

“E”

Negative Declaration

Moore Creek Park Expansion – “Dan’s Wild Ride Trail” – Use Permit
Minor Modification P21-00246
Zoning Administrator Hearing Date (March 22, 2023)

NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

1195 3rd Street, Second Floor
Napa, Calif. 94559
www.napaoutdoors.org

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration

June 16, 2022

1. **Project Title:** Dan's Wild Ride Trail
2. **Property Owner:** Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District
3. **Contact person, phone number and email:** Kyra Purvis, Park and Open Space Planner, (707) 299-1788, kpurvis@ncrposd.org
4. **Project location and APN:** The proposed Negative Declaration covers a 3.9-mile-long by +/- 40-foot-wide trail corridor centered on an existing natural surface trail held variously under easement and license by the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District over underlying parcels owned by Bundy (APN 025-060-021), Phinney (APNs 025-060-005, 025-030-017, and 025-030-010), and the Land Trust of Napa County (APNs 025-030-018 and 025-030-019). County Zoning: Agricultural Watershed (AW).
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District, 1195 Third Street, Second Floor, Napa, Calif. 94559
6. **General Plan Designation:** The project location is designated as Agricultural Watershed/Open Space in the County of Napa General Plan.
7. **Zoning:** The project location is designated as Agricultural Watershed (AW) in the County of Napa Zoning Code.
8. **Project Description:** Adoption of a Park Plan by the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District and application to and adoption of a Use Permit Minor Modification to Use Permit P10-00155 (Moore Creek Park) as previously amended by Use Permit Very Minor Modification P12-00387 by the County of Napa, to allow an existing natural surface trail connecting Moore Creek Park to the Pacific Union College Demonstration and Experimental Forest to be operated as a publicly-accessible trail and to become a part of Moore Creek Park and to construct an approximately 1,000 foot re-route of a portion of said existing trail on the Land Trust of Napa County's Okin Preserve. The proposed trail would allow non-motorized uses including hiking and biking but would not allow horseback riding at the request of easement donors.

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION:

The General Manager of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District has tentatively determined that the following project would not have a significant effect on the environment and the District intends to adopt a **negative declaration**. Documentation supporting this determination can be viewed at <https://napaoutdoors.org/dans-wild-ride-trail-ceqa-negative-declaration/> and is available for inspection by appointment at the offices of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District, Hall of Justice, 1125 Third St., Second Floor, Napa, CA 94559.

16-Jun-22

DATE:



BY: Chris Cahill, General Manager

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD: Written comments may be submitted through July 10, 2022

Please send written comments to the attention of Kyra Purvis, Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District, at 1195 Third St., Second Floor, Napa, Calif. 94559, or via e-mail to kpurvis@ncrposd.org. The Board of Directors of the Napa County Regional Park

and Open Space District will consider adoption of this Negative Declaration at a public hearing subsequent to the close of the written comment period. A public hearing for the Use Permit Modification and associated County approvals on this project will be held, as and if required, by the County of Napa thereafter. Oral and written comments may also be submitted at the time of these hearings. You may confirm the date and time of Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District hearing by calling (707) 299-1335. Please contact the Napa County Department of Planning, Building and Environmental Services for information on any County of Napa proceedings.

NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

1195 3rd Street, Suite 210
Napa, Calif. 94559
www.napaoutdoors.org

Initial Study Checklist

1. **Project Title:** Dan's Wild Ride Trail
2. **Property Owner:** Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District
3. **Contact person, phone number and email:** Kyra Purvis, Park and Open Space Planner, (707) 299-1788, kpurvis@ncrposd.org
4. **Project location and APN:** The proposed Negative Declaration covers a 3.9-mile-long by +/- 40-foot-wide trail corridor centered on an existing natural surface trail as well as a 1,000 linear foot addition held variously under easement and license by the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District over underlying parcels owned by Bundy (APN 025-060-021), Phinney (APNs 025-060-005, 025-030-017, and 025-030-010), and the Land Trust of Napa County (APNs 025-030-018 and 025-030-019). County Zoning: Agricultural Watershed (AW).
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District, 1195 Third Street, Second Floor, Napa, Calif. 94559
6. **General Plan Designation:** The project location is designated as Agricultural Watershed/Open Space in the County of Napa General Plan.
7. **Current Zoning:** The project location is designated as Agricultural Watershed (AW) in the County of Napa Zoning Code.
8. **Project Description:** Adoption of a Park Plan by the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District and application to and adoption of a Use Permit Minor Modification to Use Permit P10-00155 (Moore Creek Park) as previously amended by Use Permit Very Minor Modification P12-00387 by the County of Napa, to allow an existing natural surface trail connecting Moore Creek Park to the Pacific Union College Demonstration and Experimental Forest to be operated as a publicly-accessible trail and to become a part of Moore Creek Park and to construct an approximately 1,000 foot re-route of a portion of said existing trail on the Land Trust of Napa County's Okin Preserve. The proposed trail would allow non-motorized uses including hiking and biking but would not allow horseback riding at the request of easement donors.

Environmental Setting and Surrounding Land Uses

The proposed Dan's Wild Ride public trail project would occur almost entirely on existing single track trails, fire roads, and ranch roads located on otherwise undeveloped lands located in the Moore Creek canyon between the Pacific Union College forest in Angwin and the existing northern boundary of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District's Moore Creek Park. New trail construction would be limited to approximately 1,000 linear feet of new trail, to be constructed on the Land Trust's Okin Preserve (APN 025-030-018). The area has historically been used for limited cattle grazing, limited illicit marijuana production, and open space uses such as hunting and nature appreciation. The subject trail corridor is characterized by a dirt or graveled surface trail surrounded by an otherwise largely undisturbed natural landscape of coniferous forest, oak woodland, chaparral scrub, and a riparian zone centered on the channel of Moore Creek.

The land directly adjacent to the proposed public trail to the east and west is undeveloped and owned either by private parties or by the Land Trust of Napa County. The Land Trust property, known as the Okin Preserve, is protected in perpetuity to preserve a unique confluence of vegetative habitat zones, including Douglas Fir forest,

serpentine chaparral, and mixed hardwood forest. The 796-acre Las Posadas State Demonstration Forest is located to the west of the proposed trail, 1,643-acre Moore Creek Park and its 20+ miles of trails (of which the proposed trail would become part) is located to the south, and the more than 850-acre Pacific Union College Experimental Forest and its 35 miles of trails is to the north.

The Project is quite remote and not easily accessible by car, but parking lots are located at Moore Creek Park off Chiles-Pope Valley Road and at the Pacific Union College forest off Las Posadas Road in Angwin.

9. **Other agencies whose approval is required:** (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement).
County of Napa (Use Permit Minor Modification)

Responsible (R) and Trustee (T) Agencies:

Other Agencies/Organizations Contacted:

10. **California Native American tribal consultation:** *Have tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.? No tribes have requested consultation.*

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND BASIS OF CONCLUSIONS:

The conclusions and recommendations contained herein are professional opinions derived in accordance with current standards of professional practice. They are based on a review of the Napa County Environmental Resource Maps, other sources of information listed in the file, the comments received, conversations with knowledgeable individuals, the preparer's personal knowledge of the area, and where necessary visits to the site and surrounding areas. For further information see the environmental background information contained in the permanent file on this project.

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



BY: Chris Cahill
General Manager
Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District

16-Jun-22
Date

Detailed Project Description

Dan's Wild Ride Trail and Moore Creek Park

Adoption of a Park Plan to allow an existing 3.9-mile natural surface trail connecting Moore Creek Park to the Pacific Union College Demonstration and Experimental Forest to be operated as a publicly-accessible trail and to become a part of Moore Creek Park and to construct an approximately 1,000 foot re-route of a portion of said existing trail on the Land Trust of Napa County's Okin Preserve (specific parcel- APN 025-030-018). The proposed trail would allow non-motorized uses including hiking and biking but would not allow horseback riding at the request of easement donors. Public access to the trail would be via the Moore Creek Park and Pacific Union College forest trail networks with alternate permissive administrative and public safety access from the Land Trust's Okin Preserve (off Chiles Pope Valley Road) and the Las Posadas State Forest (off Las Posadas Road). Proposed uses, facilities, and other notable features of the project are summarized below:

Proposed Uses

- **Hiking.** Allowed except when the park is closed due to high fire hazard, excessively wet trails, or other hazards (see discussion in "Other Notable Features" section regarding park closure policy).
- **Mountain biking.** Allowed except when park is closed due to high fire hazard, excessively wet trails, or other hazards (see discussion in "Other Notable Features" section regarding park closure policy).
- **Horseback riding.** Not allowed as a result of the requirements of one or more easement donors.
- **Nature observation and study.** Allowed year-round, except when necessary to restrict use due to high fire hazard, excessively wet trails, or other hazards (see discussion in "Other Notable Features" section regarding park closure policy).
- **No Motorized Recreation.** Except as required or recommended by state and federal disability access laws and regulations, no motorized recreation will be permitted, and the public will not be permitted to drive motor vehicles on the trail.
- **Other low-impact outdoor recreation and education.** Open space-based activities that do not disturb the natural character of the area, such as bird watching and nature appreciation, but not including public hunting (hunting and trapping for management purposes by the District and its agents would be allowed), target shooting, or barbecuing, may be allowed.

Other Notable Features

- **Low Impact.** Every aspect of the operation of the trail will be designed to be low impact in terms of resource and energy consumption and generation of pollutants. There will be no motorized recreation within the park.
- **Wildfire hazard.** Park activities will be limited as appropriate, up to and including full park closure, as needed during periods of extreme wildfire hazard, as determined by the County Fire Marshall or additionally whenever in the District's judgment the combination of forecasted temperature, humidity, and wind suggest extreme wildfire hazard. No open fires will be allowed.
- **Wet weather.** Trails will be closed as needed during and after rainstorms to prevent soil erosion and damage to trails. Appropriate closure protocols for hikers, mountain bicyclists, and equestrians will be adopted and enforced. The performance standard used to guide the closure protocols will be that there is no trail-related sediment flow either directly or indirectly into local creeks.

- **Other Hazards.** Trails will be partially or fully closed, and the park may be completely closed to the public as needed to avoid conflict with District property maintenance activities, or as needed to avoid any other public safety hazard or to protect water quality or other natural resources.
- **Hunting and shooting.** No sport hunting or target shooting will be allowed.
- **Fencing and gates.** So as not to break up an important wildlife movement corridor, no new fencing is proposed. Gates will be the minimum necessary to provide for public safety and limit trespass onto neighboring agricultural properties or for resource protection.

Environmental Commitments and Best Management Practices

The project incorporates the following features to enhance environmental protections during construction and operation in order to ensure minimal impacts:

Biological Resources Protections:

- No sport hunting shall be allowed. Hunting or trapping on the property would be limited to wildlife management activities by the District, its agents, and/or wildlife agencies having jurisdiction over the relevant resource.
- The presence of bears and mountain lions shall be regarded as natural and desirable, and depredation permits for problem animals shall only be sought as a last resort, and only if there is a clearly demonstrated and immediate need to protect public safety and where other methods of risk minimization, avoidance, and public education cannot be relied upon.
- Jake Ruygt, or another qualified botanist, will complete a pre-construction inspection of the Okin Preserve trail re-route and shall flag any instances of Narrow-leaved Daisy and/or Green Coyote Mint as follows: Narrow-leaved daisy shall be flagged and avoided entirely by building the trail a minimum of three feet away from any flagged occurrence. Green Coyote Mint should be avoided where possible, with attention to plant size; large flagged specimens shall be avoided entirely.

Safety Features:

- Public motor vehicle use shall be prohibited, except as required or recommended by the Americans with Disabilities Act and related federal and state regulations.
- Power tools shall only be used by properly trained and equipped staff and volunteers.
- Smoking shall be prohibited.
- The trail shall be closed to public use during periods of extreme wildfire hazard, as determined by the County Fire Marshall, as well as when in the District's judgment the combination of temperature, humidity, and wind create a potentially unsafe situation.
- The public shall not be permitted to have open fires.

Water Quality Protections:

- Trails will be closed as needed during and after rainstorms to prevent soil erosion and damage to trails. Appropriate closure protocols for hikers, mountain bicyclists, and equestrians will be adopted and enforced. The performance standard used to guide the closure protocols will be that there is no trail-related sediment flow either directly or indirectly into local creeks.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings (public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

- a.-d. The proposed public trail largely already exists as a series of ranch roads, fire roads, and single track trails. New construction resulting from this project would be limited to 1,000 feet of new trail on the Okin Preserve, trail signage, and the addition of one gate. No physical changes to the property are proposed which would be visible from any public road or other public access point or from the handful of existing residences which have views of the property. No mature trees will be removed by the project and no new lighting is proposed.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Important (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g), timberland as defined in Public Resources Code Section 4526, or timberland zoned Timberland Production as defined in Government Code Section 51104(g)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use in a manner that will significantly affect timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, or other public benefits?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
a.-e. The project area is not classified as farmland that is Prime, Unique, or of Statewide importance. The property is designated Agricultural Watershed/Open Space by the Napa County General Plan. The property has historically seen very occasional grazing and illicit marijuana cultivation, but has not otherwise been used agriculturally. The County General Plan indicates that public recreation is permitted in areas designated Agricultural Watershed/Open Space, and that public recreation and agriculture can be compatible uses. The riparian corridors on the property qualify as forest land as defined by the Public Resources Code; however, there is no conflict or impact because forest land is defined in the code section as being compatible with recreation, water quality, and other public benefits. The proposed Use Permit would thus not cause any change in the forest land status of the property. The project site is not zoned as a Timberland Production Zone.				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

- a-b. The amount of dust generated by trail users post-construction is expected to be too minor, infrequent, and localized to be significant based on the standards and examples provided in the BAAQMD Guidelines.
- c. According to the BAAQMD Guidelines, sensitive receptors within 1,000 feet of a proposed activity need to be considered relative to air pollutants for which the region is in non-attainment. The region is a non-attainment basin for particulates. No sensitive receptors exist within 1,000 feet of the project area and new grading proposed as a component of this project will be minimal and limited to hand tools. No public vehicular traffic will be allowed. Thus, sensitive receptors will not be exposed to a significant level of particulates.
- d. The project is not expected to generate any new odors or other emissions. There are no impacts.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, Coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

- a.-d. The proposed public trail largely already exists as a series of ranch roads, fire roads, and single track trails and already sees some level of permissive recreational use. New construction resulting from this project would be limited to the construction of a +/- 1,000 linear foot realignment of the trail on the Okin Preserve, trail signage, and the addition of a gate on an existing road to keep users on-trail. The County's natural resources databases indicate that four special status plant species are potentially located in the vicinity of the trail: Jepson's leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon jepsonii*), Sharsmith's western flax (*Hesperolinon sharsmithiae*), narrow-anthered brodiaea (*Brodiaea leptandra*), and green jewelflower (*Streptanthus hesperidis*). Because no new grading is proposed and any signage or gates installed would be in the disturbed area on and along existing roads and single tracks, there will be no impact on special status plants from the conversion of the existing trail to public use.

With regard to the +/- 1,000 linear foot realignment of the Dan's Wild Ride trail on the Okin Preserve, the Land Trust of Napa County contracted with Jake Ruygt of Napa Botanical Surveys to survey the location and review the proposed trail (alignment flagged in the field) for impacts to native plants. The Ruygt survey, dated March, 2022 is attached as an exhibit to this Negative Declaration. It finds no significant impacts to the two special status species identified in the area, Narrow-leaved Daisy and Green Coyote Mint, with the following environmental commitment, which has been incorporated into the project:

Jake Ruygt, or another qualified botanist, will complete a pre-construction inspection of the Okin Preserve trail re-route and shall flag any instances of Narrow-leaved Daisy and/or Green Coyote Mint as follows: Narrow-leaved daisy shall be flagged and avoided entirely by building the trail a minimum of three feet away from any flagged occurrence. Green Coyote Mint should be avoided where possible, with attention to plant size; large flagged specimens shall be avoided entirely.

Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) has also been identified in the project area. "Townsend's big-eared bat occurs across much of the western United States, Canada, and Mexico, with isolated populations in the central and eastern United States. *Corynorhinus townsendii* roosts primarily in caves and mines as well as deep rock crevices, buildings, and bridges. Loss of roosts and other habitat reduction puts these bats at risk of substantial reduction in numbers and range." (Anderson, Light, Takano, and Morrison. 2018. Population structure of the Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii*) in California. *Journal of Mammalogy*, Volume 99, Issue 3). Because the proposed public trail makes use of existing roads and single tracks, no grading will result from this project and impacts to Townsend's big-eared bat roosting sites and/or foraging areas are not foreseeable. The existing trail is used permissively by the public, so while some additional non-motorized public use is foreseeable once Dan's Wild Ride is officially open, the trail is quite remote and the proposed project is unlikely to result in an increase in recreational intensity that would negatively impact roosting bats.

No construction is proposed in riparian habitat, in a sensitive natural community, or in protected wetlands. As noted above, no new fencing is proposed and gates will be the absolute minimum necessary to direct users and keep them on the developed trail. This project will not impede wildlife movement or wildlife corridors.

Impacts to special status species will be less than significant.

- e. There will be minimal development as a result of the project. No trees are anticipated to be removed as a result of the project. The project would not conflict with any local policy or ordinance protecting biological resources or any tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- f. The project will not conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan, because no such plans have been adopted that include the project area.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

- a.-c. The proposed public trail largely makes use of existing roads and single tracks. There are no known historical, archaeological, or cultural resources or human remains within the areas that will be affected by the project. No deep ripping, trenching, or extensive excavation of the type required for foundations, footings, or similar features is included in the project. Impacts to cultural resources are not foreseeable.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. ENERGY. Would the project:				
a) Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

- a. – b. This is a trail improvement project which primarily involves opening an existing trail to non-motorized public use. The project could not conceivably conflict with any renewable energy or energy efficiency plans. There are no impacts associated with energy resources.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. GEOLOGY and SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

- a. No mechanized grading or construction of improvements at any significant scale is proposed as part of this project. It will not expose people to potential substantial adverse effects associated with faults, liquefaction, or landslides.
- b. The existing trail was constructed by previous owners using modern trail design standards, largely equivalent to the standards and best management practices adopted by the District in its Moore Creek Trail Construction Standards, as amended. These design standards limit erosion and include generally keeping trail slopes less than 9 percent, outslowing the trail tread and installing reverse grades as needed to prevent changes in natural water flows and concentration of water along the trail rather than across it, and by using native rock to stabilize the soil when needed where trails cross seasonal gullies.
- c. New grading proposed as a component of this project will be limited to approximately 1,000 linear feet of realigned trail, which will be constructed largely with hand tools. Impacts related to on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse are not foreseeable.

- d. None of the project area contains highly expansive soils. Furthermore, no structures are proposed as part of this project and expansive soils pose little risk to trails. Therefore, there would be no impacts associated with expansive soils.
- e. No septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems are needed or proposed at the project site. Therefore, there would be no impact with regard to soils supporting septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.
- f. The proposed public trail makes use of existing roads and single tracks. There are no known paleontological or geologic features or resources within the areas that will be affected by the project. No deep ripping, trenching, or extensive excavation of the type required for foundations, footings, or similar features is included in the project. Impacts are not foreseeable.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:				
a) Generate a net increase in greenhouse gas emissions in excess of applicable thresholds adopted by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District or the California Air Resources Board which may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with a county-adopted climate action plan or another applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

- a-b. Greenhouse gasses will be generated by the extremely limited construction activities associated with the installation of trail signs and one gate and by some increment of additional users driving to and using the trailhead parking lots at Moore Creek Park and the PUC Forest. The BAAQMD Guidelines provide a screening threshold of 1,100 metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalents per year, which is roughly equivalent to a 60-unit residential subdivision. Standard trip generation models used by traffic engineers project that a 60-unit residential subdivision will generate more than 600 vehicle trips per day. Assuming a likely maximum of no more than 15 additional park visitor trips on peak weekend days (15 vehicles represents, for instance, roughly 25% of the parking capacity available at Moore Creek Park), greenhouse gas emissions would still be only 5 percent of the Air District-prescribed threshold. Additionally, motorized recreation of any kind is prohibited on the trail, except as is necessary to comply with the ADA. The project does not conflict with any county-adopted or other applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonable foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wild-land fires?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion:

- a.-b. No hazardous materials are expected to be used, with the possible exception of minor amount of gasoline and oil for running chainsaws and like maintenance equipment. Because of the small amounts that may occasionally be used, no significant impact is expected.
- c. There is no school within or near the project area. The closest school is over 6 miles from the project area.
- d. No part of the project is on any list of hazardous materials sites. The project area has historically been used as open space, which would not produce any historical hazardous materials such as buried tanks.
- e. The closest public airport to the project site is Angwin's Virgil O. Parrett Field, located approximately 1.4 miles to the northwest of the nearest point of the proposed trail. The proposed trail is not located in an Airport Compatibility Zone. Outdoor recreation, including multiuse trails, does not result in people living or working in airport areas. The project will not result in any safety hazard.

- f. The project will not affect the implementation of or interfere with any emergency response plan.
- g. According to CalFire, the project is located in areas which are subject to very high, high, and moderate risk of wildland fires (on a scale of low, moderate, high, and very high). The project is not expected to create a significant increased risk of wildland fire for the following reasons:
- The general public will not be allowed to drive cars, trucks, motor cycles, ATV's, or other motorized recreational equipment on the trail.
 - Only trained staff or volunteers will use motorized maintenance equipment, and its use will be limited to low-fire hazard periods.
 - The public will not be permitted to smoke while in the park or on the trail.
 - Park activities will be limited as appropriate, up to and including full park closure, as needed during periods of extreme wildfire hazard, as determined by the County Fire Marshall and additionally whenever in the District's judgment the combination of forecasted temperature, humidity, and wind suggest extreme wildfire hazard.
 - No open fires will be allowed anywhere on the trail.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

- a. Impacts to water quality could potentially occur from increased erosion and resulting sediment flows into Moore Creek from trail maintenance and from wildland fire. The District's Moore Creek Trail Construction Standards contain up-to-date standards for designing and maintaining trails; the proposed newly-public trail will be operated consistent with those guidelines, thereby reducing erosion potential and sedimentation. Wildland fire is discussed in Section VII.8. As such, potential impacts to water quality will be less than significant.
- b. The project will not result in any increase in water usage. No new water use or extraction is proposed.
- c. The proposed public trail largely makes use of existing roads and single tracks. There will be no impacts to drainage patterns or streams. The project will not increase impervious surface, and therefore stormwater runoff will not increase.
- d. The project location is such that it is not subject to any reasonably conceivable seiche or tsunami, and the soils are not conducive to mudflows.
- e. The project will not result in any increase in water usage. No new water use or extraction is proposed. There are no impacts to a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

- a. The project will not divide any established community.

- b. The project does not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project. The project is consistent with and helps implement many policies in the County General Plan that call for expanded nature-based public recreational opportunities.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

- a.-b. The closest State-mapped mineral resource is the Syar Industries aggregate quarry, which is located adjacent to Skyline Wilderness Park near the City of Napa and many miles to the south of this project. No other resources are known in the vicinity, resulting in no impact.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

- a.-b. Currently the only noises present at the site are natural sounds made by animals and flowing water, and occasional distant engine noises from aircraft overhead. Park users will therefore not be exposed to excessive

amounts of noise. Regular trail use will result in a very minor increase in ambient noise levels due to human voices. However, any such noise will be well within the limits of what the Napa County Exterior Noise Ordinance considers reasonable. There should be no new or additional vibration or ground-borne noise.

- c. As noted in Section VIII, Hazardous Materials, the project is not within an airport compatibility zone identified in the County's Airport Compatibility Plan (Napa County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, and Napa County GIS zoning layer) but is located within 2 miles of Parrett Field. Outdoor recreation, including multiuse trails, is an allowed use within airport compatibility zones, where they exist, and this project will not result in any safety hazard. No one will be residing on or near the trail, and any work done in this portion of the park will be intermittent and short in duration. Therefore, the project will result in no impact related to airfields or airstrips.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. POPULATION and HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

- a. This project will not build new housing, establish new businesses, or induce substantial population growth in or near the project site. It will not change the projections and cumulative impacts related to population and housing balance that were identified in the County of Napa 2008 General Plan EIR.
- b. The proposed project will not result in the loss of any existing housing units and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project result in:				
a) Substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Police protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

- a. Based on our experience managing Moore Creek Park, which is the adjacent open space used by hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, and thus comparable to the proposed project, the project will result in occasional new emergency calls for ambulance, police, or fire services. However, recreation users of wilderness areas are informed of and accept a certain amount of risk, and do not expect and are not provided with the level of public services and response times that are considered standard within urban areas. No new ambulance, fire, or police facilities, staffing, or equipment will be required as a result of the project. Most of the trails proposed by the project are accessible by ATV's. If needed, emergency service helicopters can land at several locations near the project area. No impacts to schools, parks, or other public facilities are foreseeable.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. RECREATION. Would the project:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion:

- a.-b. The project increases the supply of outdoor recreation opportunities. It will not increase the physical deterioration of any existing facility, nor require the construction or expansion of other recreational facilities.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system and/or conflict with General Plan Policy CIR-38, which seeks to maintain an adequate Level of Service (LOS) at signalized and unsignalized intersections, or reduce the effectiveness of existing transit services or pedestrian/bicycle facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines §15064.3(b)	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature, (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Conflict with General Plan Policy CIR-14, which requires new uses to meet their anticipated parking demand, but to avoid providing excess parking which could stimulate unnecessary vehicle trips or activity exceeding the site's capacity?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion:

a.& c. The transition to VMT is required of lead agencies beginning July 1, 2020. As a result, the updated Circulation Element of the Napa County General Plan includes policies that reflect this new regulatory framework for transportation impact assessment, along with a draft threshold of significance that is based on reduction of VMT compared to the unmitigated project rather than the regional average VMT (Policies CIR-7 through CIR-9). Staff believes this alternative approach to determining the significance of a project's transportation impacts would be better suited to Napa County's rural context, while still supporting the efforts of the County to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions goals of its pending Climate Action Plan. The reduction in VMT and, correspondingly, GHG emissions from the transportation sector, is also necessary for Napa County, the region, and the state to achieve long-term, statewide mandates targeted toward reducing GHG emissions. Such mandates include, but are not limited to Executive Order S-3-05 which sets a general statewide GHG emissions reduction target of 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, and Executive Order B-16-12, which sets this same GHG emissions reduction target, specifically for the transportation sector.

Napa County is currently in the process of establishing a threshold for minimum vehicle miles traveled (VMT) for various land uses. The park or trail project category does not fall neatly into traditional land use categories and is a hybrid land use combining VMT characteristics of transportation projects and small development uses. Until minimum VMT thresholds are established by the County for park and open space projects, guidance may be taken from by the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA, December 2018. The Advisory indicates that the VMT metric supports three statutory goals: "the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the development of multimodal transportation networks, and diversity of land uses." The Advisory goes on to state that "achieving 15 percent lower per employee (office) VMT than existing development is both generally achievable and is supported by evidence that

connects this level of reduction to the State’s emissions goals.” With regard to the proposed project, the Technical Advisory provides “screening thresholds” for small projects as follows:

“Many local agencies have developed screening thresholds to indicate when detailed analysis is needed. Absent substantial evidence indicating that a project would generate a potentially significant level of VMT, or inconsistency with a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) or general plan, projects that generate or attract fewer than 110 trips per day generally may be assumed to cause a less than-significant transportation impact.”

As noted at **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**, above, the project is unlikely to result in a net increase of more than 15 average daily trips (15 vehicles represents fully 25% of the total parking capacity available at Moore Creek Park), a number which is well below the 110 trip small development standard. The project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b). Impacts would be less than significant.

The project does not conflict with any applicable congestion management program or other standards adopted by the Napa County Transportation Planning Agency.

- b. The project does not conflict with any existing policies or plans and would have minimal impact on existing facilities
- d. The proposed trail is located miles from any public road and will not increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses.
- e. Within the Moore Creek Unit, an all-weather dirt access road connects Chiles and Pope Valley Road to the existing gate house and ranch house. To ensure that this does not become blocked in an emergency, the section between the public road and the staging area has been improved to meet County standards, and the public will not be allowed to drive north of the staging area. North of the ranch house an existing dirt road continues to the northern end of the property. While this segment of the road is not passable by standard vehicles, it can be traveled by high clearance four-wheel drive and all-terrain vehicles. An ATV can also negotiate an existing dirt road which connects the canyon road just south of the ranch house with the top of the knoll to east of the ranch house and to the private properties to the east of the Moore Creek Unit. Access to the approximate middle of the Dan’s Wild Ride Trail is available for emergency vehicles from either Las Posadas State Forest or the Land Trust’s Okin Preserve driveway, which runs down to Chiles Pope Valley Road. Thus, emergency access for purposes of rescuing an injured user on the Moore Creek property is as good as or better than is typical for a wilderness park.
- f. There was a brief moment in time during the middle of the coronavirus pandemic shutdown when Moore Creek Park was seeing 3x or even 4x its traditional level of visitation. During that period the Moore Creek parking lot was sometimes filled to overflowing. Since the Spring of 2021 visitation has dropped to perhaps 2x traditional levels and in that situation the parking lots are broadly adequate. Pacific Union College has also recently improved a parking lot on their property off of Las Posadas Road in Angwin which will absorb some of the additional parking demand that may be created by the subject project. Impacts related to inadequate parking are expected to be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				

Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

Discussion

- a-b. As noted elsewhere in this document, the proposed project involves no mechanized grading and only minimal ground disturbing from hand tool trail construction along the Okin Preserve 1,000' reroute. There is no structural development on or near the project area. The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource. As such, no resources listed or eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) are present and impacts to archaeological resources as a result of the proposed project are considered to be less than significant. Furthermore, no resources that may be significant pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(c) have been identified or are anticipated onsite.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the construction of a new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion:

- a.-c. No new water use or wastewater generation would conceivably result from this project.
- d.-e. The project is intended to be a zero waste facility to the greatest practical extent, and the public will be advised to pack out what they pack in. Any new recycling or trash containers resulting from the project would be limited.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX. WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion:

- a.-d. As noted in the project description, park activities will be limited as appropriate, up to and including full park closure, as needed during periods of extreme wildfire hazard, as determined by the County Fire Marshall or additionally whenever in the District's judgment the combination of forecasted temperature, humidity, and wind suggest extreme wildfire hazard. No open fires will be allowed. As analyzed here and at **Hazards and Hazardous Materials**, above, impacts related to wildfire will be less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

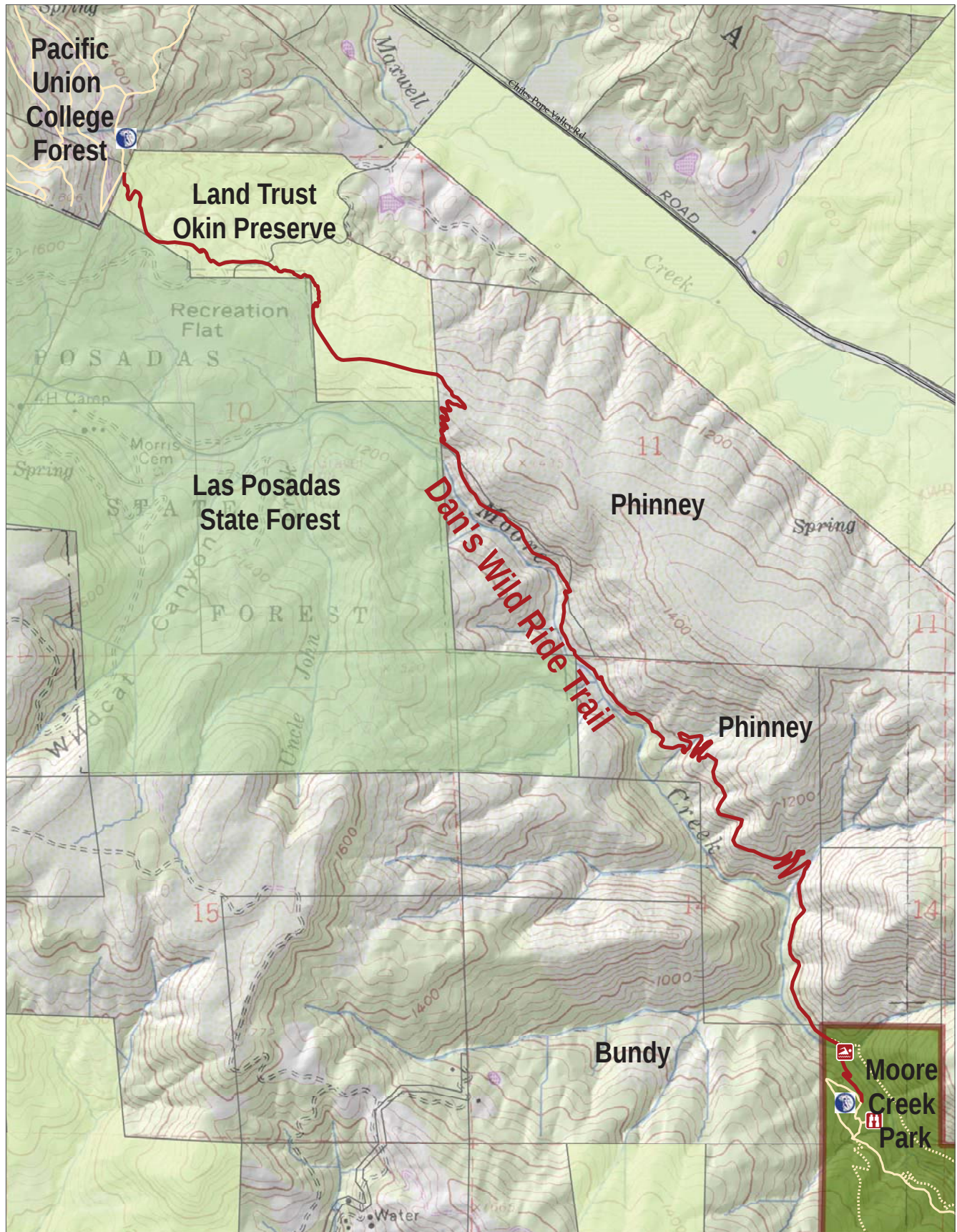
Discussion:

- a. As designed, the project will have a less than significant adverse impact on wildlife resources, and in many ways will actually improve wildlife habitat by protecting the trail corridor from future private development. The project will not result in a significant loss of native trees, native vegetation, or important examples of California's history or pre-history. In addition, because the trail will be publicly managed, with only light, nature-based recreational usage, significant natural plant and animal communities will be protected.
- b. The proposed project does not have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.
- c. There are no environmental effects caused by this project that would result in substantial adverse effects on human beings, whether directly or indirectly. No significant hazardous conditions resulting from this project have been identified. The project would not have any environmental effects that would result in significant impacts.

Attachments

1. Dan's Wild Ride location map
2. Okin Preserve trail re-route detail
3. Napa Botanical Survey Services March 2002 focused rare plant survey

Napa Open Space District



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK & OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Dan's Wild Ride Trail

Moore Creek Park

Legend

Park Features

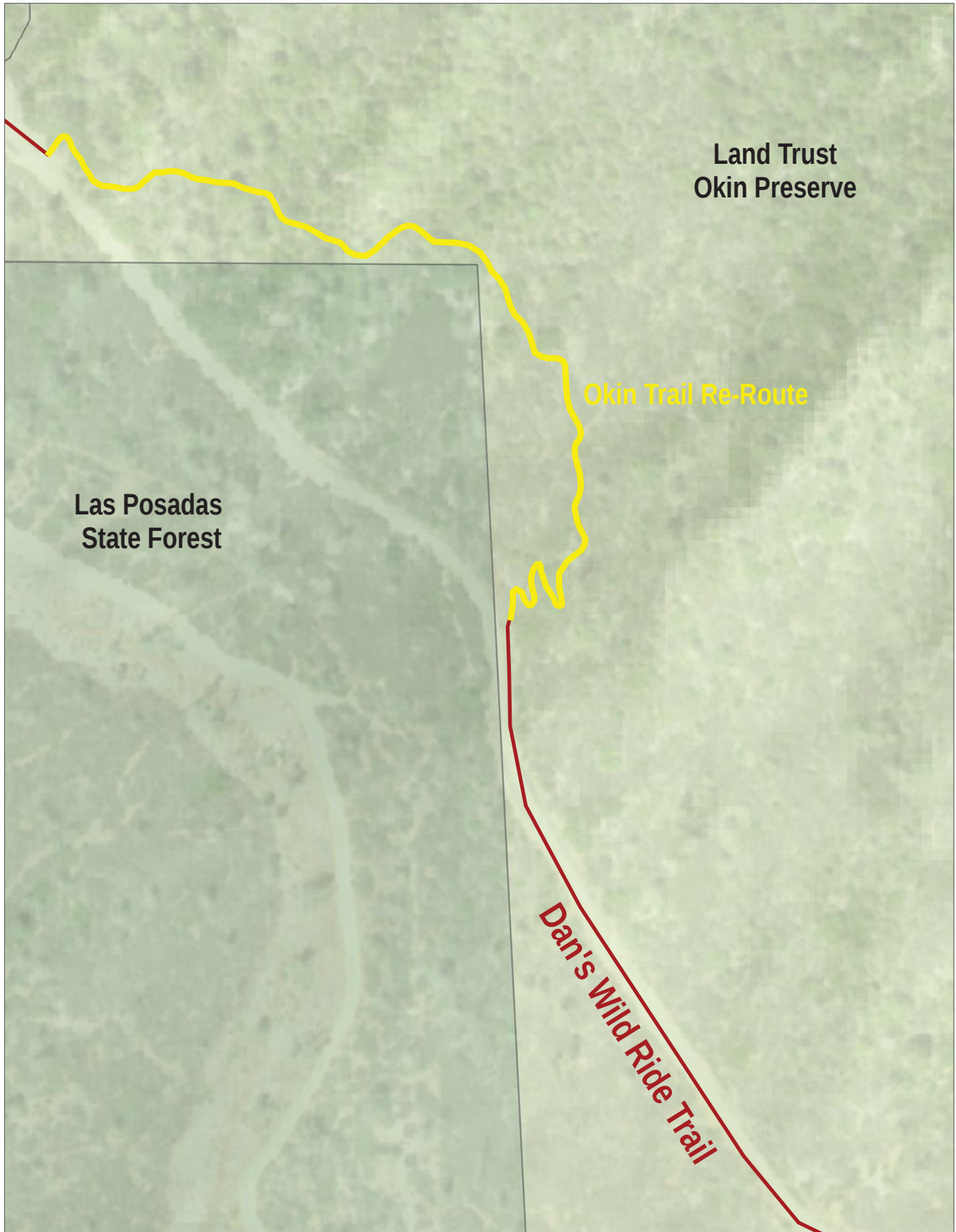
- Parking
- Restroom
- View
- Swimming Hole
- Stock Pond
- Water Trough

Trails and Boundaries

- Residence
- Park Boundary
- Private Property
- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Bay Area Ridge Trail



Napa Open Space District



0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles

Legend

Park Features

- Parking
- Restroom
- View
- Swimming Hole
- Stock Pond
- Water Trough

- Residence

Trails and Boundaries

- Proposed Re-Route
- Dan's Wild Ride



Napa Botanical

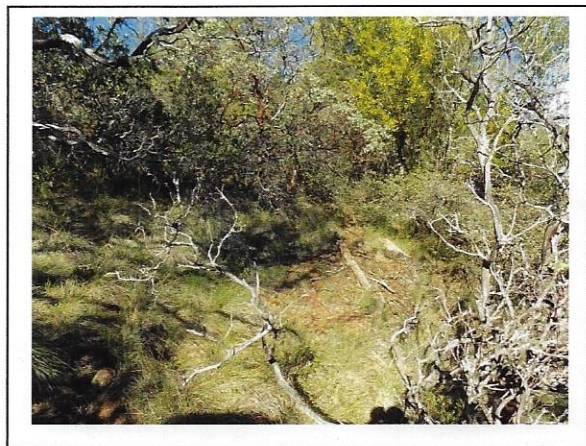
SURVEY SERVICES

Okin (Bicycle) Trail Modification

On March 7, 2022, *Napa Botanical Survey Services* conducted a focused rare plant survey on a modified segment of a proposed bicycle trail. The trail route, designed for a private bicycle group (Redwood Empire Mountain Bike Alliance) was walked with guidance from Lena Pollastro, Land Programs Manager for the Land Trust of Napa County. The existing trail route passes through Las Posadas State Forest property according to California Department of Forestry personnel. The state forest prohibits use for recreational purposes (Agreement between the State of California and the Blake Family who donated the property in 1928 states “for study and research work in forestry, botany and kindred subjects and experimentation in tree propagation and not for recreational purposes...”.). The new trail route diverges from an existing jeep road where trespass may occur, and roughly parallels it approximately 20-30 ft. down slope thereby avoiding possible trespass. It returns to the jeep road beyond the point of potential trespass.

The composition of vegetation along the modified trail segment is governed by the serpentine substrate and the rapidly drained rocky soil. Many of the plant species that inhabit serpentine are capable of tolerating low calcium/high magnesium soils that often also possess levels of nickel, chromium and arsenic toxic to species that do not grow on serpentine. The isolation effect of serpentine edaphic “islands” in California vegetation has led to the evolution of numerous serpentine endemic plants. Many of these carry special status.

The predominant vegetation type along the proposed trail modification is *Xeric Serpentine Chaparral*, co-dominated by Whiteleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos viscida*) and Leather oak (*Quercus durata*) with Foothill Pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) providing a moderately dense over story and California fescue (*Festuca californica*) patchy in the herbaceous understory. A small portion of the new alignment appears to occur on volcanic substrate. The vegetation in this portion of the alignment is dominated by Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*), with Common Manzanita (*A. manzanita*) and Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) being important associates. The vegetation is dense over most of the route and exposed parent rock is conspicuous. The following list includes special status species recorded on the Okin property during 2015 surveys by NBSS and the focus of the survey:



Xeric Serpentine Chaparral



Mixed Conifer-Shrub stand

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat	Status
<i>Amorpha californica</i> var. <i>napensis</i>	Napa false indigo	forest; shade	1B.2
<i>Brodiaea leptandra</i>	narrow-anthered California brodiaea	chaparral, woodland forest	1B.2
<i>Calamagrostis ophitidis</i>	serpentine reed grass	chaparral; serpentine	4.3
<i>Collomia diversifolia</i>	serpentine collomia	chaparral; serpentine	4.3
<i>Erigeron greenei</i> *	narrow-leaved daisy	rock outcrops	1B.2
<i>Hesperolinon bicarpellatum</i>	Napa western flax	chaparral; serpentine, volcanic	1B.1
<i>Monardella viridis</i>	green coyote mint	chap., woodland, forest	4.3
<i>Streptanthus hesperidis</i>	Green jewelflower	chaparral; serpentine	1B.2
<i>Triteleia lugens</i>	Dark-mouthed triteleia	Chaparral, forest; all substrates	4.3

*This species was not recorded in 2015 but considered to have a high probability of occurrence

Results

Two special status species were observed during the survey:

--Narrow-leaved Daisy (*Erigeron greenei*) – This perennial herb forms small clumps with several stems arising from a woody taproot. It generally grows among large rocks or in cracks on monoliths. It was encountered in a vegetative state along the trail corridor at N38°33'49.9"/W122°24'00.3". This species is recognized as Rare and Endangered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS 1B.2) and is endemic to Napa, Lake, and Sonoma Counties.

--Green Coyote Mint (*Monardella viridis*) - This sub-shrub is branched at the base and generally bears numerous slender herbaceous or woody stems that are 8-16 inches tall. It has been observed in several vegetation types, preferring forest and chaparral communities. In Napa County it is widespread, growing on serpentine, volcanic and sedimentary soils. It is less common and limited in distribution in Lake, Solano and Sonoma Counties (CNPS 4.3). This species occur broadly at this location with few-stemmed plants observed along much of the alignment. The most notable locations are at: N38°33'49.0"/W122°23'58.1 and N38°33'47.6"/ W122°23'57.6

Recommendations

The above described special status species can be avoided or mitigated from construction impacts by utilizing preconstruction flagging. Narrow-leaved Daisy should be avoided entirely by flagging and constructing the trail a minimum of three feet from the occurrence. Green Coyote Mint may be more difficult to avoid entirely because it is locally numerous but best efforts of avoidance with attention to plant size would be adequate to prevent significant impacts.

Jake Ruygt

