "Complete the Gap." This 0.3 mile future bike and pedestrian trail will be designed during FY 16/17 and constructed during FY 16/17 or FY 17/18.

The trail construction was completed in April 2015. The notice of completion and acceptance was filed with the contractor.

DISCUSSION:

On November 18, 2014, your Board approved Resolution 073526 to establish no parking zones along Skyline Boulevard, north and south of the new Crystal Springs Regional Trail South of Dam on the eastern side of the San Francisco Peninsula Watershed. County Parks and Public Works staff had agreed that no parking zones in this area would improve the sight distance for motorists along Skyline Boulevard and improve ingress and egress for visitor drop off/pick up in this area.

SFPUC, the San Francisco Peninsula Watershed landowner, agreed that no parking zones in this area were needed. They were reluctant to allow County Parks to fully open the Trail before all construction has been completed on the County Bridge No. 67 project.

Both federal grants for the Trail have legislative requirements mandating that projects be open to the public prior to release of grant fund retention. In other words, failing to open the Trail to the public would result in losing over \$600,000 in grants for the project. We were also advised that future grant awards could be impacted if we were unable to open the Trail for public use.

Working with grantors (two different grants through California State Parks and Recreation) and SFPUC has resulted in a pilot plan to open the Trail on a phased schedule that starts with weekend-only use from September 2015 until the County Bridge No. 67 opens in 2017. No nearby parking areas and the road closure at the north end limit our ability to open the Trail to the public. To open the Trail to the public, temporary parking is necessary at the trailheads. County Parks has installed a temporary fence at the north end of the Trail to allow for parking on the closed road segment. At the trailheads, no parking signs will be covered (suspended) during the hours the Trail is open to the public. Adjustments to Trail openings will be made based on use patterns and active construction of the bridge.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

Approval of this resolution will contribute to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community as the opening of the Trail increases the number and quality of experiences of visitors to County Parks and regional trails. Each visitor that experiences the County's natural and recreational resources gains a greater appreciation of the need for their preservation

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2015-16 Actual	FY 2016-17 Projected
Miles of newly-built regional trail open for use	N/A	0.9 miles

FISCAL IMPACT:

There will be no impact to the General Fund for suspending the no parking signs during hours when the trail is open. The Park Department budget includes funds for Trail operations and management in FY 2015/2016.

Attachment: Exhibit A - Temporary Suspension of No Parking Signs at Trailheads

Exhibit A – Temporary Suspension of No Parking Signs at Trailheads





