

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
PARKS DEPARTMENT

DATE: June 6, 2019

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Peggy Jensen, Interim Parks Director
SUBJECT: Letter of Intent to Join the Bay to Sea Trail's Planning Coalition

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they authorize the execution of the Letter of Intent and that the Department participate in the Bay to Sea Trail's Planning Coalition so long as (1) the trail provides a benefit to the residents of San Mateo County, (2) participation in the Planning Coalition does not redirect Department resources away from existing priorities, and (3) the Bay to Sea Trail remains aligned with Department goals and objectives.

BACKGROUND

The Bay to Sea Trail ("Trail") is a conceptual multiuse trail that would span approximately 40 miles from the San Francisco Bay to the Pacific Ocean. It is intended to support a wide range of user groups, including hikers, cyclist, and equestrians. Final decision regarding authorized user groups would be made by individual land owners. Moreover, like other regional trails, each property owner would be responsible for operating and maintaining Trail segments on their land.

The Peninsula Open Space Trust ("POST") is forming a coalition of park agencies, non-profits, land managers, localities, and funders to identify the most feasible alignment for the Trail and to ensure the Trail is constructed and opened to the public. The entities invited to participate in the coalition include POST, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, City of Redwood City, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, County of San Mateo, California State Coastal Conservancy, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, City of Half Moon Bay, and the Coastsides Land Trust. These entities were selected because they own and manage property along the proposed Trail alignment.

DISCUSSION

The Department has been asked to sign a Letter of Intent ("LOI") declaring its intention to join the Planning Coalition and collaborate in the planning necessary to complete the Trail. The LOI acknowledges that each signing member has independent roles and responsibilities regarding their land, but that they agree to coordinate with other agencies and entities in the short and long term to support the Trail. Any member who joins the coalition may withdraw at any point upon written notice to the other members. The LOI is non-binding and has no legal obligations for members who sign.

The Planning Coalition is envisioned as a group that (1) cohesively works together to complete the Trail by 2037, (2) ensures each member and their constituents benefit from the Trail, and (3) leverages each members' resources to support one another and expedite the delivery of the Trail. By signing the LOI, the Department is agreeing to have staff participate in coalition meetings and conduct outreach to respective governing and advisory bodies, constituents, and others within their organization.

Currently, the Department can accommodate the requirements to participate in the Planning Coalition. Should participation in the coalition become too demanding for the Department's capacity and start to impact other priorities, the Department may withdraw from the coalition. Upon such action, the Department would notify the Commission at the regularly scheduled meeting following the decision.