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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Proposed Project: Bay Area Ridge Trail - Fremont to Garin

Project Location: The proposed trail alignment would be located between Garin Regional Park in Union City and Vallejo Mill Historical Park in Fremont, Alameda County, California. The proposed trail alignment is located within Assessor Parcel Numbers 85-5275-33-0, -36-0, -37-0, and -42-0, and 85-5400-1-1 in Union City and 507-70-1-4, -1-10, -1-11, -1-12, -10-0, and 11-0; 507-150-5-1 and 507-480-14-2 along the Niles Canyon Railway, and 507-480-10-1 in the Vallejo Mill Historical Park.

Project Description: The East Bay Regional Park District (District) proposes to construct and open approximately 5 miles of the Ridge Trail between Vallejo Mill Historical Park and Garin Regional Park. The project would construct approximately 3.9 miles of new non-motorized multi-use recreational trail, and also utilize approximately 1.1 miles of existing maintained dirt roads. The multi-use trail would be open to hikers, cyclists, equestrians, and on-leash dogs. With the exception of the two parks at the end points of the trail, most of the proposed trail alignment would be located within an easement across private ranch lands. The proposed trail would utilize portions of existing, partially-maintained ranch roads that are still used by service and/or authorized off-highway vehicles. Other portions of the trail would require new construction of a narrow trail. A total of seven drainage crossings (two new and five existing) would be provided for the proposed trail alignment, requiring hardening/modification and/or culvert upgrades, fords, or bridge construction. Most of the new trail alignment would be constructed using a SWECO Trail Dozer or similar small-scale trail construction equipment, as well as manual labor. Several retaining walls would also be constructed.

Significant Effects on the Environment: An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15070 – 15073. The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration finds that the proposed project would result in “potentially significant” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” environmental impacts related to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, and tribal cultural resources. Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, implementation of feasible mitigation measures would either avoid or reduce to a level of insignificance identified environmental impacts.

Public Review Period – Starting and Ending Dates: The 30-day public review period would start on **September 21, 2018** and end at 5pm on **October 22, 2018**. Please submit any comments in writing by **October 22, 2018** to: EBRPD, Trails Development Department (attention: Ridge Trail – Garin to Niles Canyon) 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605; or email to: swilson@ebparks.org.

Address Where Document is Available for Public Review: Copies of the proposed mitigated negative declaration, initial study and all documents referenced in the mitigated negative declaration are available for review during normal working hours at 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605. The mitigated negative declaration is also available on the East Bay Regional Parks District website at: <http://www.ebparks.org/about/planning>

Contact Person: Suzanne Wilson, Senior Planner – Trails Development
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