

Notice of Determination

To: County Clerk, County of Monterey
168 West Alisal Street, 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Monterey Peninsula Regional Park
District
PO BOX 223340
Carmel Valley Road
Carmel, CA 93923

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number: 2019049161

Project Title: Rancho Cañada Trail Replacement and Reconstruction Project

Project Location: Carmel, Monterey
Rancho Cañada Unit of the Palo Corona Regional Park
4860 Carmel Valley Road

Public Agency Approving Project: Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

Description of Project: The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) is proposing the Rancho Cañada Trail Replacement and Reconstruction Project (“Project”) to realign and construct new trail segments to maintain public access at the Rancho Cañada Unit of the Palo Corona Regional Park (Park). The Project would involve removing decomposed granite (DG) from the Multi-Benefit Community Trail (MBCT), located in the Park, within the 100-yr FEMA floodplain, and retiring, retrofitting, or realigning the trail network at the Park according to California State Park Trail Design Standards (CSP Standards), and reseeding native riparian, wetland, and grassland plant communities in areas that are disturbed by Project activities. In addition, the Project would include construction of new trail segments according to CSP Standards to maintain public access at the Park via a substantially consolidated trail network.

The realigned trail network would implicate minor modifications to the Palo Corona Regional Park General Development Plan, approved by the MPRPD Board of Directors on March 3, 2021. MPRPD prepared and approved an Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the General Development Plan. The General Development Plan provides for improvements and additions to the Park’s trail network throughout the Park. The Project would make minor changes to the alignment of trails included in the General Development Plan. The new trail alignment under the Project will occupy the same area and involve the same recreational uses as that analyzed in the IS/MND. The construction of new trails will also involve the same methods contemplated in the IS/MND. Under CEQA Guidelines section 15164, MPRPD decided to prepare an addendum to the General Development Plan IS/MND because the Project involves only minor technical changes or additions to the General Development Plan and none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines section 15162, subdivision (b) calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred.

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This notice is to advise that the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (Lead Agency) has approved the above described project on February 7, 2024 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Negative Declaration was previously prepared for the Palo Corona Regional Park General Development Plan (GDP) pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the GDP.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was adopted for the GDP, and will continue to apply to this project.
5. A statement of overriding considerations was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This notice also advises that the Project is exempt from the requirements of CEQA as described below.

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemptions (*types & sections*): 15301 – Operation, repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use; 15302 –replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site...and will have substantially the same purpose...; and 15304—minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees including filling of earth into previously excavated land with material compatible with the natural features of the site, and minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.

Reasons why project is exempt: The project involves negligible or no expansion of use of existing trails in public park; involves replacement of existing facilities on the same site for the same purpose; would be replaced with material compatible with the natural features of the site; and would involve minor backfilling where the surface is restored. Short term impacts on air quality, biological resources, aesthetics, noise, and greenhouse gas may occur from the use of heavy-duty equipment at the site. However, any project impacts would be relatively short term and temporary. Additionally, pre-existing avoidance and minimization measures will be implemented that will avoid or reduce impacts to biological resources. After completion of the project, there would be a beneficial impact on biological resources, geology and soils, and hydrology and water quality from stabilizing soils and the prevention of runoff and water quality contamination into the Carmel River corridor from removing the decomposed granite. No project impacts are anticipated for recreation, utilities/service systems, cultural resources, land use/planning, population/housing, wildfire, energy, hazards/hazardous materials, mineral resources, public services, or tribal cultural resources. The proposed project would not have a significant impact on any resources, nor would it require mitigation. None of the exceptions to categorical exemptions apply to the Project.

This is to certify that the record of project approval and the previously adopted negative Declaration are available to the General Public at: Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District Headquarters, 4860 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel CA 93923

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Lead Agency Contact: Jacob Smith, Planning & Conservation Program Manager
Phone: (831) 372-3196 ext. 116

Signature: Jacob Smith Date: 2/12/24
Jacob Smith
Planning & Conservation Program Manager

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant Date received at OPR: 2/12/24