



FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST/ADDENDUM

Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve Public Access Improvement Project

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Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve Public Access Improvement Project

Environmental Checklist and Addendum to the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan Program EIR/EIS

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A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Assembly Bill
ABA	Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
APE	Area of Potential Effect
Authority	Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
BMP	best management practices
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CRID or preserve	Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve
CRID	Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substance Control's
EIR/EIS	Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement
EPM	environmental protection measures
ESA	Endangered Species Act
GHG	greenhouse gas
ITP	incidental take permit
MMRP	mitigation monitoring and reporting program
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Planning
PG&E	Pacific Gas & Electric Company
PRC	Public Resources Code
PSE	Participating Special Entity
SCVWD	Santa Clara Valley Water District
SWPPP	storm water pollution prevention plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
U.S. 101	U.S. Highway 101
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
UTC	United Technologies Corporation
VTA	Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority is proposing to implement public access improvements on the Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve (CRID) in unincorporated Santa Clara County (the “project”). The project consists of establishing an approximately 7.5-mile trail network and constructing three rest areas and two overlooks for passive recreation, and is described in detail below in Chapter 2, “Project Description.” The access and recreation-related improvements are within the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan Reserve System-enrolled portion of CRID and are allowed by the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency through the conservation easement agreement for the property, and they are later activities consistent with the Habitat Plan and the Habitat Plan Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) as further described below. The Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan is a long-range conservation planning document that provides a framework for promoting the protection and recovery of natural resources, including endangered species, while streamlining the permitting process for planned development, infrastructure, and maintenance activities consistent with the Plan. The Habitat Plan allows Santa Clara County, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), and the cities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and San José (collectively, the Local Partners or Permittees) to receive endangered-species permits for activities and projects they conduct and those under their jurisdiction. The Authority also contributed to Habitat Plan preparation.

A joint, programmatic EIR/EIS was prepared for the Habitat Plan that evaluated the environmental consequences of issuing a broad incidental take permit (ITP) under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and implementing several land and infrastructure development and related activities within the Permit Area of the Habitat Plan. Several covered activities were included and evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, such as Authority projects occurring on its reserve system (e.g., development of visitor amenities, multi-use trails, and administrative facilities). Issuance of the ITP, and subsequent implementation of the Habitat Plan and covered activities consistent with the Implementing Agreement, is the Proposed Action considered in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was the federal Lead Agency for the EIS, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) was a CEQA Responsible Agency in this process and approved the Habitat Plan consistent with the requirements of the California Fish and Game Code, including the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Act. In 2013, the Habitat Plan was adopted by all local participating agencies and permits were issued from USFWS and CDFW. The Habitat Agency was also formed in 2013 to oversee implementation of the Habitat Plan. The most significant role of the Habitat Agency is to acquire and manage the Reserve System that serves as mitigation for project impacts and contributes to the recovery of the species covered by the Habitat Plan. The Habitat Agency is responsible for executing the requirements of the Habitat Plan, the permits, and the Implementing Agreement. In addition to providing regulatory compliance for the Local Partners, other quasi-public agencies can request coverage under the Habitat Plan for Covered Activities within the permit area of the Habitat Plan, known as Participating Special Entities (PSE).

1.2 CEQA LEAD AGENCY AND PROPOSED PROJECT

Serving as the lead agency under CEQA, the Authority proposes to implement public access improvements within the Habitat Plan Reserve System-enrolled portion of CRID. The proposed public access improvements (i.e., trails and other low impact visitor amenities) are consistent with those evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. In addition, the project area is entirely within the Permit Area of the Habitat Plan. Accordingly, the Authority is seeking CEQA compliance for the proposed project as a later activity covered by the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, using this Environmental Checklist/Addendum.

1.3 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document serves as both an Environmental Checklist and an Addendum to the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS (Santa Clara County et al. 2012a). As described above, the proposed public access improvements are consistent with the Covered Activities included in the Habitat Plan. Among the other criteria for determining whether a project is within the scope of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS is whether it is within the Permit Area of the Habitat Plan (i.e., the geographic extent of analysis covered in the EIR/EIS). If a proposed project is covered by the evaluation of environmental effects in the EIR/EIS, it may be approved using a finding that the project is within the scope of the EIR/EIS for its CEQA compliance, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(c)(2). Section 15168(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines states "subsequent activities in the program must be examined in the light of the program EIR to determine whether an additional environmental document must be prepared." Pursuant to Section 15168(c)(4), an agency should use "...a written checklist or similar device to document the evaluation of the site and the activity to determine whether the environmental effects of the operation were covered in the program EIR." Using this CEQA compliance approach, if the project impacts were analyzed in the EIR/EIS and it is determined that no new or substantially more severe significant effects could occur and no new mitigation measures would be required for the project, the project can be found to be within the scope of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. In this circumstance, no additional CEQA documentation would need to be prepared or publicly circulated (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15168[c][2] and [4]) and this document would substantiate the "within the scope" finding and provide the substantial evidence required to reach that conclusion.

An Addendum to an EIR is appropriate when a previously certified EIR has been prepared and some changes or revisions to the project are proposed, or the circumstances surrounding the project have changed, but none of the changes or revisions would result in new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts, consistent with CEQA Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162, 15163, 15164, and 15168. In this case, the project is consistent with the Covered Activities evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS; however, given that the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS was prepared in 2012, there are changed circumstances. There are additional special-status wildlife species with the potential to occur in the project area that were not evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. The Environmental Checklist (refer to Section 3, "Environmental Checklist/Addendum") includes the criteria to support an Addendum to the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS for the inclusion of the evaluation of impacts as a result of changed circumstances. The checklist evaluates each resource in terms of whether the project, including the "changed circumstance" of additional special-status species, would result in significant impacts that would be substantially more severe than those covered in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS and/or would result in any new significant impacts that were not covered in the EIR/EIS.

This document serves as both an Environmental Checklist and an Addendum to the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS to provide CEQA compliance for the project under current circumstances. The mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP), which identifies the Habitat Plan Conditions, mitigation measures (MMs), and environmental protection measures (EPMs) applicable to the project, is presented in Attachment A. The EPMs identified herein and in the MMRP have been incorporated into the project as a standard part of design and implementation.

1.4 ORGANIZATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

This Environmental Checklist is organized into the following sections:

Chapter 1: Introduction - summarizes the purpose of this Environmental Checklist, describes the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, and provides an overview of the document's organization.

Chapter 2: Project Description – provides summary background information about the project, including project location and a description of the project components.

Chapter 3: Environmental Checklist/Addendum – contains the Environmental Checklist form for each resource area. This section presents a background summary for each resource area, the standards of significance, relevant project impacts and mitigation measures from the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, and substantiation of all checklist conclusions.

Chapter 4: Report Preparers – lists the individuals that contributed to the preparation of this document.

Chapter 5: References – lists references used in the preparation of this document.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of access and recreation-related improvements within the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan Reserve System-enrolled portion of the Authority's Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve (CRID or preserve). These access and recreation-related improvements proposed within CRID are allowed by the Habitat Agency through the conservation easement agreement for the property. As described in Section 1, "Introduction," they are later activities consistent with the Habitat Plan and are covered by the Program EIR/EIS that was prepared for the Habitat Plan.

2.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING

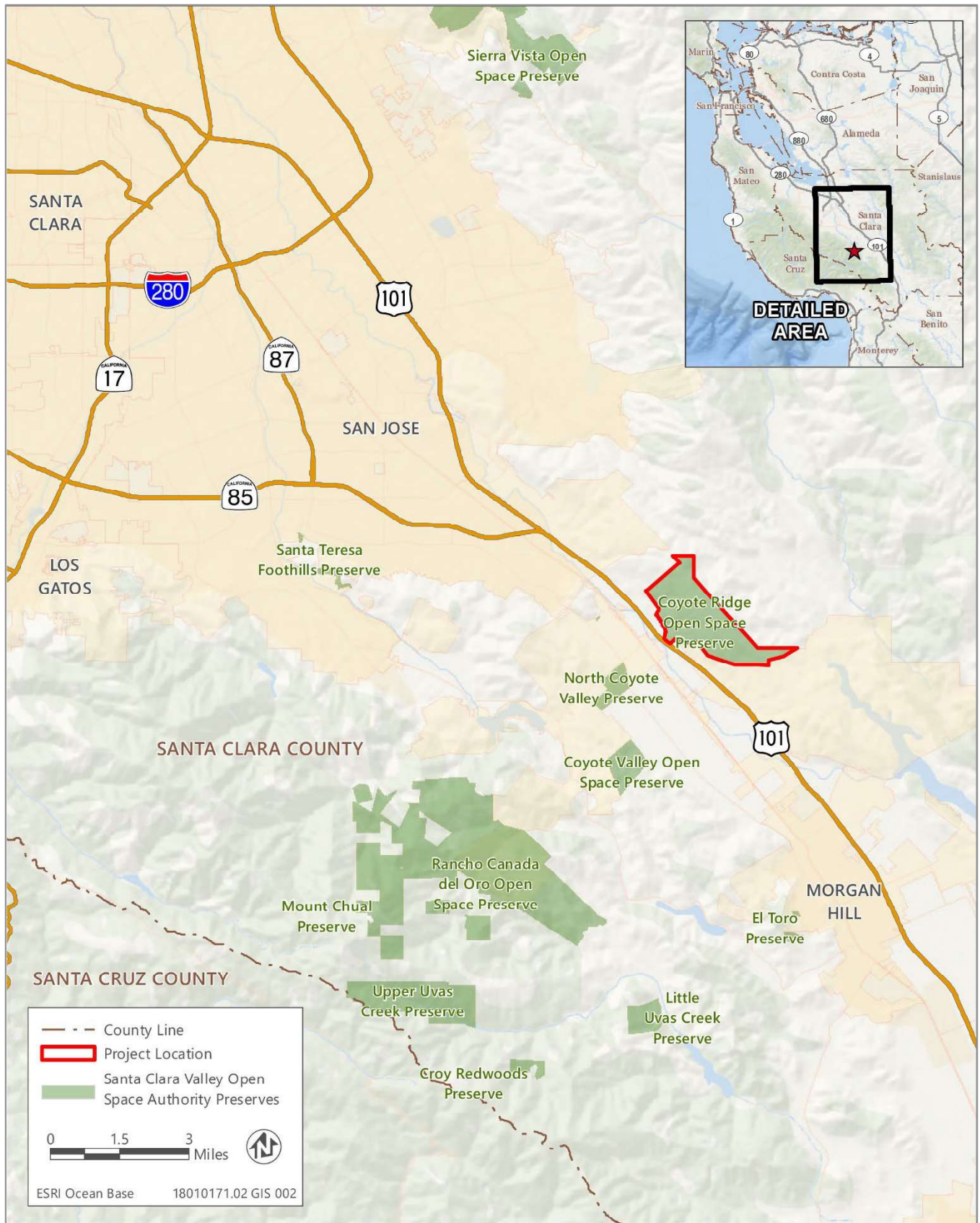
The project would be located within the 1,831-acre CRID (or "project area") in unincorporated Santa Clara County, southeast of the city of San Jose, north of the city of Morgan Hill, east of U.S. Highway 101 (U.S. 101), and south of Metcalf Road (see Figure 2-1). South and east of the project area boundary lands are primarily undeveloped open space areas, some of which are owned by other local agencies, such as the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), and the Habitat Agency. Immediately southwest of CRID is the Authority's Malech Road property. It is currently undeveloped open space; however, the Authority is proposing another project separate from the proposed access improvements project with the intention of developing public access and recreation features as well as a parking/staging area that would also serve the greater CRID trail system. Adjacent to the northwestern edge of the project area boundary is the Santa Clara County Motorcycle Park. The Santa Clara County Field Sports Park, a public shooting range, is immediately adjacent to the southwestern boundary of the project area.

The project area is characterized by undeveloped hilly terrain; the lowest point of the project area is approximately 400 feet above sea level and the highest point is approximately 1,400 feet above sea level. It features high-quality and relatively intact native plant communities, including grasslands, chaparral, and oak woodlands that are largely underlain by serpentine soil. These serpentine communities support nine species found primarily or exclusively on serpentine soils, including special-status plants and wildlife. A few streams, ponds, and freshwater wetlands are interspersed throughout the project area; CRID's intermittent streams flow to Coyote Creek. The project area is managed and maintained by the Authority per the established conservation easement agreement and Management and Monitoring Plan, and is currently leased for cattle grazing. Unpaved ranch roads exist throughout the project area and are used by Authority staff as well as by local ranchers. Currently, public access is allowed through docent-guided visits and seasonal "Open Access Days" programming within the project area.

Several utility access easements exist within CRID for above ground and underground utilities, which are held by Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), SCVWD, and United Technologies Corporation (UTC). Above-ground utilities within CRID include PG&E electric transmission lines and telephone poles in the southwestern portion of the project area; a SCVWD water canal, also in the southwestern portion of the project area; and a UTC microwave site in the northeast corner of the project area. Underground utilities include gas, oil, and water pipelines, electricity and communication facilities, and a deep well anode, which is used to eliminate electrolytic action (i.e., corrosion) between a gas pipeline and electrical lines (Habitat Agency 2019). Periodic construction and maintenance activities are conducted by the easement holders on these utilities, as necessary.

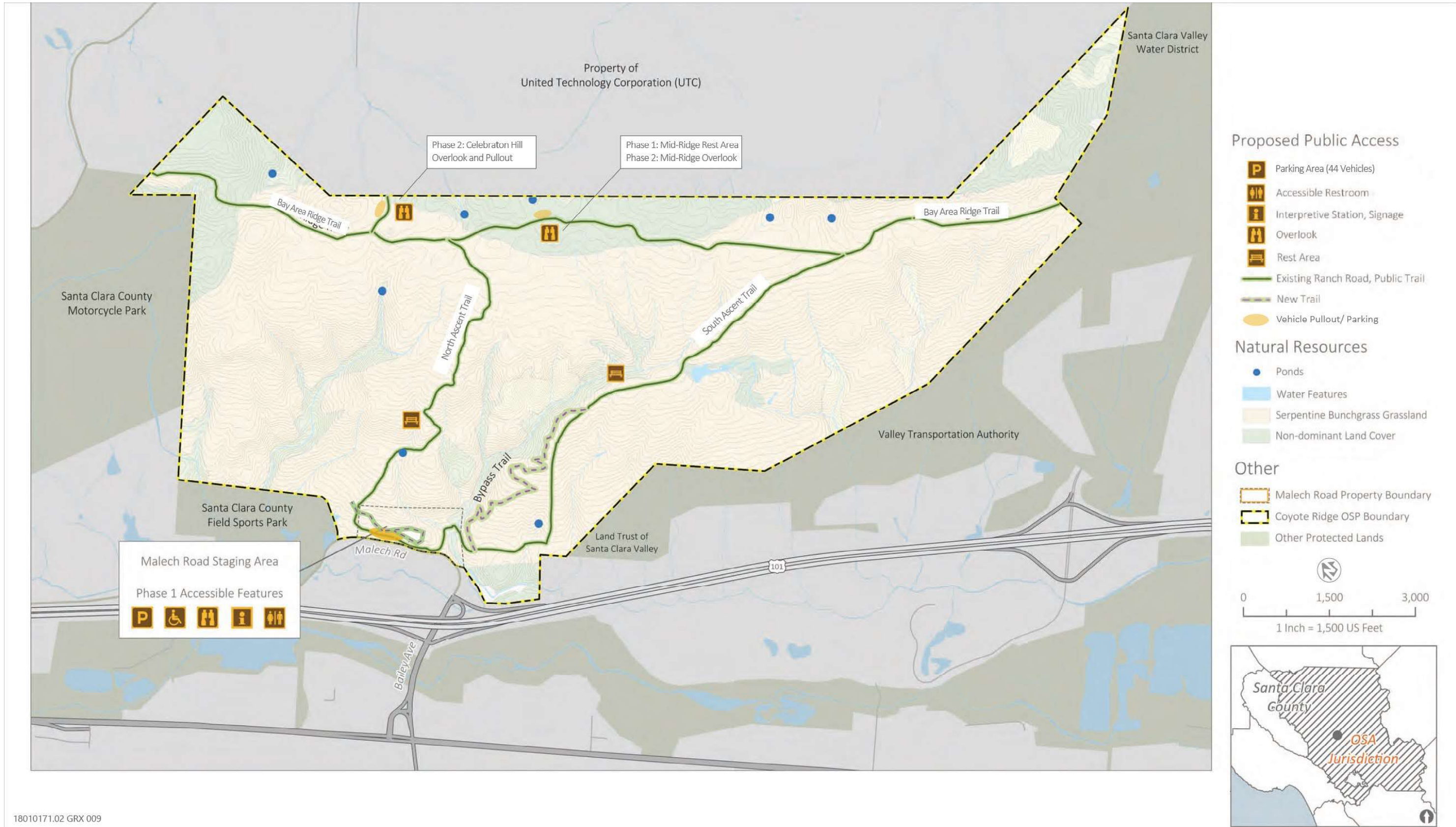
2.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The Authority proposes to implement public access features in the project area and open CRID to public use and dispersed, low-intensity recreation, consistent with the Management and Monitoring Plan developed for the preserve, as required by the Habitat Plan (Habitat Agency 2019). The project includes the establishment of an approximately 7.5-mile trail network with three rest areas and two overlooks that would connect to the main trail system via short trail segments developed to be consistent with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas (ABA) (see Figure 2-2). Additional appurtenant features would include service vehicle pullouts; interpretive and wayfinding signage, and restoration of disturbed areas with stockpiled native soils or application of an appropriate non-irrigated seed mix (to be approved by the Habitat Agency or qualified biologist). The size and surface materials that would comprise each of the primary project features are included in Table 2-1.



Source: Adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2021

Figure 2-1 Project Location



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Source: Image produced and provided by the Authority in 2021

Figure 2-2 Conceptual Project Overview

Table 2-1 Overview of Primary Project Features

Project Component	Approximate Size	Surface Material
Phase I		
North Ascent Trail	1.2 miles (32,090 square feet)	Natural surface (existing alignment)
North Ascent Connector Trail	55 linear feet (275 square feet)	Natural surface (new trail)
North Ascent Trail Rest Area	100 square feet	Stabilized decomposed granite
South Ascent Trail	2.1 miles (54,730 square feet)	Natural surface (existing alignment)
South Ascent Bypass Trail	1.1 miles (28,310 square feet)	Natural surface (new trail)
South Ascent Trail Rest Area	130 square feet	Stabilized decomposed granite
South Ascent Trail Rest Area Access Paths	140 linear feet (700 square feet)	Stabilized decomposed granite
Mid-Ridge Rest Area	360 square feet	Stabilized decomposed granite
Mid-Ridge Rest Area Access Paths	200 linear feet (1,000 square feet)	Stabilized decomposed granite
Mid-Ridge Vehicle Pullout	300 square feet	Natural surface with gravel
Bay Area Ridge Trail	3.2 miles 85,370 square feet	Natural surface (existing alignment)
Subtotal	203,365 square feet	
Phase II		
Mid-Ridge Overlook ¹	1,100 square feet (includes a 25 foot long retaining wall)	Stabilized decomposed granite
Celebration Hill Overlook	2,140 square feet	Metal grated deck 8-12 foot high shade structure
Celebration Hill Overlook Access Paths	0.03 mile (910 square feet)	Stabilized decomposed granite
Celebration Hill Vehicle Pullout	270 square feet	Natural surface with gravel
Subtotal	5,560 square feet	
Total Footprint	209,000 square feet (4.80 acres)	

Notes: All numbers are rounded to the nearest ten except the total footprint, which is rounded up to the nearest hundred. SDG = stabilized decomposed granite.

¹ The Mid-Ridge Overlook would replace the Mid-Ridge Rest Area that would be constructed in phase I.

Source: GIS data provided by RDG in 2020 (adapted by Ascent Environmental).

For the Authority's separate Malech Road public access project, the Authority purchased two parcels (totaling 29.66 acres) on the adjacent the Malech Road property, with the intention of using a portion of them as a parking/staging area for the greater CRID trail system. The parking and staging area would be located off Malech Road, adjacent to the southwestern boundary of the project area and would provide parking for visitors to CRID. The northeastern portion of CRID would be accessible by the public from Metcalf Road via the Bay Area Ridge Trail for docent-guided events or with special Authority approval.

In addition to providing important public access, the project at Malech Road would include the establishment of a formal entrance with a paved access road and public parking areas; an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible central gathering area and restroom; and two walking/hiking trails with picnic areas, benches, and

overlooks equipped with shade structures and interpretive signage. The Malech Road project area is located within the permit area of the Habitat Plan and the Authority plans to seek coverage under the Habitat Plan for the project as a Participating Special Entity (PSE) by submitting an application to the Habitat Agency.

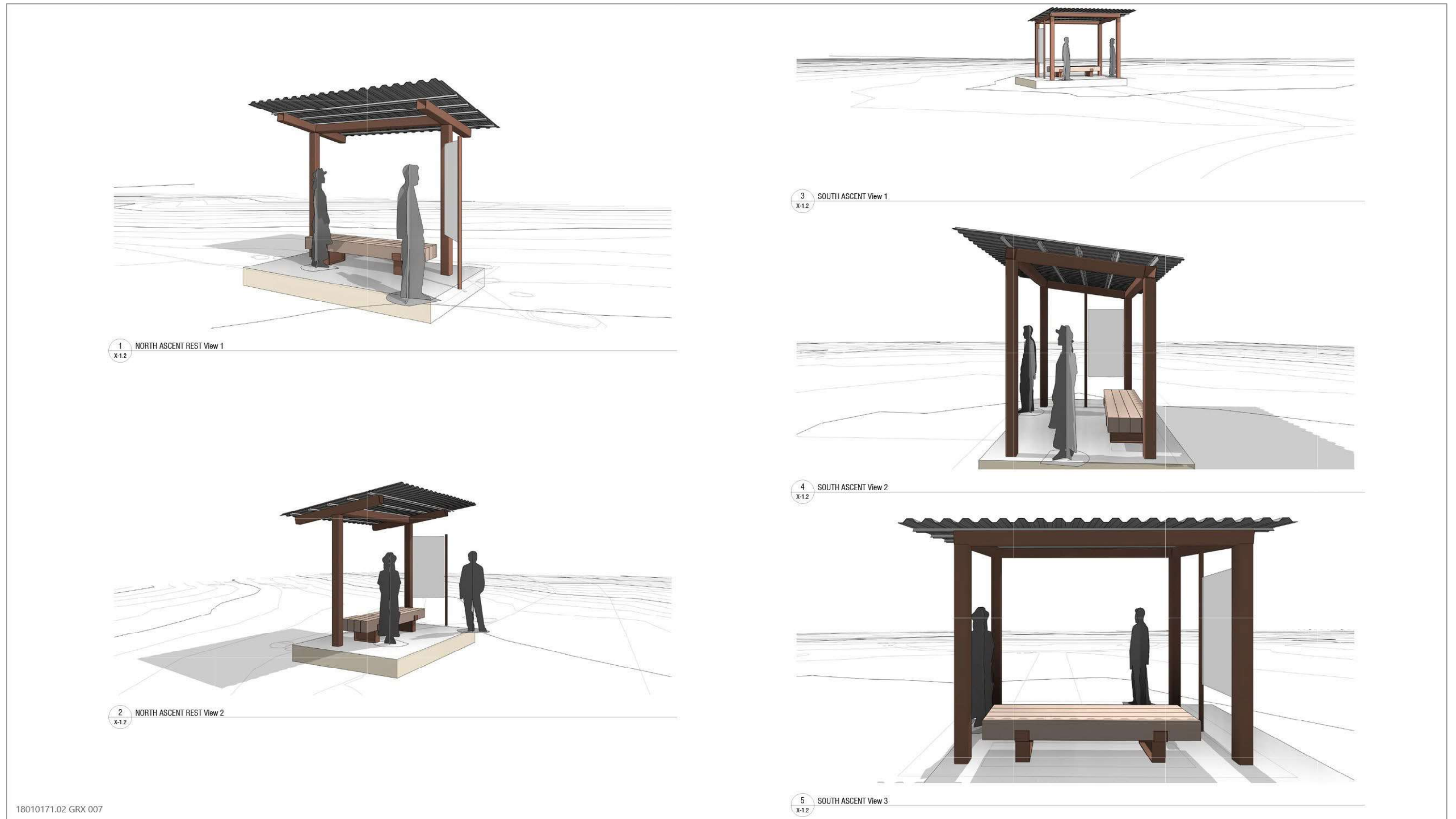
Because that property is not enrolled in the Habitat Agency's Reserve System, and it is an independent project with its own set of recreation-related improvements, it is undergoing separate California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. As described in Section 1, "Introduction," the improvements proposed at CRID are allowed by the Habitat Agency through the conservation easement agreement for the property and are later activities consistent with the Habitat Plan and thus are covered by the Program EIR/EIS that was prepared for the Habitat Plan.

Because public access within reserves enrolled in the Reserve System is only allowed where it would be compatible with the biological goals and objectives of the Habitat Plan, the project features were sited to avoid impacts to sensitive biological resources in the project area.

2.2.1 Phase I Project Features

Phase I of the project would include the establishment of an approximately 7.5-mile trail network and the three rest areas. Two trails would be established on existing ranch roads providing access to the top of the ridge, the North Ascent Trail and the South Ascent Trail. The North Ascent Trail would extend 1.2 miles and the South Ascent Trail would extend 2.1 miles to reach the ridge. One new trail would be developed in a previously undisturbed area, the South Ascent Bypass Trail, which would extend 1.1 mile to bypass a steep portion of the South Ascent Trail and provide a safe, gentle grade for visitor use and to prevent erosion and sedimentation. Because this would be a new trail in a previously undisturbed area, it would require grading and surfacing to be constructed. At the top of the ridge, the North Ascent and South Ascent trails would connect to an existing ranch road that would become a public trail; once established, this trail would become part of the existing 380-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail, which encircles the San Francisco Bay Area region. It would extend 3.2 miles across the top of the ridge near the northern boundary of the project area. Approximately 85 percent of the 7.5-mile trail system would be located on existing ranch roads and trails and would require little to no grading. All existing roads that would become part of the trail system are unpaved and natural or gravel surface, and are up to 10 feet wide. All new trails would be either unpaved, natural surface trails or SDG surface trails, and up to 5 feet wide. Three rest areas averaging approximately 200 square feet in size would be constructed on SDG or compacted native soil, one on the North Ascent Trail, one on the South Ascent Trail, and one on the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Grading and surfacing would be required to establish each of the rest areas. The rest area on the Bay Area Ridge Trail, referred to as the Mid-Ridge Rest Area, would be developed to serve small group gatherings until the Mid-Ridge Overlook is constructed in phase II, which would replace the rest area. The three rest areas would each include bench, a trellis-style shade structure, and interpretive and wayfinding signage. The shade structures would be the tallest of the new features, varying in height between approximately 10 and 12 feet, and would be designed to reflect the vernacular form of rustic agrarian storage sheds or roadside fruit stands. A 300-square foot gravel vehicle pullout would be graded and established near the Mid-Ridge Rest Area. Revegetation of disturbed areas would include re-spreading of stockpiled native topsoil or seeding with an appropriate native seed mix implemented by hand due to the sensitivity of the area. The rest areas are intended to encourage hikers to stay on designated trails and limit the desire to seek shade and seating in sensitive habitats. Examples of rest area designs are shown in Figure 2-3.

Access paths totaling approximately .06 mile would be developed in previously undisturbed areas, leading to the Mid-Ridge Rest Area and the South Ascent Trail Rest Area. At the Mid-Ridge Rest Area, two ABA accessible 5-foot-wide access paths would extend from the Bay Area Ridge Trail to connect to either side of the rest area. At the South Ascent Trail Rest Area, two 5-foot wide paths would extend from the South Ascent Trail to connect to either side of the rest area. The access paths would require grading and surfacing to be established and would be made of SDG.



Source: Image produced and provided by 450 Architects, Inc. in 2021

Figure 2-3 Rendering of Rest Areas

2.2.2 Phase II Project Features

Phase II of the project would include the development of two ABA accessible overlooks along the Bay Area Ridge Trail; the Celebration Hill Overlook and the Mid-Ridge Overlook (the Mid-Ridge Overlook would replace the Mid-Ridge Rest Area established in phase I), which would connect to the main trail system via small ABA accessible paths. Both overlooks would be designed to protect the special natural resources of CRID while providing public access aimed at educating, guiding, and inspiring visitors. The materials, siting, and design of the public access components would provide protection of the predominantly serpentine landscape and associated rare and special-status plant species that are present while still allowing visitors to experience the habitat. Materials including weathered steel, concrete, wood, and native stone would be incorporated in a variety of ways to provide a durable and context-sensitive palette that responds to the agrarian heritage of the preserve.

The Celebration Hill Overlook would be located in the northeastern portion of the project area adjacent to a spur road (which connects to the Bay Area Ridge Trail) and would provide expansive, 360-degree views of Mount Hamilton to the northeast and the Santa Cruz Mountains to the west. It would consist of a rectangular raised metal grate deck structure equipped with benches, trellis-style shade structures, guard rails, and interpretive signage. It would be approximately 2,140 square feet and accommodate up to 25 people at a time. The deck structure would be constructed to preserve and frame a cluster of rocks slightly offset from the middle of the rectangular deck structure. It would be supported by a steel girder with steel posts and concrete foundation piers. Access to the Celebration Hill Overlook would be provided by two 5-foot wide ABA accessible paths extending from a spur road to each side of the overlook. The paths would be made of SDG and would require grading and surfacing to be established. An approximately 270 square foot gravel vehicle pullout would also be graded and established along the spur road as it approaches the Celebration Hill Overlook from the northwest. Re-vegetation of disturbed areas with stockpiled native soils or an application of an appropriate non-irrigated native seed mix (to be approved by the Habitat Agency or qualified biologist) would occur around the perimeter of the overlook and new vehicle pullout; due to the sensitivity of the habitat in the area, it would be done completely by hand.

The Mid-Ridge Overlook would be located adjacent to the Bay Area Ridge Trail, southeast of Celebration Hill Overlook, and would replace the Mid-Ridge Rest Area that would be established in phase I. It would provide views of Coyote Valley, as well as Black Mountain to the east and Mount Madonna to the south. It would be approximately 1,100 square feet and ABA accessible. The Mid-Ridge Overlook would accommodate up to 15 people at a time and include benches, shade structures, guard rails, and interpretive signage. Installation of a 5- to 10-foot-tall weathering steel retaining wall with concrete footings would be required to stabilize the overlook into the hillside. An exfiltration structure to collect and convey stormwater drainage would be installed around the foundation of the steel retaining wall. Approximately 100 cubic yards of earthwork/fill would be required to backfill behind the retaining wall. Re-vegetation of disturbed areas with stockpiled native soils or an application of an appropriate non-irrigated native seed mix (to be approved by the Habitat Agency or qualified biologist) would occur around the perimeter of the overlook and would be implemented completely by hand due to the sensitivity of the area. Examples of the appearance of the proposed overlook structures are provided in Figure 2-4.

2.3 UTILITIES

No new lighting, municipal water, sewer, or other features requiring utility hookups or relocations would be required for the project.

2.4 CONSTRUCTION

Construction of the phase I project components (i.e., the 7.5-mile trail network, three rest areas, and Mid-Ridge vehicle pullout) is scheduled to begin in July 2022, occur over 6 months, and conclude in December 2022. The phase II components (i.e., the Celebration Hill Overlook, associated access paths, and vehicle pullout; and the Mid-Ridge Overlook) would be constructed within 5 years of phase I construction, over an approximately 6-month

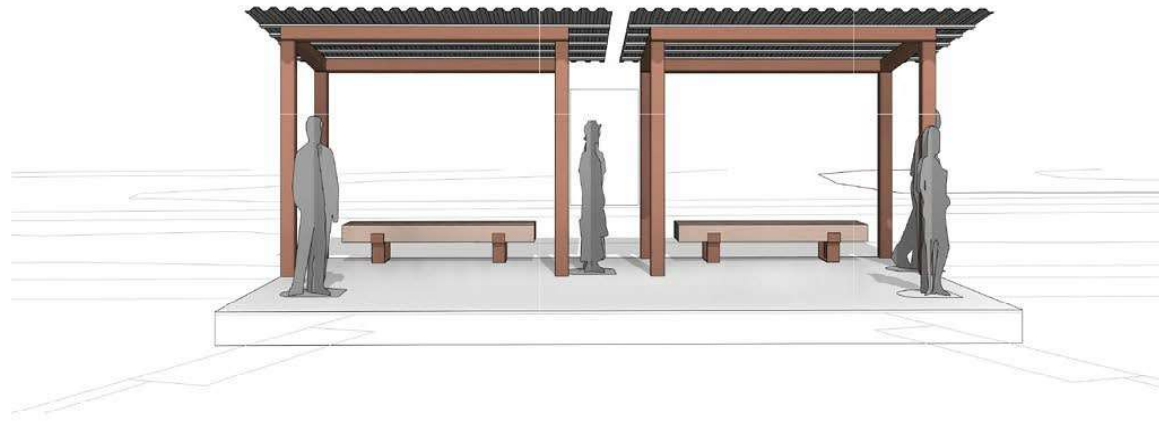
implementation period. The project would be constructed by one crew consisting of 5-10 personnel. Construction equipment and vehicles would access the project area either via the existing dirt road entry off of Malech Road or via Metcalf Road and the future Bay Area Ridge Trail near the highest point of CRID, depending on the project component under construction. Construction equipment would consist of an excavator, loader, vibratory compactor, roller, trail dozer, skid steer, flatbed truck, and a water truck. Construction equipment, materials, and vehicle staging would occur entirely within the footprint of the project or on previously disturbed areas. Consistent with Section B11-154 of the Santa Clara County Code, construction would occur between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and no work would occur on Sundays or legal holidays.

Construction activities would consist of initial site preparation, grading, excavation, material laydown and placement, and site cleanup. Initial site preparation would include installing temporary construction fencing and construction stormwater capture elements consistent with the requirements of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that would be prepared for the project. Areas where new features would be located would be cleared and graded/surfaced to accommodate new public trails and to prepare for material laydown, such as SDG. Varying depths of excavation would be required to install the project components. The maximum depth of excavation would be up to 8 feet, which would be required to for the foundation piers and footings required to support overlook structures and shade structures. Wayfinding and interpretive signage footings would typically extend 1 to 2.5 feet below ground.

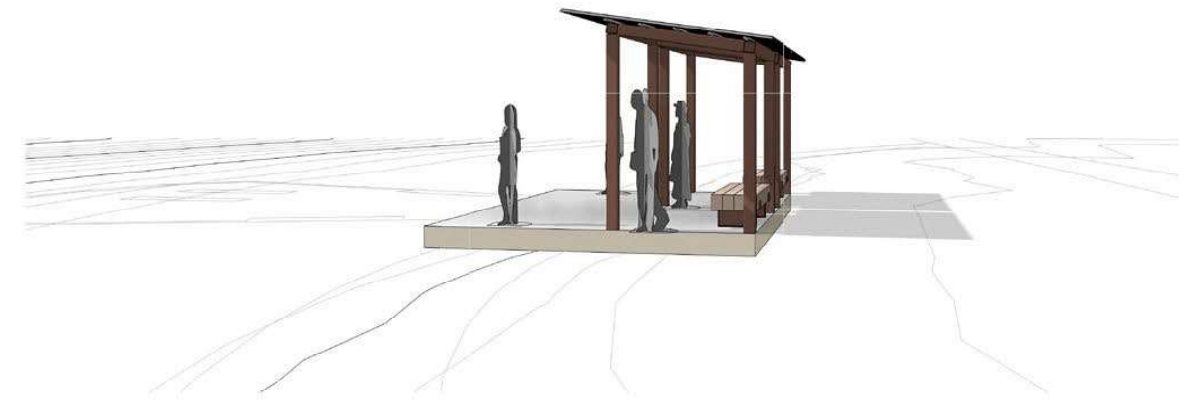
Materials to construct the new public amenities would be transported to the project area by haul truck or all-terrain vehicle equipped with a utility trailer, and they would be erected onsite. A total of 50-60 haul truck trips are anticipated to bring equipment and materials to the project area. There would be no import or export of soil and all removed material would be balanced on site.

Following construction, construction-related equipment and debris would be removed, disturbed areas would be graded consistent with the surrounding landscape, and stockpiled soils and/or native seeding would be placed to restore disturbed areas and assist with erosion control. Boulders and large rocks would be salvaged from graded areas and placed in strategic locations near the new public access features to help to keep the public out of the natural, undeveloped areas of the preserve.

In total, construction of the project would result in up to 5 acres of ground disturbance. However, because many of the trails would be established within previously disturbed areas of CRID and would remain as natural surface/native soil (i.e., the North Ascent Trail, South Ascent Trail, and Bay Area Ridge Trail), the total footprint of new, permanent project features would be approximately 0.80 acre.



3 MIDRIDGE View 3
X-1.3



2 MIDRIDGE View 2
X-1.3



4 MIDRIDGE View 4
X-1.3



1 MIDRIDGE View 1
X-1.3

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Source: Image produced and provided by 450 Architects, Inc. in 2021

Figure 2-4 Rendering of Overlook Structures

2.5 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The Authority currently manages CRID in coordination with the Habitat Agency because the Habitat Agency holds an easement over the preserve, and it is enrolled in the Reserve System. Generally, the Authority oversees management activities while the Habitat Agency oversees monitoring activities. The two entities communicate on these activities and prepare an Annual Work Plan, which outlines management activities and priorities for the coming year. Management activities included in the Final Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve Management and Monitoring Plan include but are not limited to invasive species removal and infrastructure improvements, such as routine road or culvert repair, emergency repairs, debris removal, trail construction or maintenance, removal or installation of permanent structures, and installing or replacing signage or fencing (Habitat Agency 2019).

With project implementation, long-term maintenance of the preserve would not change substantially. The Authority would expand ongoing maintenance activities to the new public access features to ensure public safety and ease of access. Additional maintenance activities would include frequent visual inspection of trails and other amenities and as needed repairs.

Once operational, the preserve would only be open to the public during daylight hours; however, exceptions may be made for educational groups and events that are guided by the Habitat Agency, Authority staff, or a docent approved by the Authority or Habitat Agency. Consistent with the Habitat Plan, only passive forms of recreation would be allowed on CRID, such as pedestrian use (walking, hiking, running), non-motorized bicycle riding on designated trails, horseback riding, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. Because public use would be limited to a network of mostly existing roads and trails that avoid the largest areas of serpentine habitat on CRID, it is not anticipated that seasonal closures would be necessary to protect serpentine areas and covered species associated with serpentine habitat. Restrictions or closures would be informed by ongoing monitoring and adaptive management.

Daily visitation would be limited by available parking in the parking and staging area located at Malech Road. The Authority may implement a parking reservation system in the future to help manage visitation, if needed. Having a reservation system would allow the Authority to adjust the number of reservations available to reduce resource damage from public use.

2.6 PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Table 2-2 below discloses the potential permits and approvals that may be required to implement the project.

Table 2-2 Potential Permits and Approvals

Permit/Approval	Agency	Purpose/Applicability
Public Reporting Form	Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency	Properties that are enrolled in the Habitat Plan are required to submit a Public Reporting Form to the Habitat Agency. This review ensures that the proposed project is consistent with the terms of enrollment which, for this property, included a conservation easement that specified the proposed project as a permitted recreational use.
Building Permit	Santa Clara County Building Department	This permit is required to minimize impacts associated with construction of structures greater than 120 square feet, such as the overlooks. The Authority is exempt from needing a County grading permit and will provide a letter with the Building Permit package confirming the exemption.
Fire Safety Review for Land Development	Santa Clara County Fire Marshal's Office	This review is required to ensure that for any type of emergency, the local fire department will be able to reach a site quickly and safely in any conditions and have room to operate their equipment.
Drainage Permit	Santa Clara County Land Development Engineering Division	Projects that create more than 2,000 square feet of new impervious area require a Drainage Permit. A stormwater management plan would be prepared and submitted for County review and approval, along with drainage plans and other required materials.

Permit/Approval	Agency	Purpose/Applicability
Section 402 NPDES Construction General Permit	State Water Resources Control Board	Construction activities that disturb 1 acre or more of land must comply with the NPDES Construction General Permit. Site owners must notify the state, prepare and implement a SWPPP, and monitor the effectiveness of the plan.

Notes: NPDES= National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; SWPPP = Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

Source: SANDIS 2020

2.7 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES

The environmental protection measures (EPMs) listed below would be incorporated into the project as part of its proposed design and operation. The EPMs are intended to avoid and minimize environmental impacts and comply with applicable laws and regulations. Although not required by CEQA, the EPMs would be incorporated into the mitigation monitoring and reporting program for the project and would be implemented and enforced in the same way as mitigation measures consistent with Section 15126.4 of the State CEQA Guidelines. For the purposes of these measures, references to the "Authority" also encompass any contractors hired to construct the project.

2.7.1 Aesthetics and Visual Resource Environmental Protection Measures

- ▶ **EPM AES-1 Minimize the Visual Impacts of Construction:** The Authority will stage and store construction-related materials and equipment to minimize its visibility from public view points.

2.7.2 Air Quality Environmental Protection Measures

- ▶ **EPM AQ-1 Minimize Air Pollutant Emissions:** The Authority will implement applicable measures from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's *Basic Construction Mitigation Measures* for project related construction activities, including:
 - All exposed surfaces (e.g., staging areas, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved access roads) shall be watered two times per day.
 - All visible mud or dirt track-out onto adjacent public roads shall be removed using wet power vacuum street sweepers at least once per day. The use of dry power sweeping is prohibited.
 - All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 mph.
 - Idling times will be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes (as required by the California airborne toxics control measure Title 13, Section 2485 of California Code of Regulations [CCR]). Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points.
 - All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment shall be checked by a certified mechanic and determined to be running in proper condition prior to operation.
 - Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the Authority regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. The Air District's phone number will also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

2.7.3 Biological Resource Environmental Protection Measures

- ▶ **EPM BIO-1 Implement Applicable Habitat Plan Conditions on Covered Activities:** The Authority will implement applicable Habitat Plan Conditions on Covered Activities to avoid and minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources. In addition, the Authority will implement Habitat Plan Condition 1, "Avoid Direct Impacts on Legally Protected Plant and Wildlife Species," to fully protected wildlife species, species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act that could be negatively impacted by the project. Specific measures to avoid impacts to special-status species not covered by the Habitat Plan or Condition 1 are included in EPM BIO-2 through EPM BIO-5.
- ▶ **EPM BIO-2 Pre-Construction Surveys and Flagging for Special-Status Plants:** The project area will be surveyed prior to ground disturbance to determine the potential presence of special-status plants. The survey will encompass the area within 50 feet of project features. Special-status plants within the survey area will be flagged and avoided.
- ▶ **EPM BIO-3 Salvage Rare Plants Propagules:** Seed or other propagules of rare plants that cannot be avoided will be collected before ground disturbing activities as feasible, and transplanted to undisturbed suitable habitat in coordination the Habitat Agency, if required.
- ▶ **EPM BIO-4 Pre-construction Surveys and Flagging for Monarch Butterfly Host Plants:** The project area will be surveyed prior to ground disturbance to determine the potential presence of the monarch butterfly host plant milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.). Milkweed plants within the project area will be mapped and/or flagged and avoided.
- ▶ **EPM BIO-5 Avoid Nesting Birds:** If construction occurs during the nesting bird season (February 1 – August 31), a nesting bird survey will be conducted within 14 days of construction. The survey will encompass the area within a 250-foot radius for raptors and 50-foot-radius for other birds. If nesting birds are identified, work within these buffer areas will be postponed until the young have fledged or the nest is otherwise abandoned.
- ▶ **EPM BIO-6 Avoid Swainson's Hawk Nests:** If construction occurs during the nesting season for Swainson's hawk, the Authority will survey for active nests prior to the implementation of any construction activities. If nests are identified, construction activities would be prohibited within 0.25 mile of the active nest during nesting season (March 1 - September 15). This buffer may be adjusted as determined appropriate by a qualified biologist in coordination with CDFW.
- ▶ **EPM BIO-7 Avoid Injury and Loss of American Badger:** No more than 14-days prior to implementation of construction activities that could disturb American badger, a qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys within 100 feet of ground disturbance for potential American badger dens. If any potentially occupied American badger dens are located during surveys, no work shall be performed within a 50-foot buffer around each den during the non-breeding season or within a 100-foot buffer around dens during the period when pups are potentially in the den (February 15 through July 1).
- ▶ **EPM BIO-8 Avoid Loss of Special-Status Bat Roosts:** If construction occurs within or adjacent to riparian or mixed oak woodlands during the period April 1 through August 31 when maternity roosts may be present, pre-construction surveys will be conducted. Within 14-days prior to initiating work, a qualified bat biologist will inspect the area of disturbance and areas adjacent (within 50 feet) for bat roosts within the riparian and mixed oak woodland portions of the project area. Surveys would consist of a daytime pedestrian survey looking for evidence of bat use (e.g., guano) and/or an evening emergence survey to note the presence or absence of bats. If no bat roosts are found, then no further study is required. If evidence of bat use is observed, the number and species of bats using the roost would be determined. Bat detectors may be used to supplement survey efforts, but are not required. If roosts of special-status bats are determined to be present within the survey area, direct disturbance to the roost, such as removal or pruning of trees occupied by bats, would be avoided during the breeding season (April 1 through August 31).

2.7.4 Geology, Soils, and Water Quality Environmental Protection Measures

- ▶ **EPM GEO-1 Suspend Disturbance During Heavy Precipitation:** Ground-disturbing activities will not occur when soils are saturated as defined in 14 CCR 895.1, or within one week following an inch or more of rain, unless the ground is consistently firm and can support the weight of machinery without creating ruts.
- ▶ **EPM GEO-2 Implement Standard Construction Stormwater Runoff and Erosion Control BMPs:** The Authority will implement BMPs consistent with the requirements of the SWPPP for the project prior to ground disturbing construction activities, including but not limited to the use of perimeter siltation fencing and wattles to prevent offsite erosion and sedimentation and use of erosion control mats to prevent exposed soils from being displaced by rain or wind and entering nearby waterbodies.

2.7.5 Hazardous Material and Public Health and Safety Environmental Protection Measures

- ▶ **EPM HAZ-1 Inspect Equipment for Leaks:** Before the start of construction activities, the Authority will inspect equipment for leaks and conduct a visual inspection everyday thereafter until equipment is removed from the project area. Equipment found leaking will be promptly removed from the site.
- ▶ **EPM HAZ-2 Prohibit Smoking:** Consistent with Authority regulations, smoking will be prohibited within the project area at all times to avoid accidental wildfire ignition.
- ▶ **EPM HAZ-3 Require Spark Arrestors and Fire Extinguishers:** The Authority will require mechanized hand tools to have federal- or state-approved spark arrestors and each construction crew to carry at least one fire extinguisher.

2.8 HABITAT PLAN CONDITIONS ON COVERED ACTIVITIES

The conservation easement for CRID was formalized in July 2015 and it was determined that following incorporation into the Habitat Agency Reserve System, CRID would contribute to the recovery of species through land acquisition in excess of mitigation requirements. According to the conservation easement, allowed uses on CRID include providing and maintaining recreational public access to and within CRID for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians on existing roads, new trails, and new facilities. Specifically, the proposed project features, including their potential environmental impacts, were reviewed and approved by the Habitat Agency, USFWS, and CDFW when the conservation easement was established. In accordance with the requirements of the conservation easement and associated Habitat Plan, the Authority must incorporate and adhere to applicable Habitat Plan Conditions on Covered Activities, as found in Chapter 6 of the Habitat Plan. The Conditions that are applicable to the project and would be implemented by the Authority are included in Table 2-3 below.

Table 2-3 Applicable Habitat Plan Conditions on Covered Activities

Habitat Plan Condition	Summary of Requirements
Condition 1: Avoid direct impacts on legally protected plant and wildlife species	Direct impacts to one federally endangered plant species, multiple fully protected wildlife species, species protected by the MBTA, and species protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, must be avoided consistent with applicable legal protections. To avoid and minimize direct impacts to the protected species not covered by the Habitat Plan that could be negatively impacted by the project, the Authority would implement EPMs.
Condition 3: Maintain hydrologic conditions and protect water quality	This condition applies to all projects. Several measures are included to protect water quality (Table 6-2 in the Habitat Plan) from design through post-construction. Applicable BMPs include, but are not limited to, preventing the accidental release of chemicals, fuels, and lubricants and removing any pollutants from surface runoff prior to reaching local streams; minimizing site erosion and sedimentation during construction; and washing vehicles only at approved sites outside of a project area.

Habitat Plan Condition	Summary of Requirements
Condition 7: Rural development	This condition applies to all private and public projects in rural areas (outside the urban service areas of cities). Several measures are included to minimize impacts from rural development projects on covered species and sensitive land cover types covered under the Plan. Applicable measures include, but are not limited to use of existing roads for access and disturbed areas for staging; runoff from impermeable surfaces must be directed to natural or landscaped areas; blend grading into the existing landform as much as possible; at project sites that are adjacent to any drainage, natural or human-made, stabilize exposed soils to prevent erosion and sedimentation; and revegetation of all temporarily disturbed soils with native plants and/or grasses, or sterile, nonnative species suitable for the soil conditions upon completion of construction.
Condition 8: Implement avoidance and minimization measures for rural road maintenance	This condition applies to maintenance of unpaved roads including those that serve primarily as recreational trails. This condition includes measures to minimize ground disturbance to the smallest area feasible, use of silt fencing or other sediment control devices when performing maintenance activities that disturb soil within the riparian setback zone as defined by the Habitat Plan, avoiding stockpiling of materials adjacent to stream banks, cleaning of equipment to avoid spread of noxious weeds, and other similar measures.
Condition 9: Prepare and implement a recreation plan	This condition applies to projects that are in Reserve System lands that allow public access; it helps minimize recreational use impacts on biological resources. The Authority developed a Management and Monitoring Plan for the Preserve that incorporates the approved recreation features and their management in a conservation easement, as part of the enrollment in the Reserve System. This condition has been satisfied.
Condition 10: Fuel buffer	This condition applies to all public and private covered activities in the Diablo Range or Santa Cruz Mountains, or new structures built in grassland, chaparral, oak woodland, or conifer woodland land cover types. This condition also applies to structures built in areas designated by the County as a very high fire hazard severity zone pursuant to Section 51179 of the California Government Code. This condition requires that all structures covered under the Habitat Plan be maintained consistent with California Government Code Section 51182 and Public Resources Code 4291 regarding defensible space (any person who owns, leases, controls, operates or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining any land covered with flammable vegetation shall at all times maintain 100 feet of defensible space).
Condition 13: Serpentine and associated covered species avoidance and minimization	Applies in cases where serpentine areas are part of a project site. The project area and construction staging area must be located to avoid or minimize impacts to serpentine. The project must be designed to preserve large patches of serpentine and limit impacts to the smallest patches feasible. Where mapped serpentine cannot be avoided, minimization measures must be implemented, such as conducting surveys of the serpentine vegetation to inventory for covered species and evaluate habitat quality for covered species and locating the project footprint as far from the covered species or the highest-quality serpentine habitat as is feasible. The Authority completed a full analysis of project impacts to covered species as part of its Public Reporting Form Application. Additionally, the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as specified in accompanying conservation easement.
Condition 14: Valley oak and blue oak woodland avoidance and minimization	Applies to projects within valley oak and blue oak woodlands. Requires the avoidance of roads and pathways within the root protection zone of trees whenever possible. If construction within 25 feet of the dripline of oak trees is required, grading will be performed using hand-held equipment and using permeable surfacing. If extensive pruning of blue oaks and valley oaks is necessary, the pruning will be conducted during the winter dormant period and under the supervision of a certified arborist.
Condition 15: Western burrowing owl	Applies to projects that could adversely affect western burrowing owl. Requires habitat surveys and preconstruction surveys for burrowing owl burrows within 250 feet of construction activity, as well as specific avoidance measures for the breeding and non-breeding season in the event that active burrow nesting sites are present onsite.

Habitat Plan Condition	Summary of Requirements
Condition 19: Plant salvage when impacts are unavoidable	Where impacts on covered plant species cannot be avoided and plants will be removed by approved covered activities, the Implementing Entity has the option of salvaging the covered plants. Salvage of covered plants is conducted in addition to mitigation that may be required for impacts on covered plants. There are six special-status plant species that are covered by the Habitat Plan that have the potential to be adversely affected by the project. Plant salvage guidelines are included for all covered plants and include requirements such as translocation activities must be approved by the Wildlife Agencies and translocated plants must be moved during their dormant season. Based on coordination with the Habitat Agency, plant salvage will not occur for this project.
Condition 20: Avoid and minimize impacts to covered plant occurrences	To ensure that plants are adequately conserved relative to impacts of covered activities, covered plant surveys are required to identify occurrences of covered plants that may be affected by covered activities. Covered plant surveys are required in specific land cover types and habitats, including serpentine bunchgrass grassland, which is known to occur within the project area, and in suitable habitat with a 0.25 mile radius of a known occurrence of a covered plant. If covered plant occurrences are located on a project site, specific construction-period avoidance measures and long-term management and monitoring is required. The Authority completed a full analysis of project impacts to covered species as part of their Public Reporting Form Application. Additionally, the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as part of the conservation easement.

Notes: EPMs = environmental protection measures; MBTA = migratory bird treaty act.

Source: Santa Clara County et al. 2012b

3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST/ADDENDUM

COYOTE RIDGE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE PUBLIC ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PROJECT INFORMATION

- 1. **Project Title:** Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve
Public Access Improvement Project

- 3. **Project Proponent Name and Address:** Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
33 Las Colinas Lane
San Jose, CA 95119

- 4. **Contact Person:** Lucas Shellhammer
Senior Open Space Planner
408.224.7476

- 5. **Project Location:** The project is in central Santa Clara County (unincorporated), southeast of the city of San Jose and north of the city of Morgan Hill.

Morgan Hill U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle and portions of Sections 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, and 26 of Township 8S and Range 2E, as well as portions of Sections 19, 29, and 30 of Township 8 and Range 3E of the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

6. Description of Project:
The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Authority) proposes to implement public access features in the 1,831-acre Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve (CRID, preserve, or project area) and open CRID to public use and dispersed, low-intensity recreation. The project would be implemented in two phases. Because public access in reserves enrolled in the Reserve System is allowed only where it would be compatible with the biological goals and objectives of the Habitat Plan, the project features were sited to avoid impacts on sensitive biological resources in the project area. Recreational uses and their location were documented in a conservation easement as part the enrollment in the Reserve System. Two Authority-owned parcels on the adjacent Malech Road property would serve as a parking and staging area, developed as a separate project from the proposed public access features.

Phase I of the project would involve establishing an approximately 7.5-mile trail network and three rest areas. Two trails would be established on existing ranch roads and would provide access to the top of the ridge: the North Ascent Trail (1.2 miles) and the South Ascent Trail (2.1 miles). One new trail, the South Ascent Bypass Trail, would extend 1.1 mile in a previously undisturbed area. It would bypass a steep portion and reduce erosion and sedimentation of the South Ascent Trail and provide a gentle grade for visitor use. Three rest areas averaging approximately 200 square feet each would be constructed: one on the North Ascent Trail, one on the South Ascent Trail, and one on the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Phase II of the project would involve developing two ABA accessible overlooks along the Bay Area Ridge Trail: the Celebration Hill Overlook and the Mid-Ridge Overlook (which would become part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail rest area established during phase I). The overlooks would connect to the main trail system via small ABA accessible paths.

With project implementation, long-term maintenance of the preserve would not change substantially since the majority of proposed trails already exist as maintained ranch roads and new features are minimal and will not require extensive upkeep. The Authority would expand ongoing maintenance activities to the new public access features to ensure public safety and ease of access. Additional maintenance activities would include frequent visual inspection of trails and other amenities and as-needed repairs. Refer to Chapter 2, "Project Description," for a detailed description of the project, including construction details and operations.

7. Regional Setting and Surrounding Land Uses:

Surrounding the project area boundary, lands are primarily undeveloped open space areas, some of which are owned by the Authority (i.e., Malech Road property) and other local agencies, such as the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, and Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency. Adjacent to the northwestern edge of the project area boundary is the Santa Clara County Motorcycle Park. The Santa Clara County Field Sports Park, a public shooting range, is immediately adjacent to the southwestern boundary of the project area.

8. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required: (e.g., permits)

The Authority may be required to obtain the following permits and approvals to implement the project:

- ▶ A Public Reporting Form application to the Habitat Agency for consistency review with Reserve System enrollment,
- ▶ a building permit from the Santa Clara County Building Department,
- ▶ fire safety review for land development from the Santa Clara County Fire Marshal's Office,
- ▶ a drainage permit from the Santa Clara County Land Development Engineering Division, and
- ▶ a Section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit from the State Water Resources Control Board.

9. Native American Consultation.

In accordance with Assembly Bill (AB) 52, Native American tribal contacts in Santa Clara County were sent letters via certified mail on October 13, 2020, and a follow-up email was sent on February 1, 2021. The Authority sent letters to the following tribal contacts: Valentin Lopez, chairperson, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band; Irenne Zwielerlein, chairperson, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista; Ann Marie Sayers, chairperson, Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan; Charlene Nijmeh, chairperson, Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area; Katherine Erolinda Perez, chairperson, North Valley Yokuts Tribe; and Andrew Galvan, Ohlone Indian Tribe. Responses were received from the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista and the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. Consultation with these tribes has been completed; refer to Section 3.8, "Cultural Resources," for more details regarding the outcome of AB 52 consultation.

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this Environmental Checklist and Addendum to the EIR/EIS and the substantial evidence supporting it:

- I find that all of the significant effects of the proposed project (a) have been covered in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, and (b) all applicable Conditions and mitigation measures identified in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS will be implemented. The proposed project where circumstances have not changed is, therefore, **WITHIN THE SCOPE** of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. For the proposed project where new circumstances have occurred, the new circumstances would not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts. **NO ADDITIONAL CEQA DOCUMENTATION** beyond this Environmental Checklist and Addendum to the EIR/EIS is required. In addition, none of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred; therefore, this **ADDENDUM** is adopted to address the changed circumstances from what was presented in the EIR/EIS.
- I find that the proposed project will have effects that were not covered in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. These effects are less than significant without any mitigation beyond what is already required pursuant to the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. A **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project will have effects that were not covered in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS or will have effects that are substantially more severe than those covered in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. Although these effects may be significant in the absence of additional mitigation beyond the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS's measures, revisions to the proposed project or additional mitigation measures have been agreed to by the Authority that would avoid or reduce the effects so that clearly no significant effects would occur. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project will have significant environmental effects that are (a) new and were not covered in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS and/or (b) substantially more severe than those covered in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. Because one or more effects may be significant and cannot be clearly mitigated to less than significant, an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** will be prepared.

DocuSigned by:

Lucas Shellhammer

4/18/2022

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Signature

Date

Lucas Shellhammer

Senior Open Space Planner

Printed Name

Title

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Agency

3.1 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Impact in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the EIR/EIS	Impact Significance in the EIR/EIS	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the EIR/EIS	Does the Impact Apply to the Project?	List EPMs Applicable to the Project	List MMs or Conditions Applicable to the Project	Impact Significance of the Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Impact Than Identified in the EIR/EIS?	Is This Impact Within the Scope of the EIR/EIS?
Would the project:								
Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or indirectly, on any of the special-status species identified above in Section 5.1.3?	LTS (determined to have beneficial impacts)	Section 5.4	Yes	BIO-1, 2,3,5,7, and 8	Habitat Plan Conditions 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19, and 20	LTS	No	Yes

Notes: EPM = environmental protection measure; LTS = less than significant; MM = mitigation measure.

Biological Resource Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to biological resources that are not evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion	
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	
Would the project have a substantial adverse effect to special-status wildlife not addressed in the EIR/EIS?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Discussion

The Habitat Plan EIR/EIS analyzed the potential impacts of implementation of the Habitat Plan on special-status species. Because the Habitat Plan is a joint HCP/NCCP covering a broad range of species, and habitat types, the analysis of the impacts resulting from conservation of these special-status species and habitats included other biological resources (e.g., sensitive habitats and natural communities, wetlands, movement corridors, etc.). The Habitat Plan EIR/EIS concluded that with the proposed habitat preservation through the Reserve System and accompanying conservation easement and conditions of project approval included in the Habitat Plan, impacts to biological resources from implementation of the Habitat Plan would be beneficial. A beneficial effect is categorized for CEQA purposes as less than significant.

The establishment of public access within CRID, including the construction of the South Ascent Bypass Trail, rest areas, and overlooks, as well as the operation and maintenance activities described in Chapter 2, "Project Description," are consistent with the conservation strategy and Covered Activities included in the Habitat Plan, which includes public access projects within preserves. The Authority completed a full analysis of project impacts to covered species as part of their Habitat Plan Public Reporting Form Application. Of the covered special-status species with the potential to occur in the project area, direct impacts to only one covered plant species would occur and suitable habitat was found for only Bay checkerspot butterfly and burrowing owl (H.T. Harvey 2021). The Authority would complete preconstruction surveys for these species and comply with all applicable Habitat Plan Conditions on Covered Activities as further described below to avoid impacts to covered species. Additionally, the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as specified in accompanying conservation easement.

Part of the conservation strategy in the Habitat Plan is the implementation of Conditions on Covered Activities. All of the Habitat Plan Conditions described in Table 2-3 above are applicable to the project and would avoid and minimize adverse impacts to biological resources. For example, Condition 1 requires that the project avoid direct impacts on

legally protected plant and wildlife species. To help meet the requirements of Condition 1 and further avoid impacts to biological resources, the project also includes design features, or environmental protection measures (EPMs). EPM BIO-1 through EPM BIO-8 expand upon the Habitat Plan Conditions to further avoid and minimize potential impacts from the project on biological resources. For example, EPM BIO-2 would require pre-construction surveys and flagging and avoidance of special-status plants, while EPM BIO-7 would avoid loss of American badger (*Taxidea taxus*) by requiring pre-construction surveys and buffers around potentially occupied dens.

Therefore, because the project is consistent with the Covered Activities included in the Habitat Plan, was approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, and would implement Habitat Plan Conditions and EPMs to avoid and minimize impacts to biological resources, the project is within the scope of the Habitat Plan would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts than what was covered in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS.

New Biological Impacts

Impact Bio 1

A biological resources report was prepared for the project by H.T. Harvey and Associates in 2021. This document contains the results of biological surveys of the project and vicinity that were conducted in 2019 and 2020, as well as the results of a query of the California Natural Diversity Database and other relevant sources. Based on the field surveys and literature review, no additional special-status plants beyond those analyzed in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS would occur within the project area. However, several special-status wildlife species that were not analyzed in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS may occur in the project area (H.T. Harvey 2021); these species are addressed below.

Monarch Butterfly

Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is a candidate for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. Due to documented decreases in overwintering populations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determined that the listing of monarch as threatened or endangered was warranted, but precluded by work on other higher priority species (USFWS 2020a). The western population of monarch butterfly overwinters within wind protected eucalyptus, Monterey pine, and cypress groves along the coast. These overwintering roosts are typically located within 1.5 miles from the ocean or bays; therefore, these overwintering roosts are not likely to occur within CRID. Adult monarch butterflies require a diversity of nectar resources for feeding during migration and breeding, and milkweed host plants (*Asclepias* spp.) to complete its lifecycle (USFWS 2020b). While no milkweed host plants were documented during botanical surveys of the project area conducted in 2020 (H.T. Harvey 2021), although unlikely, milkweed could be present at the time of construction. The removal of milkweed plants during construction would be a potentially substantial adverse effect, due to the dependence of monarch on that species for reproduction. The implementation of EPM BIO-4 would avoid this potential adverse effect on monarch butterflies by requiring a pre-construction survey of the project area, and that any milkweed plants within the project area be mapped and/or flagged and avoided. With the implementation of EPM BIO-4 the impact of the project on monarch butterfly would be less than significant.

Loggerhead Shrike

Small trees and shrubs within CRID provide suitable nesting habitat for loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), a California Department of Fish and Wildlife Species of Special Concern. This species is known to breed in the project vicinity, and the grasslands within the project area provide foraging habitat (H.T. Harvey 2021). The loss of habitat from construction of the South Ascent Bypass Trail, overlooks, and rest areas would not be substantial given the comparatively large amount of suitable habitat within CRID and in the vicinity of the project. If construction occurs during the nesting season (February 1 – August 31), disturbance of loggerhead shrike nests could result. Disturbance of nests could result in loss of eggs and young, which would be a substantial adverse effect on the local population of the species. However, the Authority would implement EPM BIO-1, which would require all applicable Habitat Plan Conditions listed in Table 2-3 be implemented, including Condition 14. Condition 14 requires avoidance of impacts to oak woodland habitats that Loggerhead shrike may use for nesting. In addition, the Authority would implement EPM BIO-5, which requires pre-construction surveys for nesting birds and establishes non-disturbance buffers within a 250-foot radius of active nests for raptors and 50-foot-radius of active nests for other birds. With implementation of Habitat Plan Conditions, EPM BIO-1, and EPM BIO-5, the impact to Loggerhead shrike would be less than significant.

Swainson's Hawk

Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) is listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). A pair of Swainson's hawks are known to nest along Coyote Creek, and forage along Coyote Creek and the adjacent agricultural fields. However, this is the only current record of successful nesting within Santa Clara County (H.T. Harvey 2021). The loss of habitat from construction of the South Ascent Bypass Trail, overlooks, and rest areas would not be substantial given the comparatively large amount of suitable habitat within CRID and in the vicinity of the project. However, if Swainson's hawks establish a nest within the oak woodland habitat on CRID prior to project implementation, the construction of the South Ascent Bypass Trail, overlooks, and rest areas could result in nest disturbance if construction occurs during the nesting season (March 1 - September 15). The disturbance of the nest could result in the loss of eggs and young, which would be a significant impact. However, the implementation of EPM BIO-1 and BIO-6 would avoid impacts to Swainson's hawk nests. EPM BIO -1 requires the implementation of all applicable Habitat Plan Conditions listed in Table 2-3, including Condition 14. Condition 14 requires avoidance of impacts to oak woodland habitats, which may be suitable for Swainson's hawk nesting. EPM BIO-6 would require pre-construction surveys for active Swainson's hawk nests if construction occurs within the nesting season, and establishment of a buffer around any active nests. With the implementation of Habitat Plan Conditions, EPM BIO-1, and EPM BIO-6, impacts to Swainson's hawk nests would be avoided and the project would have a less-than-significant impact on the species.

Mountain Lion

The Southern California and Central Coast Evolutionary Significant units of mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) are candidates for listing under CESA. The grasslands and oak woodlands within CRID provide suitable foraging and movement habitat for mountain lions. However, the proximity of the project area to human activity, such as the nearby shooting range and US 101, makes it unlikely that mountain lions would den within CRID (H.T. Harvey 2021). The construction of the South Ascent Bypass Trail, overlooks, and rest areas is not likely to result impacts to mountain lion dens, result in a substantial reduction in foraging habitat for mountain lion, or result in any inhibition of movement between other suitable habitats. Therefore, the impact to mountain lion would be less than significant.

Conclusion

Habitat disturbance by the project would be relatively small when compared to available habitat within and in the vicinity of CRID. In addition, the implementation of EPMS and Habitat Plan Conditions on Covered Activities would avoid and minimize impacts to these additional special-status wildlife species not addressed in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. As a result, impacts on these additional special-status wildlife species would be less than significant and would not constitute a new or substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the EIR/EIS.

3.2 LAND USE

Impact in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the EIR/EIS	Impact Significance in the EIR/EIS	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the EIR/EIS	Does the Impact Apply to the Project?	List EPMs Applicable to the Project ¹	List MMs or Conditions Applicable to the Project ¹	Impact Significance of the Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Impact Than Identified in the EIR/EIS?	Is This Impact Within the Scope of the EIR/EIS?
Would the project:								
Physically divide an established community?	LTS	Section 6.4	Yes	NA	NA	NI	No	Yes
Conflict with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations of an agency with jurisdiction over the project?	LTS	Section 6.4	Yes	NA	NA	NI	No	Yes

Notes: EPM = environmental protection measure; MM = mitigation measure; NI = no impact.

¹ NA = not applicable; there are no project EPMs or Habitat Plan Conditions applicable to this impact or mitigation measures identified in the EIR/EIS for this impact.

Land Use Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to land use that are not evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion	
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	
NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Discussion

New public access features would be established within the boundaries of the existing CRID, which is operated by the Authority and enrolled in the Habitat Agency’s Reserve System. The potential for Habitat Plan Covered Activities, including public access and recreation development in preserves, to physically divide an established community or cause a significant environmental impact because of a conflict with a land use plan, policy, or regulation was examined in Section 6.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS and was determined to be less than significant.

Potential impacts on land use are within the scope of the EIR/EIS because the proposed public access and recreation features are consistent with those analyzed in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. Additionally, the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as specified in accompanying conservation easement.

Consistent with Section 6.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, implementing the project would result in modifications to existing land uses on the 1,831-acre preserve by creating new public access features. Overall, however, these modifications would be minor. Of the approximately 7.5 miles of trail proposed under the project, approximately 6.5 miles of trail would be established on existing ranch roads. Only an approximately 1.1-mile trail would be constructed in a previously undisturbed area. In addition, three rest areas averaging 200 square feet each and two overlooks, one approximately 2,140 square feet and the other approximately 1,100 square feet, along with paths to them, would be constructed in previously undisturbed areas. All these public access features would be constructed within the preserve, where no communities exist; therefore, none of the development would physically divide an established community. In addition, because this development and the introduction of dispersed, low-intensity recreation onto CRID would be consistent with the Management and Monitoring Plan developed for the preserve, as required by the Habitat Plan, and the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as specified in accompanying conservation easement, they would not conflict with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations of an agency with jurisdiction over the project.

For the reasons described above, the project would have no impact related to land use. Therefore, this impact of the proposed project is consistent with the EIR/EIS and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the EIR/EIS.

3.3 AGRICULTURE

Impact in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the EIR/EIS	Impact Significance in the EIR/EIS	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the EIR/EIS	Does the Impact Apply to the Project?	List EPMs Applicable to the Project ¹	List MMs or Conditions Applicable to the Project ¹	Impact Significance of the Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Impact Than Identified in the EIR/EIS?	Is This Impact Within the Scope of the EIR/EIS?
Would the project:								
Convert more than 10 acres of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Farmland of Local Importance to non-agricultural use?	LTSM	Section 7.4	Yes	NA	NA	NI	No	Yes
Conflict with a Williamson Act contract?	LTS	Section 7.4	Yes	NA	NA	NI	No	Yes

Notes: EPM = environmental protection measure; MM = mitigation measure; NI = no impact.

¹ NA = not applicable; there are no project EPMs or Habitat Plan Conditions applicable to this impact or mitigation measures identified in the EIR/EIS for this impact.

Agriculture Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to agriculture that are not evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion	
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	
NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Discussion

Covered Activities in the Habitat Plan include public access and recreation improvements within open space preserves. Additionally, the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as specified in accompanying conservation easement. The potential for these activities to convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural use or conflict with a Williamson Act contract are analyzed in Section 7.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. The Habitat Plan EIR/EIS concludes that Habitat Plan implementation would result in a less-than-significant impact related to conflicts with Williamson Act contracts and a less-than-significant impact with mitigation related to the conversion of Important Farmland to non-agricultural uses. No Important Farmland and no land under Williamson Act contract are located in CRID (DOC 2016; Santa Clara County 2021).

Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the conversion of Important Farmland to non-agricultural use or conflict with a Williamson Act contract. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the EIR/EIS.

3.4 PUBLIC SERVICES

Impact in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the EIR/EIS	Impact Significance in the EIR/EIS	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the EIR/EIS	Does the Impact Apply to the Project?	List EPMs Applicable to the Project ¹	List MMs or Conditions Applicable to the Project ¹	Impact Significance of the Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Impact Than Identified in the EIR/EIS?	Is This Impact Within the Scope of the EIR/EIS?
Would the project:								
Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police or fire facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts?	LTS	Section 8.4	Yes	NA	Condition 9	LTS	No	Yes

Notes: EPM = environmental protection measure; LTS = less than significant; MM = mitigation measure.

¹ NA = not applicable; there are no project EPMs or Habitat Plan Conditions applicable to this impact or mitigation measures identified in the EIR/EIS for this impact.

Public Services Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to public services that are not evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion	
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	
NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Discussion

The project involves developing new public access features at CRID and opening the preserve to public use and dispersed, low-intensity recreation. The potential for Habitat Plan Covered Activities, including recreation development and public access in preserves, to result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police or fire facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, was analyzed in Section 8.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS and determined to be less than significant.

The potential impact on public services is within the scope of the EIR/EIS because the proposed public access and recreation features are consistent with those analyzed in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. Additionally, the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as specified in accompanying conservation easement.

Consistent with Section 8.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, implementing the project could result in incremental increases in the demand for public services at CRID. Developing public access features, including trails, rest areas, and lookouts at CRID, and opening the area to public use, would increase demand for open space technicians and open space management, and could increase the demand for police and fire services. However, any increase in demand for these services would be minor because the recreation plan for the Reserve System, required by Condition 9 of the Habitat Plan, includes measures to avoid and minimize overuse of the preserve and illegal activities, such as ongoing patrols of the preserve, additional signage and/or temporary fencing if needed, and implementing seasonal trail closures, if necessary, to help protect the natural environment in the area (Habitat Agency 2019). In addition, the proposed public access features at CRID are intended for light use. The trails and paths would be 5 feet wide and unpaved, the rest areas would each be approximately 200 square feet, and the largest of the overlooks would be able to accommodate only 25 people. Because the project is intended to provide low intensity recreation, ongoing

management and monitoring would occur, and restrictions or closures would be informed by monitoring and adaptive management, new and/or expanded police and fire stations would not be required because of the project.

For the reasons described above, the project would have a less-than-significant impact related to public services. Therefore, this impact of the proposed project is consistent with the EIR/EIS and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the EIR/EIS.

3.5 RECREATION

Impact in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the EIR/EIS	Impact Significance in the EIR/EIS	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the EIR/EIS	Does the Impact Apply to the Project?	List EPMs Applicable to the Project ¹	List MMs or Conditions Applicable to the Project ¹	Impact Significance of the Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Impact Than Identified in the EIR/EIS?	Is This Impact Within the Scope of the EIR/EIS?
Would the project:								
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?	LTS (determined to have beneficial impacts)	Section 9.4	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Include recreation facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreation facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	LTS (determined to have beneficial impacts)	Section 9.4	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Decrease access to existing recreation facilities?	LTS (determined to have beneficial impacts)	Section 9.4	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes: EPM = environmental protection measure; LTS = less than significant; MM = mitigation measure.

¹NA = not applicable; there are no project EPMs or Habitat Plan Conditions applicable to this impact or mitigation measures identified in the EIR/EIS for this impact.

Recreation Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to recreation that are not evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion		
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant		
NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Discussion

The project consists of implementing access and recreation-related improvements at CRID and opening the preserve to public use and dispersed, low-intensity recreation. The potential for Habitat Plan Covered Activities, including recreation development and public access in preserves, to 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, to include recreation facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreation facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment, or to decrease access to existing recreation facilities was analyzed in Section 9.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS and determined to be beneficial. A beneficial effect is categorized for CEQA purposes as less than significant.

Potential impacts on recreation are within the scope of the EIR/EIS because the proposed public access and recreation features are consistent with those analyzed in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. Additionally, the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as specified in accompanying conservation easement.

Consistent with Section 9.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, implementation of the project would result in new recreational use at the preserve and would not result in increased use of other recreational facilities or decrease access to other recreational facilities in the vicinity or region. If anything, the project could result in slight decreases in the use of other recreational facilities by opening CRID to public use. In addition, the potential for adverse effects from the development of the new public access and recreation features are addressed throughout Chapter 3 of this Checklist.

For the reasons described above, the project would have a less-than-significant impact related to recreation. Therefore, this impact of the proposed project is consistent with the EIR/EIS and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the EIR/EIS.

3.6 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Impact in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the EIR/EIS	Impact Significance in the EIR/EIS	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the EIR/EIS	Does the Impact Apply to the Project?	List EPMs Applicable to the Project ¹	List MMs or Conditions Applicable to the Project ¹	Impact Significance of the Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Impact Than Identified in the EIR/EIS?	Is This Impact Within the Scope of the EIR/EIS?
Would the project:								
Violate water quality standards, provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff, or otherwise degrade water quality?	LTS (determined to have beneficial impacts)	Section 10.4	Yes	EPM GEO-2	Habitat Plan Conditions 3, 7, and 8	LTS	No	Yes
Substantially alter existing drainage patterns, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff, in a manner that would result in erosion or siltation on- or offsite?	LTS (determined to have beneficial impacts)	Section 10.4	Yes	EPM GEO-2	Habitat Plan Conditions 3, 7, and 8	LTS	No	Yes
Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death due to flooding?	LTS (determined to have beneficial impacts)	Section 10.4	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes: EPM = environmental protection measure; LTS = less than significant; MM = mitigation measure.

¹ NA =not applicable; there are no project EPMs or Habitat Plan Conditions applicable to this impact or mitigation measures identified in the EIR/EIS for this impact.

Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to hydrology and water quality that are not evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion	
		Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Implementing the project would involve developing access and recreation-related improvements in CRID, including a trail network, three rest areas, and two overlooks, and opening the preserve to public use and recreation. The potential for Habitat Plan Covered Activities, including recreation development and public access in preserves, to violate water quality standards, provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff, or otherwise degrade water quality; substantially alter existing drainage patterns, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff, in a manner that would result in erosion or siltation on- or off-site; or expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death related to flooding was analyzed in Section 10.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS and determined to be beneficial. A beneficial effect is categorized for CEQA purposes as less than significant.

Potential impacts on hydrology and water quality are within the scope of the EIR/EIS because the proposed public access and recreation features are consistent with those analyzed in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. Additionally, the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as specified in accompanying conservation easement.

Consistent with Section 10.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, implementation of the project would involve earthmoving activities, including grading, excavating, and other activities involving the use of heavy equipment. Initial site preparation would include installing temporary construction fencing and construction stormwater capture elements consistent with the requirements of the storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) that would be prepared for the project. In total, construction of the project would result in up to 5 acres of ground disturbance; however, because many of the trails would be established within previously disturbed areas of CRID and would remain as natural surface/native soil (i.e., the North Ascent Trail, South Ascent Trail, and Bay Area Ridge Trail), the total footprint of new, permanent project features would be approximately 0.80 acre.

The EPM applicable to this impact is EPM GEO-2, which involves implementing standard construction stormwater runoff and erosion control best management practices (BMPs). In addition, in accordance with Habitat Plan requirements, the Authority would incorporate and adhere to Habitat Plan Conditions 3, 7, and 8. Condition 3 involves implementing a range of measures to protect water quality from design through postconstruction, such as preventing the accidental release of chemicals, fuels, and lubricants and removing pollutants from surface runoff before it reaches local streams. Condition 7 includes measures that require directing runoff from impermeable surfaces to natural or landscaped areas and, at project sites adjacent to any natural or human-made drainage, and stabilizing exposed soils to prevent erosion and sedimentation. Condition 8, which applies to maintenance of unpaved roads, including those that serve as recreational trails, includes measures that require that ground disturbance be kept to the smallest area feasible, and that silt fencing or other sediment control devices be used during maintenance activities that disturb soil within the riparian setback zone as defined by the Habitat Plan.

For the reasons described above, the project would have a less-than-significant impact related to hydrology and water quality. Therefore, the proposed project would be consistent with the EIR/EIS and the impact would not be a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the EIR/EIS.

3.7 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Impact in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the EIR/EIS	Impact Significance in the EIR/EIS	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the EIR/EIS	Does the Impact Apply to the Project?	List EPMs Applicable to the Project ¹	List MMs or Conditions Applicable to the Project ¹	Impact Significance of the Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Impact Than Identified in the EIR/EIS?	Is This Impact Within the Scope of the EIR/EIS?
Would the project:								
Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through disturbances that release hazardous materials into the environment?	LTSM	Section 11.4	Yes	NA	Mitigation Measure 11-2	LTSM	No	Yes
Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous waste?	LTS	Section 11.4	Yes	HAZ-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes: EPM = environmental protection measure; LTS = less than significant; LTSM = less than significant with mitigation; MM = mitigation measure.

¹ NA = not applicable; there are no project EPMs or Habitat Plan Conditions applicable to this impact or mitigation measures identified in the EIR/EIS for this impact.

Hazardous Materials Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts related to hazardous materials that are not evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Implementation of the project involves ground disturbance at CRID that could release hazardous materials if present, as well as the use of hazardous materials during construction, such as fuels. The potential for Habitat Plan Covered Activities, including recreation development, to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through disturbances that could release hazardous materials into the environment or through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous waste was analyzed in Section 11.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. The impact related to a disturbance that releases hazardous materials was determined to be less than significant with the implementation of mitigation. The impact related to the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous was determined to be less than significant in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS.

Potential impacts related to hazardous materials are within the scope of the EIR/EIS because the proposed public access and recreation features, and the activities that would be used to construct them, are consistent with those analyzed in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. Additionally, the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as specified in accompanying conservation easement.

Consistent with Section 11.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, implementation of the project would involve ground disturbance associated with constructing recreation facilities, and these construction activities, if they occur at a site where hazardous materials present, such as in soils containing remnant hazardous wastes, could potentially exacerbate risks of exposure for construction workers and the environment. Regulatory databases listing hazardous

materials sites provided by numerous federal, state, and local agencies are consolidated in the "Cortese List" pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Cortese List sites can be queried using the Department of Toxic Substance Control's (DTSC's) EnviroStor database and the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB's) GeoTracker database. According to a review of these databases, no hazardous materials sites or facilities are located in or immediately adjacent to (i.e., within 0.25-mile) CRID (DTSC 2021; SWRCB 2021). The closest known hazardous materials site to the project area is associated with UTC and is referred to as Chem Systems. UTC developed, manufactured, and tested space and missile propulsion systems and potential contaminants of concern include polybrominated biphenyls and volatile organic compounds. It is located approximately 0.30-mile west of the boundary of CRID at its nearest point and is within the Santa Clara County Motorcycle Park (DTSC 2021). No ground disturbing activities would occur within or adjacent to the Chem Systems site and no related impacts would occur. In addition, as required by Mitigation Measure 11-2 from the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, as part of each reserve management plan or site restoration plan, a contingency plan must be prepared to identify what actions would be taken during construction if contaminated soil or groundwater is discovered unexpectedly. The Contingency Plan must include health and safety considerations, including handling and disposal of wastes, reporting requirements, and emergency procedures. If evidence of contaminated materials is encountered during construction, construction would cease immediately and applicable requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Release Compensation and Liability Act and the California Code of Regulations Title 22 regarding the disposal of waste would be implemented. The Authority would implement Mitigation Measure 11-2, which would minimize adverse effects associated discoveries of unknown hazardous waste.

In addition, leaks of fuel or oil from construction equipment could potentially result in environmental contamination. However, such leaks, if they were to occur, would be minor because no large sources of hazardous materials would be present on site. In addition, the Authority would implement EPM HAZ-1, which requires that equipment be inspected for leaks before the start of construction activities every day and be immediately removed if found to be leaking.

With implementation of EPM HAZ-1 and Mitigation Measure 11-2, impacts related to hazardous materials would be less than significant. This impact of the proposed project is consistent with the EIR/EIS and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the EIR/EIS.

3.8 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Impact in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the EIR/EIS	Impact Significance in the EIR/EIS	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the EIR/EIS	Does the Impact Apply to the Project?	List EPMs Applicable to the Project ¹	List MMs or Conditions Applicable to the Project	Impact Significance of the Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Impact Than Identified in the EIR/EIS?	Is This Impact Within the Scope of the EIR/EIS?
Would the project:								
Result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource?	LTSM	Section 13.4	Yes	NA	Mitigation Measures 13-1 and CUL-1	LTSM	No	Yes
Result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource or buried artifacts?	LTSM	Section 13.4	Yes	NA	Mitigation Measures 13-1 and CUL-1	LTSM	No	Yes

Notes: EPM = environmental protection measure; LTSM = less than significant with mitigation; MM = mitigation measure.

¹ NA = not applicable; there are no project EPMs or Habitat Plan Conditions applicable to this impact or mitigation measures identified in the EIR/EIS for this impact.

Cultural Resource Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts related to cultural resources that are not evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion	
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	
NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Discussion

Implementation of the project involves ground disturbance at CRID that could affect cultural resources if they are present. The potential for Habitat Plan Covered Activities, including recreation development, to result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, an archaeological resource, or buried artifacts was analyzed in Section 13.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. These impacts were determined to be less than significant with the implementation of mitigation.

Potential impacts on cultural resources are within the scope of the EIR/EIS because the activities proposed to construct public access and recreation features are consistent with those analyzed in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. Additionally, the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as specified in accompanying conservation easement.

Consistent with Section 13.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, implementation of the project would involve earthmoving activities, such as grading and excavating, that could result in exposure, damage, or crushing of surface and buried artifacts. Consistent with Mitigation Measure 13-1 in Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, the Authority retained professional archaeologists (Basin Research Associates) to establish an Area of Potential Effect (APE), summarize known resources in the APE, identify areas of cultural sensitivity in the APE based on consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and develop additional mitigation measures for the treatment of inadvertent finds. An archaeological resources assessment was prepared for the Authority in 2020 presenting the results of a study conducted by Basin Research Associates to determine whether historic properties or unique archaeological resources would be affected by project actions proposed at CRID (Basin 2020). The study focused on the locations of seven features at CRID, including trails, rest areas, and overlooks, and the trail connections to them, where ground would be

disturbed during construction. The assessment included outreach to Native American tribes as well as a pedestrian survey of the of the proposed access and recreation features and no prehistoric or significant historic cultural materials or culturally modified sediments were observed within or near the project features. The assessment presents the following findings:

- ▶ No prehistoric, combined prehistoric/historic, historic era, or built environment sites have been recorded in the locations of the proposed access and recreation features. Two prehistoric resources consisting of small, low-density lithic scatters are located within 100–300 feet of the routes of two new trails.
- ▶ No archaeologically, historically, or architecturally significant sites, structures, landmarks, or points of interest are located in or adjacent to the locations of the proposed access and recreation features.
- ▶ The archival and literature record and field inventory suggest a low potential for the exposure of significant subsurface prehistoric and historic cultural materials during construction in the locations of the proposed access and recreation features.

Consistent with Mitigation Measure 13-1, the Authority has developed additional mitigation for the treatment, recordation, data recovery, and curation of any cultural resources that are found onsite, which was developed with input from Native American tribes during AB 52 consultation. It requires that cultural resource protective measures identified in the archaeological resources assessment report be implemented during construction activities, which are further described below.

3.8.1 Additional Cultural Resource Protection Measures

- ▶ **Mitigation Measure CUL-1 Implement Cultural Report Protective Measures for the Project:** In compliance with Habitat Plan Requirements, an Archaeological Resources Assessment Report was prepared for the project. The Authority will implement the project-specific protective measures included in the Report for cultural resource protection as well as measures developed during AB 52 consultation, which include the following:
 - In the event that a prehistoric archeological site (including midden soil, chipped stone, bone, or shell) or a historic-period archaeological site (such as concentrated deposits of bottles, amethyst glass, or historic refuse), is uncovered during grading or other construction activities, all ground-disturbing activity within 50 feet of the discovery shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. The Authority will be notified of the potential find and a qualified archeologist shall be retained to investigate its significance. If the find is a prehistoric archeological site, the culturally affiliated Native American tribe shall be immediately notified. The tribal representative(s), in consultation with the archaeologist, shall determine if the find is a significant tribal cultural resource (pursuant to PRC Section 21074). The tribal representative will make recommendations for treatment, as necessary. Culturally appropriate treatment may be, but is not limited to, preservation in place, processing materials for reburial, minimizing handling of cultural objects, leaving objects in place within the landscape, returning objects to a location within the project vicinity where they will not be subject to future impacts.
 - Any previously undiscovered resources found during construction will be recorded on appropriate California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 forms and evaluated for significance under all applicable regulatory criteria. If the archaeologist determines that the find does not meet the CRHR standards of significance for cultural resources, construction may proceed. If the find is determined to be significant by the qualified archaeologist (i.e., because the find is determined to constitute either an historical resource or a unique archaeological resource), the archaeologist shall work with the Authority to follow accepted professional standards such as further testing for evaluation or data recovery, as necessary. If artifacts are recovered from significant historic archaeological resources, they shall be housed at a qualified curation facility. The results of the identification, evaluation, and/or data recovery program for any unanticipated discoveries shall be presented in a professional-quality report that details all methods and findings, evaluates the nature and significance of the resources, and analyzes and interprets the results.

- If any human remains are exposed during construction, they shall be treated in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code and California Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 5097.94 and 5097.98, in consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).

With the implementation Mitigation Measure 13-1 from the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS and Mitigation Measure CUL-1 above, the impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, this impact of the proposed project is consistent with the EIR/EIS and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the EIR/EIS.

3.9 TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION

Impact in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the EIR/EIS	Impact Significance in the EIR/EIS	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the EIR/EIS	Does the Impact Apply to the Project?	List EPMs Applicable to the Project ¹	List MMs or Conditions Applicable to the Project ¹	Impact Significance of the Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Impact Than Identified in the EIR/EIS?	Is This Impact Within the Scope of the EIR/EIS?
Would the project:								
Result in a substantial increase in traffic compared to existing traffic volumes and the capacity of the existing road system?	LTS	Section 14.4	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Result in safety hazards due to design features or incompatible uses (e.g., hazards to vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic) or inadequate emergency access?	LTSM	Section 14.4	Yes	NA	None	LTS	No	Yes

Notes: EPM = environmental protection measure; LTS = less than significant; LTSM = less than significant with mitigation; MM = mitigation measure.

¹ NA = not applicable; there are no project EPMs or Habitat Plan Conditions applicable to this impact or mitigation measures identified in the EIR/EIS for this impact. None = there are Habitat Plan Conditions and/or mitigation measures identified in the EIR/EIS for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

Transportation and Circulation Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts related to transportation and circulation that are not evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion		
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant		
NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Discussion

Implementation of the project would involve an increase in construction-related traffic in the area, as well as the introduction of traffic from visitors to CRID. The potential for Habitat Plan Covered Activities, including recreation development, to result in a substantial increase in traffic compared to existing traffic volumes and the capacity of the existing road system or to result in safety hazards due to design features or incompatible uses (e.g., hazards to vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic) or inadequate emergency access was analyzed in Section 14.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. The impact related to a substantial increase in traffic was determined to be less than significant. The impact related to safety hazards was determined to be less than significant with the implementation of mitigation.

The potential impacts from project implementation on transportation and circulation are within the scope of the EIR/EIS because the proposed public access and recreation features, and the activities that would be used to construct them, are consistent with those analyzed in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. Additionally, the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as specified in accompanying conservation easement.

Consistent with Section 14.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, implementation of the project would result in localized, temporary impacts on the local roadway system by introducing heavy equipment to local roadways and creating potential safety hazards, as well as long-term traffic impacts associated with opening CRID to public access.

The mobilization of large construction equipment could introduce changed vehicle conditions on local access roads; however, the number of construction vehicles would be small, and the anticipated 50–60 total haul truck trips required to bring equipment and materials to the project area would be spread over approximately 12 months (approximately 6 months each for Phase I and Phase II). In addition, the project would be constructed by one crew consisting of five to 10 personnel. Therefore, additional traffic associated with haul truck trips and workers commuting to and from the project area would not result in safety hazards on roadways.

Long-term traffic increases could occur with the introduction of public access to CRID; however, any increase in traffic from visitors would be minor, because the recreation plan for the Reserve System, required by Condition 9 of the Habitat Plan, identifies restrictions on the intensity of recreational and educational use of CRID to help protect the natural environment in the area. Daily visitation would be limited by available parking in the parking and staging area located at Malech Road. If needed, the Authority would implement a parking reservation system in the future to help manage visitation. Having a reservation system would allow the Authority to adjust the number of reservations available to reduce resource damage from public use.

For the reasons described above, the project would have a less-than-significant impact on transportation and circulation. Therefore, this impact of the proposed project is consistent with the EIR/EIS and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the EIR/EIS.

3.10 NOISE

Impact in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the EIR/EIS	Impact Significance in the EIR/EIS	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the EIR/EIS	Does the Impact Apply to the Project?	List EPMs Applicable to the Project ¹	List MMs or Conditions Applicable to the Project ¹	Impact Significance of the Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Impact Than Identified in the EIR/EIS?	Is This Impact Within the Scope of the EIR/EIS?
Would the project:								
Expose people to noise levels in excess of standards established in the local General Plan or Noise Ordinance?	LTSM	Section 15.4	Yes	NA	None	LTS	No	Yes
Result in a substantial permanent increase in the ambient noise levels in the Study Area?	LTS	Section 15.4	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above ambient levels?	LTSM	Section 15.4	Yes	NA	None	LTS	No	Yes

Notes: EPM = environmental protection measure; LTS = less than significant; LTSM = less than significant with mitigation; MM = mitigation measure.

¹ NA = not applicable; there are no project EPMs or Habitat Plan Conditions applicable to this impact or mitigation measures identified in the EIR/EIS for this impact. None = there are Habitat Plan Conditions and/or mitigation measures identified in the EIR/EIS for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

Noise Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts related to noise that are not evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion	
		Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Implementation of the project would involve construction and operation of new public access features at CRID. The potential for Habitat Plan Covered Activities, including recreation development, to expose people to noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, result in a substantial permanent increase in the ambient noise levels in the study area, or result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above ambient levels was analyzed in Section 15.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. The impact related to noise levels exceeding standards and the impact related to a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels were determined to be less than significant with mitigation. The impact related to a substantial permanent increase in the ambient noise levels was determined to be less than significant in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS.

Potential noise impacts as a result of the project are within the scope of the EIR/EIS because the proposed public access and recreation features, and the activities used to construct them, are consistent with those analyzed in the

Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. Additionally, the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as specified in accompanying conservation easement.

Consistent with Section 15.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, project-related construction activity would result in temporary noise increases on and near the project area related to grading, excavation, and material hauling to install the new public access features, such as trails and overlooks. However, these activities would be minor and short term given the small footprint of new project features. Only 1.1 miles of the approximately 7.5-mile trail network would be new and require grading and surfacing. Three rest areas averaging approximately 200 square feet and two overlooks, one approximately 2,140 square feet and the other approximately 1,100 square feet, also would be constructed. The work would be conducted in two phases, with each phase lasting approximately 6 months and Phase II being constructed within 5 years of the Phase I construction.

In addition, there are no residences or other noise-sensitive land uses within 1,600 feet of the project area. The Habitat Plan EIR/EIS determined that most noise levels above regulatory standards (at most, 55 A-weighted decibels based on local requirements) would be avoided at distances greater than approximately 1,600 feet. Also, the land uses nearest to the project area involve noise-generating activities, such as the Santa Clara County Field Sports Park, which is a public shooting range; the Santa Clara County Motorcycle Park; and U.S. 101. Therefore, during construction, no significant increases in noise above ambient levels would occur, and people would not be exposed to noise levels in excess of local standards.

In the long term, project implementation would result in increased vehicular travel within CRID to perform monitoring and maintenance activities; however, the amount of travel would be similar to existing vehicular travel associated with operations and maintenance occurring under existing conditions at CRID and would not generate substantial noise. In addition, although the project would result in increased recreation within the project area, it would be limited to low-intensity activities (e.g., pedestrian use, wildlife observation and photography) as defined by the Habitat Plan, which would not result in significant new operational noise impacts.

For the reasons described above, the project would have a less-than-significant impact related to noise. Therefore, this impact of the proposed project is consistent with the EIR/EIS and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the EIR/EIS.

3.11 AIR QUALITY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Impact in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the EIR/EIS	Impact Significance in the EIR/EIS	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the EIR/EIS	Does the Impact Apply to the Project?	List EPMs Applicable to the Project ¹	List MMs or Conditions Applicable to the Project ¹	Impact Significance of the Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Impact Than Identified in the EIR/EIS?	Is This Impact Within the Scope of the EIR/EIS?
Would the project:								
Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	LTS	Section 16.4	Yes	AQ-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Violate any ambient air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	LTS	Section 16.4	Yes	AQ-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which a region is nonattainment?	LTS	Section 16.4	Yes	AQ-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	LTS	Section 16.4	Yes	AQ-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	LTS	Section 16.4	Yes	AQ-1	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant effect on the environment?	LTS	Section 16.4	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes
Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	LTS	Section 16.4	Yes	NA	NA	LTS	No	Yes

Notes: EPM = environmental protection measure; LTS = less than significant; MM = mitigation measure.

¹ NA = not applicable; there are no project EPMs or Habitat Plan Conditions applicable to this impact or mitigation measures identified in the EIR/EIS for this impact.

Air Quality and GHG Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts related to air quality and GHG emissions that are not evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion	
		Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant
NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Implementation of the project would involve construction and operation of new public access features at CRID. The potential for Habitat Plan Covered Activities, including recreation development, to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan; violate any ambient air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation; result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which a region is nonattainment; expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people; generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; or conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs was analyzed in Section 16.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. All impacts related to air quality and GHG emissions were determined to be less than significant.

Potential impacts related to air quality and GHG emissions from project implementation are within the scope of the EIR/EIS because the proposed public access and recreation features, and the activities that would be used to construct them, are consistent with those analyzed in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. Additionally, the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as specified in accompanying conservation easement.

Consistent with Section 16.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, project related construction activity would result in temporary air quality and GHG emissions related to vehicle and equipment use, such as grading, excavation, and material hauling to install new public access features. However, these activities would be minor and short term given the small footprint of new project features. Only 1.1 miles of the approximately 7.5-mile trail network would be new and require grading and surfacing. Other than that, only three small rest areas and two overlooks would be constructed. The work would be conducted in two phases, with each phase lasting approximately 6 months. In addition, EPM AQ-1, which includes applicable measures from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's *Basic Construction Mitigation Measures*, would be implemented during construction to reduce air quality or GHG emissions. Measures that would be implemented under EPM AQ-1 include, but are not limited to, watering all exposed surfaces (e.g., staging areas, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved access roads) two times per day; limiting the speed of all vehicles on unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour; minimizing idling times either by shutting equipment off when it is not in use or by reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes; and maintaining and properly tuning all construction equipment in accordance with manufacturers' specifications. In addition, there are no residences or other sensitive land uses within 1,600 feet of the project area. Therefore, construction vehicle and equipment exhaust emissions would not impede attainment or maintenance of the standards in the Bay Area, result in significant fugitive dust or air quality/GHG emissions, or expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations or odors.

Once operational, the project components would accommodate low intensity recreational use by providing hiking trails, rest areas, and overlooks, which would not generate air quality or GHG emissions. However, air quality and GHG emissions would increase from new vehicle trips to the project area by visitors. Consistent with the Habitat Plan, recreation use would not result in a significant increase in traffic, because the number of visitors at one time would be restricted. As described in Section 3.9, "Transportation and Circulation," above, recreation use would be limited to uses compatible with the preservation and enhancement of natural communities, Covered Species, and biological diversity. In addition, visitors to the project area would be limited by available parking and the Authority may implement a parking reservation system in the future to help manage future visitation.

For the reasons described above, the project would have a less-than-significant impact related to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, this impact of the proposed project is consistent with the EIR/EIS and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the EIR/EIS.

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Impact in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the EIR/EIS	Impact Significance in the EIR/EIS	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the EIR/EIS	Does the Impact Apply to the Project?	List EPMs Applicable to the Project ¹	List MMs or Conditions Applicable to the Project ¹	Impact Significance of the Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Impact Than Identified in the EIR/EIS?	Is This Impact Within the Scope of the EIR/EIS?
Would the project:								
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?	LTS	Section 17.4	Yes	NA	NA	NI	No	Yes
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?	LTS	Section 17.4	Yes	NA	NA	NI	No	Yes

Notes: EPM = environmental protection measure; LTS = less than significant; MM = mitigation measure; NI = no impact.

¹ NA = not applicable; there are no project EPMs or Habitat Plan Conditions applicable to this impact or mitigation measures identified in the EIR/EIS for this impact.

Mineral Resource Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts related to mineral resources that are not evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion	
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	
NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Discussion

Implementing the project involves incorporating public access features into CRID and opening the preserve to public use and dispersed, low-intensity recreation. The potential for Habitat Plan Covered Activities, including recreation development and public access in preserves, to 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 or 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 was analyzed in Section 17.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS and determined to be less than significant.

Potential impacts on mineral resources as a result of the project are within the scope of the EIR/EIS, because the proposed public access and recreation features are consistent with those analyzed in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. Additionally, the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as specified in accompanying conservation easement. No mineral extraction is currently being conducted at CRID. In addition, the proposed public access features, including rest areas and lookouts, would have a small footprint relative to the 1,831-acre preserve would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

For the reasons described above, the project would no impact related to mineral resources. Therefore, this impact of the proposed project is consistent with the EIR/EIS and would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the EIR/EIS.

3.13 WILDFIRE

Impact in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS			Project-Specific Checklist					
Environmental Impact Covered in the EIR/EIS	Impact Significance in the EIR/EIS	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the EIR/EIS	Does the Impact Apply to the Project?	List EPMs Applicable to the Project	List MMs or Conditions Applicable to the Project	Impact Significance of the Project	Would This Be a Substantially More Severe Impact Than Identified in the EIR/EIS?	Is This Impact Within the Scope of the EIR/EIS?
Would the project:								
Expose people or property to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	LTS	Section 18.4	Yes	HAZ-2 and HAZ-3	Condition 10	LTS	No	Yes

Notes: EPM = environmental protection measure; LTS = less than significant; MM = mitigation measure.

Wildfire Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts related to wildfire that are not evaluated in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion		
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant		
NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Discussion

Construction and operation of the project at CRID could increase risks associated with wildfire in the preserve. The potential for Habitat Plan Covered Activities, including recreation development, to expose people or property to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires was analyzed in Section 18.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. The impact was determined to be less than significant.

The project’s potential to increase wildfire risk is within the scope of the EIR/EIS because the proposed public access and recreation features are consistent with those analyzed in the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS. Additionally, the proposed recreational features were approved as part of enrollment in the Reserve System, as specified in accompanying conservation easement.

Consistent with Section 18.4 of the Habitat Plan EIR/EIS, implementing the project could increase exposure of people and property to risks from wildfire by developing new structures and bringing the public into the preserve. Land in the preserve has burned in three recorded wildfires; additional, unrecorded fires may also have burned land at the preserve (Habitat Agency 2019:7-24). The dry serpentine bunchgrass landscape that dominates the slopes at CRID provides ideal conditions for wildfires, especially during the hottest temperatures in summer and fall (Habitat Agency 2019:7-24). Although fires are a natural occurrence in the upland communities of the site, human activities, such as vehicle and equipment use, may cause fires to occur more frequently than they otherwise would. Most ignitions in Santa Clara County, including the three recorded wildfires at CRID, were caused by humans (Habitat Agency 2019:7-24).

The project area is managed and maintained by the Authority in accordance with the established conservation easement agreement and Management and Monitoring Plan, and it is currently leased for cattle grazing. The Authority uses cattle grazing for several reasons, including to reduce the risk of fires caused by human activity. In addition, Condition 10 from the Habitat Plan addresses wildfire risk related to urban and rural development, including at CRID. Consistent with state law for defensible space, Condition 10 requires that fuel buffers of at least 30 feet and up to 100 feet be maintained around new dwellings or structures. Implementation of Condition 10 would decrease the risk of wildfires and help maintain public health and safety. In addition, the Authority would implement EPMs to reduce the risk of wildfire, including EPM HAZ-2, which prohibits smoking in the project area at all times to avoid

accidental wildfire ignition, and EPM HAZ-3, which requires that all mechanized hand tools have federal- or state-approved spark arrestors and that each construction crew carry at least one fire extinguisher.

The Authority, in coordination with the Habitat Agency, also will prepare and implement a fire management plan for CRID that will be consistent with the biological goals and objectives of the Habitat Plan. The plan will include biologically appropriate management response measures for fire events and fire-dependent ecosystems. It will be developed with all the fire-fighting agencies that have responsibility at CRID. As required by the Habitat Plan, the fire management plan will include a map of fire access roads and gates; identify criteria and procedures for use of prescribed fire for management purposes; describe fire-suppression criteria, procedures, resources, and responsibilities; and describe a clear decision-making system to determine when a wildfire will be left to burn and when it must be contained (Habitat Agency 2019:3-6 and 3-7).

For the reasons described above, the project would have a less-than-significant impact related to exposing people and property to significant risks involving wildland fire. Therefore, the proposed project is consistent with the EIR/EIS, and the risk of wildfire would not constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than what was covered in the EIR/EIS.

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