

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE OFF-LEASH DOG RECREATION PILOT PROGRAM'S INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (INCLUDING ITS ERRATA), DATED OCTOBER 28, 2021

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, at the October 23, 2018 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board amended the County Ordinance Code to authorize on-leash dog recreation on County park trails deemed appropriate by the San Mateo County Parks Department ("Department"), and directed the Department to: (1) develop a recommendation for expanded on-leash dog access opportunities in County parks, and (2) develop a recommendation for an off-leash dog recreation pilot program; and

WHEREAS, to assist in this process, the Department created the San Mateo County Parks Dog Work Group ("Work Group"), which was comprised of two Parks Commissioners, three park rangers, members of the Midcoast Community Council and Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council, and representatives from the dog owner, conservationist, equestrian, and mountain bike communities; and

WHEREAS, using a series of recommendations prepared by the Work Group, the Department developed a recommendation for an Off-leash Dog Recreation Pilot Program, which details are included in Exhibit A attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, before the recommendation could be presented to the Board for consideration, a California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) analysis was required; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with CEQA, the Department prepared an Initial Study (“IS”) that determined due to the potential for environmental impacts to occur, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (“MND”) (Exhibit B) needed to be prepared prior to launching a pilot program; and

WHEREAS, through its analysis, the Department did not identify potentially significant impacts that would result from implementation of a pilot program, but there are several impacts that will be less than significant with the implementation of mitigation measures; and

WHEREAS, these less than significant impacts include potential impacts to historical resources, archaeological resources, and ambient noise levels; and

WHEREAS, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (“MMRP”) (Exhibit C) has been prepared and will ensure all appropriate mitigation measures are properly implemented; and

WHEREAS, research is inconclusive in regard to if authorizing off-leash dog recreation on specified trails as outlined in the Department’s recommendation will have a significantly greater impact on the flora and fauna than existing recreational uses because dog recreation, hiking, and biking have occurred on these trails since before they were owned and managed by the Department; and

WHEREAS, to monitor impacts of the pilot program, the IS/MND includes an Adaptive Management Plan (“AMP”) to ensure that any environmental impacts that may be created by the pilot program are minimized to the greatest extent possible, and that visitors with and without dogs are able to enjoy their experience at these San Mateo County parks; and

WHEREAS, the IS/MND was released for a 30-day public review/comment period between July 15, 2021, to August 13, 2021, pursuant to Section 15105 of the CEQA Guidelines, and during this period, 53 comments were received; and

WHEREAS, in response to some of the comments made, the Department prepared an Errata to make changes to the IS/MND that do not represent substantial revisions that would require recirculation of the environmental document, as described in State CEQA Guidelines 15073.5.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that:

1. This Board has reviewed and considered the IS/MND and its Errata, and on the basis of the record as a whole, confirms that the IS/MND and Errata are adequate for its use by this Board, and on the basis of this review and consideration, there is no substantial evidence that the pilot program will have a significant effect on the environment if mitigated as set forth in the MMRP and this Board hereby confirms its certification of the IS/MND and Errata; and

2. This Board hereby adopts the Response to the IS/MND Comments and the MMRP attached hereto as Exhibit B and Exhibit C, respectively, and incorporated by reference in this Resolution and commits to all mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND and contained in the Response to IS/MND Comments and MMRP; and
3. The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo hereby certifies this IS/MND and approves the Pilot Program (Exhibit A).

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