



NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

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The East Bay Regional Park District (District) is the Lead Agency for and is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the:

STANFORD AVENUE STAGING AREA EXPANSION PROJECT at MISSION PEAK REGIONAL PRESERVE

Located in the City of Fremont, Alameda County, California

Introduction: The District is requesting comments from responsible and trustee agencies, property owners in the project vicinity, and other interested parties regarding the scope and content of the EIR. Responsible and trustee agencies are requested to provide comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to that agency's statutory responsibilities in relation to the project. The District is also interested in comments from property owners and other interested parties regarding what should be included in the EIR.

The EIR will be prepared in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines. The EIR is a detailed document that describes and analyzes the significant environmental effects of a proposed project and discusses ways to mitigate or avoid the effects. The EIR considers construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project and also analyzes alternatives to the proposed project.

Notice of Preparation Comment Period: Please send written comments to Michelle Julene, Park Planner, in care of the East Bay Regional Park District at the address listed above.

The comment period for the Notice of Preparation will close at 5:00pm on **Friday, November 23, 2012**, which is 30 days after mailing and posting of this document. Please note that while the comment period for the Notice of Preparation has a closing date, interested parties are encouraged to contact the District at any time during the EIR process to receive an updated of the process, to ask questions, and share information.

Public Scoping Meeting: The District will host a Public Scoping Meeting regarding the proposed project and EIR. The District will discuss the proposed Stanford Avenue Staging Area Expansion Project along with the associated planning and environmental processes. After a brief presentation, the meeting will be opened to the audience to participate in the process. The District would like to hear from the community as well as the responsible and trustee agencies. The Public Scoping Meeting is scheduled as follows:

**Thursday, November 8, 2012 @ 6:00pm – 8:00pm
City of Fremont Teen Center
39770 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont**

The Teen Center is located off of Sailway Drive in Central Park / Lake Elizabeth. Enter Central Park on Sailway Drive from Paseo Padre Parkway at the stoplight. Then turn left at the first horseshoe-shaped parking lot. Follow to the middle of the lot to park.

District Contact Person: Please call or email Michelle Julene, Park Planner, if you have questions regarding this Notice of Preparation. Michelle can be reached at StanfordAveProject@ebparks.org or (510)544-2351.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Purpose: The purpose of the proposed project is to construct additional parking to reduce the occurrence of overflow parking on neighborhood streets in the vicinity of the existing Stanford Avenue staging area at Mission Peak Regional Preserve.

Project Location: Mission Peak is located in Fremont, California, and is accessible from a staging area at the east end of Stanford Avenue and from two parking lots at Ohlone College. The conceptual design options are accessed from Stanford Avenue and are located within Mission Peak.

Background: Mission Peak comprises approximately 3,000 acres and is operated and maintained by the District on land owned by the City of Fremont. The Stanford Avenue Staging Area serves as the primary point of access to Mission Peak and currently provides approximately 40 parking spaces, which has become insufficient to accommodate the number of park visitors to this popular destination. Mission Peak is a very popular park with hundreds of park visitors on the weekends and the existing Stanford Avenue staging area becomes full early in the day and remains full throughout the day. This has resulted in overflow parking on the surrounding neighborhood streets and along the existing "No Parking" area on Stanford Avenue just before the staging area

entrance. The District has conducted two park visitor surveys, one in 2007 and the second in 2011, both of which indicate the public need for additional parking at Mission Peak.

Options Under Consideration: The two conceptual parking area design options under consideration would include new public restrooms (non-sewered, vault toilets), picnic tables, vegetated infiltration swales that would serve to capture and treat parking area run-off and provide visual screening of the new staging areas. Both conceptual design options would provide approximately 300 spaces.

Option A: Located within the park in an undeveloped area of grassland that has a bowl-like topography. Option A would require a new vehicular road from the existing Stanford Avenue staging area and a new trail connection to the existing Peak Meadow Trail.

Option B: Located within the park in the area currently used by the District’s grazing contractor as a corral. This option would require a new vehicular road, a vehicular bridge and a new pedestrian bridge across the creek, a new trail connection to the existing Peak Meadow Trail, and may require relocation of the existing livestock corral and staging area.

No Project Alternative: The EIR will also consider and analyze a No Project Alternative. With this option, no additional parking will be developed at Mission Peak Regional Preserve and all existing conditions will remain the same as they are now.

Areas of Potential Environmental Effect: The EIR will analyze the significant environmental effects associated with construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project. Specific areas of analysis will include, but not be limited to the following: aesthetic and visual impacts; air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; geology and soils; hydrology and water quality; noise; and transportation and traffic.

