



CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Notice of Intent to Adopt Negative Declaration

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION For the Parks and Recreation Plan and General Plan Element Update (City File EID-0150-2021)

The City of San Luis Obispo (City) has completed an Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the proposed Parks and Recreation Plan and General Plan Element Update (City of San Luis Obispo; Citywide). Based on the results of the IS/ND, adoption of the Update would not result in any significant environmental impacts.

The City's current Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) and Parks and Recreation Element (PRE) was adopted in 2001. The PRMP/PRE needs to be updated to address the City's changing population and physical environment and the associated demands for new and/or improved community recreation facilities and programs. Therefore, in 2018, the City embarked on a process to update its Parks and Recreation Plan and PRE, and the title of this update is *Parks + Recreation Blueprint for the Future: 2021-2041 Parks and Recreation Plan and General Plan Element Update (Plan Update)*. The Draft Plan Update evaluates the condition and capacity of the City's existing parks and facilities, develops a strategy for maintaining and enhancing these facilities, and considers how new parks and facilities should be provided over the coming years. The combined Draft Plan Update revisits the City's recreational needs with fresh information about facility usage, program participation, and community priorities and preferences and then establishes goals, policies, and implementing actions to serve as a blueprint from which to guide the City in achieving its Parks and Recreation vision. The Draft Plan Update addresses the type, location, and timing of development of City parks and recreation facilities. Although the update retains similar policies and programs as established in the 2001 PRMP/PRE, there are also new policies and programs that address these changing conditions. Chapter 4, Goals and Policies, of the Draft Plan Update, includes over 50 policies to achieve the following five system-wide goals: Build Community and Neighborhoods; Meet the Changing Needs of the Community; Sustainability; Optimize Resources; and Safety.

Chapter 5, Implementation, of the Draft Plan Update, describes the need for recreation amenities within the City, provides a framework for locating these amenities, and identifies near-term, mid-term, and long-term projects. As a policy document, the Draft Plan Update does not authorize any physical development or improvements; instead, it is intended to guide development of future parks and recreation projects within the City. Therefore, consistent with Section 15168(c)(1) of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, the IS/ND evaluates program-level actions that describe planned park and recreation facilities and programs and focuses primarily on the Draft Plan Update's consistency with adopted City plans, goals, objectives, and standards. Future proposed physical improvements that are subject to discretionary approval would be subject to separate environmental review on a project-specific basis, in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Policy Act (CEQA) and the *State CEQA Guidelines*. Once adopted, the Draft Plan Update will be finalized and become part of the City's

General Plan.

Reference copies of the IS/ND are available on the City's website at <https://www.slocity.org/government/department-directory/community-development/documents-online/environmental-review-documents>. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact Shawna Scott at sscott@slocity.org or (805) 781-7176 to arrange for an alternative means to view the study, as the City offices are currently closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated Shelter at Home Order. The required 30-day public review period for the Negative Declaration will extend from Thursday, March 25, 2021 to Monday, April 26, 2021. Anyone interested in commenting on the document should submit a written statement to the City of San Luis Obispo, Community Development Department, 919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, Attention: Shawna Scott, Senior Planner, or by email to sscott@slocity.org, by 5:00 p.m., April 26, 2021.

Hearings are tentatively scheduled with the City of San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Commission on April 7 and May 12, 2021 to evaluate the project. Interested persons can access the Parks and Recreation Commission agenda at <https://www.slocity.org/government/advisory-bodies/agendas-and-minutes/parks-and-recreation-commission> to locate the agenda of the public hearing for this project. Additional hearings will include review by the Planning Commission (tentatively scheduled for May 26, 2021) and City Council (tentatively scheduled for May 4, Study Session, and July 6, 2021, consideration of the Plan Update and IS/ND).