

Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve Land Use Plan Amendment January 18, 2017 Community Meeting #3



On Wednesday January 18, 2017 the Park District held the third community meeting for the Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA). The meeting began with staff giving a presentation of the LUPA planning process including the project purpose, consistency with the Park District Master Plan, project goals, and elements that will be included in the LUPA. Next, staff described the design concepts under consideration including existing study area features and programs and design concept alternatives. Alternatives presented included: **No Project** – Activities and development limited to existing/permitted access and trails; **Alternative 1** – Existing/permitted access and trails, new trails, stream restoration and day use recreation and interpretive focus at McCosker Site; **Alternative 2** – Existing/permitted access and trails, new trails, stream restoration and overnight recreation use focus at McCosker Site; and **Alternative 3** – Some combination of Alternatives 1 and 2. Trail system options included: new internal trails at the McCosker Site; connections to Huckleberry Preserve; Sibley Ridge; Western Hills Open Space, and the City of Orinda. Following the hands-on workshop activity staff gave an overview of the distinctions between the LUPA and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) purposes and processes.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation that was presented at the meeting can be found at: http://www.ebparks.org/about/planning#robert_sibley_lupa

A hands-on workshop activity gave the community an opportunity to provide input on the design concepts for the trail system and recreation concepts for the portion of the Preserve that connects to Pinehurst Rd. in the community of Canyon (McCosker parcel) for Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA). Community input from this exercise included: 1) support for restoring the stream channel on the McCosker site and interpretive opportunities along the stream channel as long as it will not lead to degradation of the stream; 2) preference for limited development (e.g., backpack or rustic group camp and open education/interpretive structures), but concern about parking overwhelming the natural character of the site and/or adding to traffic along Pinehurst Road and fire hazards associated with these activities; and 3) preference for a multi-use trail system (e.g., hike, bike, equestrian) including narrow, natural surface trails, that would provide connectivity from the McCosker site to Western Hills Open Space Staging Area, Orinda bike routes, existing Sibley Round Top Trail, and Huckleberry Preserve, as well as recognition that not all uses may be appropriate for all trails.

The results of this community exercise will be used to develop the preferred design concepts that will be incorporated into the LUPA and evaluated in an Environmental Impact Report in accordance with CEQA.