

**MARIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION AND REVIEW**

Date: July 12, 2017

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of Marin

From: Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD)

Subject: CEQA Determination Finding that Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines applies to the Hunt Camp Trail Improvement Project.

Project Title: Marin County Open Space District's Road and Trail Management Plan Tiered Program Environmental Impact Report Consistency Assessment Hunt Camp Trail Improvement Project

State Clearinghouse #: 2011012080

Contact Person: Kristina Tierney **Telephone Number:** (415) 473-5283

Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 170-130-32

Project Location: Gary Giacomini Open Space Preserve, San Geronimo, Marin County, California

Project Description: MCOSD proposes to implement trail and drainage improvements to the Hunt Camp Trail in the Giacomini Open Space Preserve. The proposed realignments, drain dips, creek crossings, trail connections, decommissionings, and other actions to protect the environment and improve the user experience would increase the sustainability of the trail consistent with the Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) policies, best management practices (BMPs), and trail design standards. These measures would substantially reduce, over the existing trails, impacts from erosion and runoff into nearby drainages, thereby reducing sedimentation into the Lagunitas Creek watershed.

Modifications to the Hunt Camp Trail include the construction of two trail reroutes (Reroute 1 and 2 on Upper Hunt Camp) and the installation of wet crossings and drainage, to support incorporation of the trail into the MCOSD trail system as a hiker/biker designation. These improvements would ensure the trail is properly drained and would minimize environmental impacts, while maximizing user safety. The project proposes to establish a new connector trail for hikers and cyclists, which would be constructed from the Lower Hunt Camp Trail to Manzanita Fire Road to respect private property rights and reduce unsanctioned trail use through bands of chaparral. Additionally, a small portion of the existing Hunt Camp Trail, connecting to Juniper Avenue, would be designated as hiking only, and would continue to provide a neighborhood connection to open space.

To further reduce environmental impacts in the Gary Giacomini Preserve, the proposed project includes the decommissioning of over 6,000 linear feet of unsanctioned trails to reduce erosion and habitat fragmentation. MCOSD would build the new trail using the RTMP's policies, design standards, and BMPs.

Background:

On December 16, 2014, the MCOSD Board of Directors approved the RTMP and certified its program environmental impact report (EIR) (State Clearinghouse Number 2011012080). The RTMP is a science-based comprehensive management plan to guide the MCOSD in the: 1) establishment and maintenance of a sustainable system of roads and trails; 2) reduction of environmental impact from roads and trails on natural resources; and 3) improvements to visitor experience and safety.

Changes in Impacts:

The proposed project entails the construction of a new trail segment as well as the rerouting and passive and active decommissioning of existing trails, which were all identified as project types governed by the RTMP and analyzed in the 2014 RTMP EIR (see Section 3.8.2, *Project Categories* in the RTMP EIR). As determined by the consistency assessment prepared for the project (attached), the impacts associated with the project have not increased or changed since the time of the certification of the RTMP EIR. Policies and BMPs identified in the RTMP EIR would remain applicable and adequate to reduce the potential impacts to less than significant levels.

Finding:

CEQA Section 15162 provides that when a lead agency certifies an EIR or adopts a negative determination (ND) adopted for a project, no subsequent EIR or ND shall be prepared unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

(1) The lead agency proposes substantial changes in the project that will require major revisions of the previous EIR or ND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;

(2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken that will require major revisions of the previous EIR or ND due to the involvement of new significant, environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or

(3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the lead agency certified the previous EIR as complete or adopted the ND, shows any of the following:

(A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;

(B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;

(C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or

(D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

This notice is to advise interested parties that the MCOSD approved the project on July 12, 2017, and has made the following determination:

MCOSD prepared a consistency assessment for the proposed project that determined the following:

- (1) there are no substantial changes to the project that would require major revisions to the EIR;
- (2) there are no changes in the circumstances under which the project will be undertaken that will require major revisions of the RTMP EIR due to the involvement of new significant, environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; and
- (3) there is no new information of substantial importance that would result in new significant impacts on the environment that the lead agency has not previously addressed in the 2014 RTMP TPEIR, no impacts that would be substantially more severe than those disclosed in the RTMP EIR, and no impacts that require new mitigation measures.

The project meets the conditions for the application of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 and therefore preparation of a new EIR, addendum, or negative declaration is not necessary.

I certify that a copy of the consistency assessment and record of project approval is on file and interested parties may examine these files at Offices of Marin County Parks:

Agency: Address: Marin County Parks
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 260
San Rafael, CA 94903

By:  _____

Date: 7/12/2017

The filing of this Notice of Determination starts a 30-day statute of limitations on court challenges to the approval under CEQA.