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COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 15, 2015

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT MISSION PEAK REGIONAL PRESERVE STANFORD AVENUE STAGING AREA EXPANSION PROJECT State Clearinghouse Number: 2012102048

NOVEMBER 24, 2015

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the East Bay Regional Park District (District), as Lead Agency, has completed a **Draft Environmental Impact Report** (Draft EIR) for the **Stanford Avenue Staging Area Expansion Project** (project). The Draft EIR is available for public review and comment and this notice is provided pursuant to Section 21092 of the State Public Resources Code.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: The public review for the Draft EIR is **October 16 – December 15, 2015 at 5:00pm**. The District must receive all written comments regarding the adequacy of the Draft EIR within this time period. Written comments are encouraged and may be submitted by mail or by e-mail, and should be directed to:

Michelle Julene, Senior Planner
East Bay Regional Park District
PO Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-0381
Email: StanfordAveProject@ebparks.org

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the District has prepared a Draft EIR which analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the project. A Final EIR will be prepared following public review and comment. The District will consider this information when deliberating on the project. Following certification of the Final EIR, the District may take action to approve the project.

PUBLIC MEETING: The District will hold an informational meeting on the Draft EIR on **Monday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Warm Springs Community Center, 47300 Fernald Street, Fremont. The District will present the project at this public meeting and will accept verbal comments. The District will respond to comments in the Response to Public Comments document that will be prepared at the end of the public review period as part of the Final EIR that will be presented to the District’s Board of Directors.

A public hearing by the District’s Board of Directors to consider certification of the EIR and project approval is anticipated in spring 2016. A separate notice of this meeting will be provided to those who comment on the Draft EIR and posted on the District’s website when the date is determined.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Draft EIR is available online, and may be downloaded from the District website: [www.ebparks.org/parks/mission/Stanford Avenue Staging Area Expansion Project](http://www.ebparks.org/parks/mission/Stanford_Avenue_Staging_Area_Expansion_Project). Copies of the Draft EIR are also available for review at District headquarters at the address listed above and at the Fremont Main Library Reference Desk, 2300 Stevenson Boulevard, Fremont.

Board of Directors

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PROJECT LOCATION: The project area is located at the western entrance to the Mission Peak Regional Preserve (Preserve) at the terminus of Stanford Avenue in the City of Fremont, Alameda County. The existing Stanford Avenue Staging Area (staging area) provides limited parking for 43 vehicles and serves as the primary access to the Hidden Valley Trail and the Peak Meadow Trail which access the summit of Mission Peak.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The purpose of the project is to provide additional parking and restrooms to better accommodate park visitor demand for trail access from the existing Stanford Avenue Staging Area. It is anticipated that developing a new staging area at this location will help to reduce existing noise, trash, and safety issues on neighborhood streets resulting from Preserve visitors parking on public streets in the vicinity of the existing staging area and that Mission Peak visitors would be better served by a more appropriate level of parking and additional restrooms. The Draft EIR fully analyzes the environmental impacts of two potential options for a staging area location, either of which would provide a maximum of 300 new parking spaces within the existing Mission Peak boundaries. The options are:

- **Option A:** Development of a new staging area on a grassland area located 250 feet to the northeast of the existing staging area. The Option A site encompasses a total of 11.71 acres. Approximately 9.64 acres would be permanently disturbed, 2.78 acres of which would consist of paved surfaces. The remaining 2.07 acres consist of temporarily disturbed areas.
- **Option B:** Development of a new staging area on a grassland area located approximately 875 feet to the southeast of the existing staging area. The Option B site encompasses a total of 16.76 acres. Approximately 10.45 acres would be permanently disturbed, 3.10 acres of which would consist of paved surfaces or bridge structures. The remaining 6.31 acres consist of temporarily disturbed areas.

Each option would include a gate controlled access to the staging area, kiosk, new public restrooms, picnic tables, and associated landscaping and utility improvements. Each option also would also include paved vehicle access roadways from the existing staging area to the project as well as new graveled roadways and/or trail connections. Post-construction stormwater controls would include treatment through bioretention within the staging area and hydromodification management utilizing a detention pond.

Development of Option A would include a headwall repair to an existing culvert along a tributary to Agua Caliente Creek. Development of Option B would remove an existing culvert and restore the channel to its natural condition along a different section of Agua Caliente Creek. Development of Option B would also include a new vehicular bridge and a trail bridge at two separate locations over the creek.

ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft EIR provides an evaluation of the potential significant environmental impacts of the proposed project and recommends mitigation measures to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level. Potential significant impacts were identified for the following environmental topics: biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, air quality, and noise.

QUESTIONS: If you have questions about the Draft EIR, please contact Michelle Julene, Senior Planner, East Bay Regional Park District, at 510-544-2351, or StanfordAveProject@ebparks.org.