



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Public Works



**Date:** November 9, 2015  
**Board Meeting Date:** January 26, 2016  
**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 October 2015, 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). Your 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 along Los Trancos Creek (Creek), and rehabilitation of the existing Trail.

At the January 28, 2014 Board of Supervisors' meeting, the Department of Public Works (Department) presented proposed creek bank stabilization measures for this Project as represented in the environmental document (Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration). Your Board heard comments regarding the Project from the public and Stanford University (Stanford). The Department was directed by your Board to meet with representatives from Stanford to evaluate alternate biotechnical methods for stabilizing the creek bank along Alpine Road, which could include shifting the Creek away from Alpine Road onto Stanford property, and report back to your Board.

The Department reported back to your Board at the March 11, 2014 meeting regarding the discussions with Stanford and indicated that Stanford agreed in principle to allow the County to use their land to access the sites during construction and that they did not

agree to provide funding for alternate designs. At that meeting your Board acted to postpone certifying the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and directed the Department to collaborate with Stanford to explore alternatives for two creek bank stabilization locations (Sites 2 and 3) that would incorporate more environmentally sensitive solutions, and be acceptable to the regulatory agencies and the public.

On November 18, 2014, your Board adopted Resolution No. 073491, which authorized the Department to proceed with the alternative bank stabilization measures, as well as, revise and recirculate the IS/MND for the Project. The Department presented its collaborative efforts with Stanford to assess the alternative bank stabilization measures at Sites 2 and 3. Hydraulic and feasibility studies were performed and the Department presented your Board recommendations of the preferred alternatives. Site 1 did not receive specific comments, and therefore remained a keystone wall design as originally proposed. The recommendation for Sites 2 and 3 was to install a live log crib wall (crib wall) along with a soldier pile wall with concrete laggings, and realign the Creek approximately 75 feet away from the trail, respectively, pending approval from the various regulatory agencies. The alternative recommendation for Site 3 was to slightly shift the Creek alignment and construct a crib wall in front of a cast-in-place concrete retaining wall.

At your Board's March 17, 2015 meeting, the Department reported that staff had met with Stanford and various regulatory agencies (California Department of Fish and Wildlife, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, and National Marine Fisheries Service) in the field on January 15, 2015 to review the proposed alternatives at Site 2 and Site 3. Based on the comments received during the field meeting from the regulatory agencies, the preferred alternatives were: Site 2 - construct a crib wall along with a soldier pile wall with concrete laggings (as proposed); Site 3 - construct a crib wall in front of a retaining wall and shift Creek only as required for construction (alternative recommendation). The regulatory agencies expressed concerns regarding shifting the Creek 75 feet away from Alpine Road at Site 3 based on the more significant impacts of this alternative to the existing conditions. The agencies' preferred alternatives were consistent with the action taken by your Board on November 18, 2014.

On March 17, 2015, your Board adopted Resolution No. 073695 reaffirming authorization for the Department to proceed with the alternative recommendation for bank stabilization measures at Site 3 consisting of a slight shift of the channel alignment of the Creek, installation of a Live Log Crib Wall, and installation of a retaining wall.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The proposed Project consists of stabilizing the creek bank at three locations based on previous Board direction. Bank failures at these locations have narrowed the Trail, threaten to narrow the adjacent roadway, and could impact critical gas, sanitary sewer, and water lines. The Project also involves rehabilitating the County's segment of the 1.84 mile long Trail, from the County/City boundary, near Stowe Lane, at the northern end of the Project, to the County/Town 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 only.

A revised IS/MND for the Project 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 review period was completed in compliance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), comments were received, and responses to all comments have been prepared.

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

<http://parks.smcgov.org/sites/parks.smcgov.org/files/documents/files/Alpine%20Road%20Trail%20IS-MND-Web.pdf>.

A hard copy of the revised IS/MND is available for review in the Department of Public Works. The responses to the comments received on the revised IS/MND are attached as Exhibit "A" to the Resolution and the MMRP is attached as Exhibit "B" to the Resolution.

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 measure to reduce any potential adverse effects to less-than-significant levels.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with certifying the revised IS/MND.

There is no impact to the General Fund.