

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: Street Address:
 P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
 County of: _____
 Address: _____

From:

Public Agency: County of Santa Clara
 Address: 298 Garden Hill Drive
Los Gatos, CA 95032
 Contact: Kimberly Brosseau, Senior Planner
 Phone: (408) 355-2230

Lead Agency (if different from above): _____
 Address: _____

 Contact: _____
 Phone: _____

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

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): SCH#2020090249

Project Title: Joseph D. Grant County Park Master Plan Amendment

Project Applicant: County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department

Project Location (include county): 18405 Mount Hamilton Road, San Jose (Santa Clara County)

Project Description:

See attached project description.

This is to advise that the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors has approved the above
 (Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)

described project on January 26, 2021 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
 (date)
 described project.

1. The project [will will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [were were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [was was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [was was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [were were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

www.parkhere.org/JDGrantMPAmendment (online due to COVID and Shelter in Place Policy)

Signature (Public Agency): Kimberly Brosseau Title: Senior Planner

Date: January 29, 2021 Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Project Description for Joseph D. Grant County Park Master Plan Amendment (SCH #2020090249)

The Proposed Project is a Master Plan Amendment for Joseph D. Grant County Park. The Master Plan Amendment would provide for public use and access of the former Sulphur Springs Ranch by creating two new backpack camps for use by backpackers: Sulphur Springs Ranch Backpack Camp and Valley Oak Backpack Camp; The Master Plan Amendment would also include construction of required infrastructure to support the proposed camping uses and trail access.

New Campsites

Sulphur Springs Ranch Backpack Camp would be located on a grassy hilltop in the northwest Amendment area. Sulphur Springs Ranch Backpack Camp would offer seven campsites one larger group site. The campsites would include a flat area of compacted earth, a metal food locker, and an embedded pad for camp stove cooking.

The Valley Oak Backpack Camp would be more remotely situated approximately one mile directly east of the Sulphur Springs Ranch Backpack Camp. Valley Oak Backpack Camp would offer five individual sites. The campsites would include a flat area of compacted earth, a metal food locker, and an embedded pad for camp stove cooking. No toilet facility would be provided at this location.

Staging Area

An existing staging area, Stockman's Group Picnic Area, would be utilized as staging for overnight visitors who have reservations at one of the new backpack camps. The Stockman's Group Picnic Area is located near the main Park entrance and includes a permanent restroom building and numerous parking stalls. It would be an approximately 6-mile hike from this access point to the proposed camps.

Backcountry Toilet

A new toilet would be added at the Sulphur Springs Ranch Backpack Camp. The backcountry toilet would be a vault-type toilet and ADA compliant. Development would include installation of a backcountry vault toilet at the Sulphur Springs Ranch Backpack Camp and improvements to the ranch road leading from State Route 130 (Mount Hamilton Road) to allow installation and maintenance of the toilet.

Access Roads and Trails

Several ranch roads would be repurposed as trails for public use while other roads would be converted to operations and maintenance access roads or decommissioned. Nearly two miles of new trail would be constructed, three miles of existing ranch roads would be repurposed as multi-use trails and over one mile would be repurposed as an operations and maintenance access only road; two miles of ranch road would be decommissioned.

The new Sulphur Springs Ranch Trail would connect Smith Creek Trail to the Sulphur Springs Ranch Backpack Camp. This new trail would be developed from a segment of repurposed ranch road and two segments of newly constructed trail and is approximately 0.5-mile in length.

The Smith Creek Trail is an existing Park trail that would be extended into the Amendment area to connect to the Valley Oak Backpack Camp. This trail extension would be developed from a segment of new trail that connects to a new bridge over Sulphur Creek and a segment repurposed of ranch road. The trail extension alignment follows Smith Creek on the northeast bank for a section and then climbs the slope terminating at Valley Oak Backpack Camp. The segment of new trail and the extension combined are approximately 0.5-mile.

The new Isabel Ridge Trail begins at a junction with Smith Creek Trail and climbs Isabel Ridge, offering visitors sweeping views of the Western Diablo Range. Isabel Ridge Trail would be developed from repurposed ranch road and is nearly two miles in length.

The Manzanita Trail is an existing Park trail that would be extended into the Amendment area to connect to Smith Creek Trail. A segment of the Manzanita Trail would be decommissioned from public use and converted to access road. From the junction with the access road, the alignment of Manzanita Trail would be extended in a southeasterly direction toward the Amendment area's southern boundary, at which point it would cross Smith Creek. The trail would cross the creek as a wet crossing, meaning there would not be a bridge. From Smith Creek the trail would continue northwesterly until it connects at a junction with Smith Creek Trail. The Manzanita Trail extension is over one mile of new trail construction.