



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Public Works



Date: December 20, 2013
Board Meeting Date: March 11, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: James C. Porter, Director of Public Works

Subject: Certification of the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration for the
Alpine Road Trail Improvements Project
[County Project No. P23P1; Project File No. E4905]

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution certifying the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration, dated August 2013, for the Alpine Road Trail Improvements Project.

BACKGROUND:

The Alpine Road Trail (Trail) is a multi-use trail that extends from approximately Junipero Serra Boulevard in the City of Menlo Park (City) to Portola Road in the Town of Portola Valley (Town). The Town renovated and realigned portions of the Trail within its jurisdiction in 2011. The Town's work involved an approximate 5,500 foot long segment of Trail coupled with creek bank stabilization work at specific locations along Los Trancos Creek. The Town's project connects to the southernmost portion of the Trail within the unincorporated San Mateo County (County) area.

The Board approved funding for the Alpine Road Trail Improvements Project (Project) within the unincorporated County area during the FY 2012-13 Capital Improvement Budget Hearing. The Project involves creek bank stabilization work at three locations and rehabilitation of the existing Trail.

The Board adopted Resolution No. 072230 on October 23, 2012, which authorized an Agreement with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) to provide environmental services on an as-needed basis. The Department authorized a task order in accordance with this Agreement for ESA to prepare the environmental documents necessary for the Project.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed Project consists of stabilizing the creek bank at three locations along Los Trancos Creek. Bank failures at these locations have narrowed the Trail or threaten to narrow the Trail, affect the adjacent roadway, and impact critical utility lines (i.e. gas, sanitary sewer, and water). The Project also involves rehabilitating the County's segment of the Trail from the City/County boundary near Stowe Lane at the northern end of the Project to the Town/County boundary at the southern end of the Project. The Trail rehabilitation in general will involve removing the existing distressed pavement and placing new pavement in its place. Some segments of the Trail are in acceptable condition and will receive a surface type of treatment. The Project is approximately 1.84 miles long and the Trail averages approximately 4 to 6 feet in width.

ESA determined that an Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was required for the Project. The IS/MND has been completed and identified potential adverse effects during construction. Those effects will be reduced to less-than-significant levels through the implementation of specific mitigation measures as identified in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) pursuant to Section 21081.6 of the California Public Resources Code. A 30-day public review period was completed in compliance with the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), comments were received, and responses to all comments have been prepared.

The certification of the IS/MND and the adoption of the MMRP as conditions of project approval will ensure compliance with all CEQA requirements. The IS/MND is available for review at:

<http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/Attachments/parks/Files/Parks%20Planning/Alpine%20RD%20Initial%20Study%20Neg%20Dec%20081313.pdf>. A hard copy of the IS/MND is available for review in the Department of Public Works. The responses to the comments received on the IS/MND are attached as Exhibit "A" to the Resolution and the MMRP is attached as Exhibit "B" to the Resolution.

At the January 28, 2014 meeting, your Board directed staff to meet with representatives of Stanford University to explore alternate biotechnical methods for stabilizing the creek bank along Alpine Road. Stanford has verbally agreed to allow the County to use their land for construction of and access to the sites. They have not agreed to provide funding for the alternate designs. The current budget for the project is \$1,300,000. The Engineers estimate to complete the trail and bank stabilization improvement as currently designed is \$800,000. Preliminary estimates for constructing Stanford's suggested alternative approach will cost an additional \$1,400,000 to \$1,700,000. Furthermore, this alternative will require additional studies, preliminary and final design of the alternative, recirculation of the environmental document, and modification or resubmittal of regulatory permits estimated to cost between \$367,000 and \$402,000. We anticipate project construction will be delayed until the 2015 construction season if we follow this approach.

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

Approval of this action contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community by maintaining the existing recreational opportunities through the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce any potential adverse effects to less-than-significant levels.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with certifying the IS/MND, for the currently proposed project. Any changes to the scope of work for the project will result in added costs.

There is no impact to the General Fund.