

DATE: November 5, 2019

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors  
From: Peggy Jensen, Interim Parks Director  
Subject: **Executive Summary:** Flood County Park Landscape Plan and Final Revised Environmental Impact Report

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution authorizing:

1. The certification of the Flood County Park Landscape Plan's Final Revised Environmental Impact Report and Errata; and
2. Adoption of California Environmental Quality Act Findings of Facts and a Statement of Overriding Consideration; and
3. Adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan; and
4. Approval of the Flood County Park Landscape Plan.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2014, the San Mateo County Parks Department ("Department") initiated the Re-imagine Flood Park project to re-design and improve the park infrastructure and amenities. The first step in the Flood Park Project was the development of a landscape plan. That plan was used as a basis for the environmental review which included the development of a draft, final, revised draft, and now a revised final Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Should the Board certify the EIR, the Department will select a design firm to develop detailed plans for a re-designed Flood Park. Working with the designers, the Department will also re-engage the community to get input on specific park features.

**DISCUSSION**

To gather community input on the features to include in the landscape plan, the Department held six community workshops, posted an on-line survey and conducted in-person surveys. More than 500 individuals participated in the workshops and another 220 people submitted survey responses yielding many ideas for the re-design of Flood Park.

The proposed Landscape Plan (Attachment A) incorporates the most popular ideas submitted by the community. The plan includes rehabilitation of the existing baseball field, installation of a new multi-use soccer and lacrosse field, a basketball court, a pump track and a demonstration garden. For young visitors, there will be multiple new

fully accessible playgrounds and an adventure play area. The plan also includes a gathering meadow, renovated picnic and reservation sites and preserves as many mature trees as possible and preserves existing adobe buildings.

In September of 2017, the Draft EIR for the Flood Park project was completed. The Draft EIR identified 10 potential environmental impacts and found that almost all significant impacts could be reduced to less-than-significant through mitigation. During the Draft EIR review period, 79 comments were submitted. Comments included concerns about noise, proximity of playfields to houses, potential loss of mature trees, localized parking and traffic impacts and air quality.

Responses to all 79 comments were included in the Final EIR which was published in May of 2018. The Final EIR determined that traffic congestion at the intersection of Bay Road and Ringwood Avenue was the only impact that could not be feasibly mitigated. When the Final EIR was issued, members of the public expressed concerns about projected growth in park usage and noise levels during concurrently held events. In response to these concerns, additional analysis was done by the project consultant and a Draft Revised EIR was issued in August of 2019. The Draft Revised EIR uses adjusted visitor use data to project impacts and analyzes noise levels based on forecasted peak park attendance.

The Draft Revised EIR (Attachment B) was circulated for a 45-day public review/comment period in August and September of 2019 and 16 written comments were received. At a public meeting at the Fair Oaks Community Center on September 17, 2019, an additional 11 comments were received.

The Final Revised EIR (Attachment C), which was made available to the public on October 28, 2019, includes responses to all comments along with additional mitigation measures and an Errata to clarify minor revisions to the revised draft that do not raise any significant impacts. The Final Revised EIR identified two significant and unavoidable impacts, traffic congestion at the intersection of Bay Road/Ringwood Avenue and anticipated increase in traffic noise on Ringwood Avenue during projected Saturday peak use Noon to 4 p.m. Due to these two impacts, Findings of Facts and adoption of a Statement of Overriding Consideration are required to certify the Final Revised EIR (Resolution, Exhibit A).

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution and Final Revised EIR as to form and content.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Appropriations for the design phase are included in the Department's FY 2019-20 Recommended Adopted Budget. The Department will collaborate with the San Mateo County Parks Foundation to raise additional funds as anticipated construction costs may exceed current budgeted amounts.