

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 29, 2021

**To:** John Akeman, Park Planning Manager, County of Monterey Department of Public Works, Facilities, & Parks

**FROM:** Pam Reading, Principal in Charge/Senior Environmental Planner

**SUBJECT:** Categorical Exemption for the San Lorenzo Park Project, Monterey County, California

This memorandum was prepared to support a Categorical Exemption (CE) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed San Lorenzo Park Project (proposed project) in Monterey County, California. The County of Monterey (County) is proposing improvements to San Lorenzo Park (SLP) (project site) at 1160 Broadway Street, along the Salinas River.

Article 19 of the *State CEQA Guidelines* includes, as required by Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21084, a list of classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and, as a result, are exempt from review under CEQA. This document has been prepared to serve as the basis for compliance with CEQA as it pertains to the proposed project. This document demonstrates that the proposed project qualifies for a CEQA Exemption as a New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (Class 3) and as a Small Habitat Restoration Project (Class 33), consistent with the provisions of *State CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15303, 15333, and 15300.2, and provides information for the County as the Lead Agency regarding a finding that the proposed project is exempt under CEQA.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### Project Location and Setting

The project site is located at 1160 Broadway Street just outside King City, Monterey County, California. The project site is owned and operated by the County Department of Public Works, Facilities, and Parks. The Salinas River is located approximately 500 feet (ft) south of SLP. The primary project site access is provided by Broadway Street, which borders the northern perimeter of SLP. Regional vehicular access to the project site is provided by United States Route 101 (US-101), which is located approximately 0.2 miles (mi) southeast of the project site. Figure 1 (all figures are in Attachment A) shows the project location.

#### Existing Conditions

The project site is currently developed with existing park and recreational uses associated with SLP. SLP offers day-use facilities including picnic areas, a gazebo, playgrounds, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts, softball areas, and a walking trail along the banks of the Salinas River. SLP offers over 90

campsites including tent camping and recreational vehicle (RV) hookups and pull-through sites, and has a large-group picnic area and meeting facilities available for reservation. SLP is also home to the Monterey County Agricultural and Rural Life Museum, which comprises various buildings and exhibits, including the following: Exhibit Barn, Blacksmith Shop, Irrigation Building, Spreckels House, La Gloria Schoolhouse, and the King City Depot.<sup>1</sup>

### Project Vicinity and Surrounding Land Uses

According to the County Land Use Plan for Central Salinas Valley, the project site is designated as a national forest boundary associated with the San Lorenzo Recreation Area.<sup>2</sup> Per the County Zoning Code, the project site is zoned as a Public/Quasi-Public Zoning District.<sup>3</sup> Agricultural uses surround the project site to the north, west and south, and residential uses are to the west of the project site.

### Proposed Project

The County is proposing the following improvements to SLP:

- Installation of a splash pad
- Construction of a perimeter recreation trail
- Construction of an outdoor classroom
- Habitat Enhancement Area
- Removal of two existing play structures
- Installation of two new play structures in a new location
- Renovation of five existing barbeque areas
- Installation of five new Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliant barbeque areas

These improvements are shown on Figure 2 and are described in more detail below. The County intends to pay for the improvements with grant money received from the Statewide Park Program (SPP).

### Proposed Improvements

#### *Splash Pad*

The proposed project would install an approximately 100 by 80 square-foot splash pad with a recirculating water pump system. The splash pad would require water, electrical, and sewer connections. The splash pad would include a prefabricated restroom building with utility storage, an outdoor shower, 8-foot (ft) benches made of recyclable materials, picnic tables made of recyclable materials with an overhead shade structure, a drinking fountain, trash/recycle receptacles, and lockers for visitor storage. The splash pad would have a 4 ft perimeter safety fence and include signage portraying facility information, rules, and regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> City of King. 2016. San Lorenzo Park. Website: <http://www.kingcity.com/for-visitors/san-lorenzo-park/> (accessed April 15, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> Monterey County Resource Management Agency. 2012. Monterey County Land Use Plan, Central Salinas Valley. August 20.

<sup>3</sup> County of Monterey. 2021. GIS Webapps. Website: <https://montereyco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/InformationLookup/index.html?appid=1dce0909198142128bc57aee61c811ea> (accessed April 12, 2021).

### *Perimeter Recreation Trail*

The proposed project would construct a 4 ft wide paved pedestrian and bicycle trail with a 2 ft wide decomposed granite shoulder that would traverse the perimeter of the park and provide connection to a system of trails near the Salinas River and the King City regional trail. The recreational trail would provide interpretation of natural, cultural, and recreational resources via signage placed along the trail. The recreational trail would include a trail head/staging area; 6 ft redwood benches; trash/recycle receptacles; a drinking fountain; post mile markers (0.25 mi increments); a bike rack; an air pump/compressor; signage portraying directions, rules, and regulations; and a parcourse (with 5 stations).

### *Outdoor Classroom*

The proposed project would construct a plaza area as an extension of the existing agricultural museum and outdoor barn. The plaza would function as an outdoor classroom to be used to meet the State requirements for interpretation of natural, cultural, and recreational resources as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade educational program. The plaza/outdoor classroom would include an accessible path of travel between the adjacent parking lot and plaza area with interpretive exhibits and displays.

### *Habitat Enhancement Area*

The proposed project includes a habitat enhancement area within SLP near the park's entrance. Enhancement efforts would include phased removal of aging eucalyptus trees to be replanted at a 5:1 mitigation ratio consisting of successional replanting of the upper canopy native trees and native vegetation understory with species that provide symbiotic benefits. The proposed project would also include installation of a bio swale to provide storm water retention, an irrigation system, a pathway, redwood benches, interpretive signs providing plant identification information, and fencing to match the existing corral style perimeter fencing at SLP.

### *Play Structures*

The proposed project would remove two existing play structures, which would be replaced at a new inclusive play area. The new inclusive play area would include two children's play structures for 2-to-5-year-olds and 5-to-12-year-olds. The new structures would be compliant with the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission's guidelines for public playgrounds and ADA. The play area would include additional play components and have a similar theme (agriculture/nature) as the proposed splash pad. The play area would include amenities such as 8 ft benches made of recyclable materials; picnic tables made of recyclable materials; a drinking fountain; trash/recycle receptacles; signage portraying facility information, rules, and regulations; landscaping; and an overhead shade structure. An ADA pathway would be installed from the existing parking area to the play area. Following removal of the existing play structures, the site would be restored to park area by grading and reseeding the turf.

### *Barbeque Areas*

The proposed project would include the renovation of five existing barbeque areas and the installation of five new individual ADA-compliant barbeque areas. Each of the new barbeque areas would be 400 square feet and provide a picnic table on a decomposed granite pad, a barbeque grill,

an electrical hookup, trash/recycle receptacles, and an overhead shade structure. An ADA pathway would be installed from the existing parking area to each barbeque area.

### Project Construction

Construction would take approximately 32 months and would occur in a single phase. Project construction is expected to start in July 2022.

### EXEMPTIONS

Article 19 of the *State CEQA Guidelines* includes, as required by PRC Section 21084, a list of classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and, as a result, are exempt from review under CEQA. This document has been prepared to serve as the basis for compliance with CEQA as it pertains to the proposed project, and to demonstrate that the proposed project qualifies for a CEQA Exemption as a New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures and as a Small Habitat Restoration Project, consistent with the provisions of *State CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15303, 15333, and 15300.2. Specifically, the information provided herein shows the following:

- a. The project qualifies for an exemption under *State CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15303 (i.e., Class 3) and 15333 (Class 33) and, as a result, would not have a significant effect on the environment.
- b. The analysis shows there are no exceptions to qualifying for the exemption, as identified in *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15300.2.

*State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, defines Class 3 projects as those consisting of the following: “construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. The numbers of structures described in this section are the maximum allowable on any legal parcel.” Section 15303(d) allows water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction. Section 15303(e) allows for accessory (appurtenant) structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences.

As described in the Project Description, the proposed project would include the construction of new, small recreational structures associated with the existing SLP, in addition to new water, electrical, and sewer connections. Therefore, the proposed project properly qualifies for an exemption under *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15303.

*State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15333, Small Habitat Restoration Projects, defines Class 33 projects as those consisting of the following: “projects not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife provided that: a) there would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to section 15065; b) there are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed; and c) the project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other

current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.” As described in Section 15333(d), such restoration projects may include revegetation of disturbed areas with native plant species and stream or riverbank revegetation.

As described in the Project Description, the proposed project also includes a habitat enhancement area within SLP near the park’s entrance. The proposed improvements would be located within SLP’s existing boundary and would not exceed 5 acres (ac) in size. In addition, as further described below, the proposed project would not create a significant adverse impact on special-status species or habitat, disturb or remove hazardous materials, or result in cumulative impacts. Therefore, the proposed project properly qualifies for an exemption under *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15333.

As the proposed project properly qualifies for an exemption under *State CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15303 (i.e., Class 3) and 15333 (Class 33), the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment. Additionally, the following analysis shows there are no exceptions to qualifying for the CE, as identified in *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15300.2.

## EXCEPTIONS TO CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS

In addition to investigating the applicability of *State CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15303 (Class 3) and 15333 (Class 33) to the proposed project, this memorandum assesses whether any of the exceptions to qualifying for the CE are present. The following analysis compares the criteria of *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15300.2 (Exceptions) to the proposed project. As described in the analysis below, LSA has determined that none of the exceptions are applicable to the proposed project.

### Criterion 15300.2(a): Location

- a. Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located—a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, State, or local agencies.*

Although the proposed project is located adjacent to the Salinas River, as discussed under Criterion 15300.2(c): Significant Effect below, the proposed project would not result in significant effects on the environment. Furthermore, the proposed project would benefit the surrounding natural community, as it would include a habitat enhancement area within SLP near the park’s entrance. In addition, the proposed project would not result in any impacts on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern. Therefore, the exception under *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15300.1(a) does not apply to the proposed project.

### Criterion 15300.2(b): Cumulative Impact

- b. Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.*

A cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment that results from the incremental impact of a project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably

foreseeable probable future projects (*State CEQA Guidelines* §15355(b)). Related projects considered to have the potential of creating cumulative impacts in association with the proposed project consist of projects that are reasonably foreseeable and that would be constructed or operated during the life of the proposed project.

There are no probable future projects or related projects within the vicinity of the project site.<sup>1,2</sup> Therefore, the proposed project would not result in any cumulative impacts in combination with recent or future projects. The proposed project would also not result in any long-term or growth-inducing impacts that would be cumulatively considerable when viewed with any subsequent projects in the same location. No permanent or long-term effects, such as loss of wetlands or other sensitive natural communities, take of special-status species, increased vehicle trips, or creation of stationary sources of air and noise emissions, would occur as part of the proposed project. Although the proposed project would include a phased removal of aging eucalyptus trees, the trees would be replanted at a 5:1 mitigation ratio consisting of successional replanting of the upper-canopy native trees and native vegetation understory with species that provide symbiotic benefits. Furthermore, the effects of the proposed project would generally be beneficial, as the proposed project would provide upgraded recreational facilities to the local and regional community and would enhance the habitat area near the park entrance. Thus, the proposed project's contributions to potential cumulative impacts would not be cumulatively considerable, and the exception under *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15300.2(b) does not apply to the proposed project.

#### Criterion 15300.2(c): Significant Effect

*c. Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

No unusual circumstances have been identified in or around the project site that would result in significant environmental impacts. The proposed project involves the construction of upgraded recreational facilities and the enhancement of a habitat area within an existing park. Furthermore, based on field reviews of the project site and review of the pertinent literature, as described below, the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts as defined under CEQA is negligible. With the implementation of standard regulatory compliance measures, there would be no significant environmental impacts under CEQA. Therefore, the exception under *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15300.2(c) does not apply to the proposed project.

#### Aesthetics

The proposed project is located within an existing park that is currently developed with day-use and overnight recreational facilities. Proposed structures would be visually compatible with the existing use of the site. As further described below under the discussion of Criterion 15300.2(d): Scenic

<sup>1</sup> King City Community Development Department. 2021. Current Public Review Documents. Website: <http://www.kingcity.com/city-departments/community-development-department/> (accessed April 14, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> County of Monterey. 2021. Current Major Projects. Website: <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-i-z/resource-management-agency-rma-/public-works-facilities/current-major-projects> (accessed April 14, 2021).

Highway, no scenic vistas or highways are located within the vicinity of the project site. No new sources of light or glare would be constructed as part of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact scenic views or scenic resources, degrade the existing visual character or quality of the project site, or create a new source of substantial light or glare.

#### *Agriculture and Forestry Resources*

The project site is an existing park that is currently developed with day-use and overnight recreational facilities. No agriculture or forestry resources currently exist within the existing park/ project site or would be impacted due to development of the proposed project.

#### *Air Quality*

During construction, short-term degradation of air quality may occur due to the release of particulate emissions generated by grading and other earthmoving activities. Emissions from construction equipment are also anticipated. The Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) has developed screening criteria in its CEQA Air Quality Guidelines to provide lead agencies with a conservative indication of whether the proposed project would result in potentially significant air quality impacts. If the proposed project is below the screening criteria, then the lead agency would not need to perform a detailed air quality assessment of the proposed project's emissions. For construction sites with earthmoving (grading and/or excavation), the MBARD screening size is 2.2 ac per day. Since construction of the proposed project would disturb less than 2.2 ac per day, based on the MBARD screening criteria, construction of the proposed project would not result in short-term air quality impacts.

Long-term air pollutant emission impacts are those associated with mobile sources (e.g., vehicle trips), energy sources (e.g., electricity), and area sources (e.g., landscape maintenance equipment use) related to the proposed project. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a significant increase in the generation of vehicle trips that would increase air pollutant emissions. The proposed project would result in low levels of area source emissions associated with landscape maintenance and off-site emissions due to energy generation. However, these emissions would be minimal and would not exceed the pollutant thresholds established by MBARD.

Since the proposed project would not result in significant construction- or operation-related air quality impacts, the proposed project would not conflict with applicable air quality plans and would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. In addition, the proposed project would not result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in short- or long term air quality impacts.

#### *Biological Resources*

The project site is currently developed with existing park and recreational uses. Existing recreational facilities include group picnic areas and tables, campsites, RV hookups, children's play areas, volleyball courts, softball fields, a museum, and a walking trail along the park perimeter.

An LSA biologist conducted a literature review and records search on April 9, 2021, to identify existing occurrence records of special-status plant and animal species in the vicinity of the project

site. Database records from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB)—RareFind 5, and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California were utilized to assist in determining the existence or potential occurrence of any special-status plant and animal species<sup>1</sup> in or immediately adjacent to the project site. Similarly, LSA reviewed the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) online system<sup>2</sup> and the USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper,<sup>3</sup> which present candidate, threatened, and endangered species; crucial habitat; national wildlife refuges; and/or migratory birds that occur within or near a defined search area. The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory<sup>4</sup> was also reviewed to determine whether any potential wetlands or surface waters had been previously identified on the site. CNDDDB records within a 5 mi radius surrounding the project site are included in Appendix B.

A field survey of the project site and surrounding areas was conducted on April 9, 2021, to document existing site conditions and the potential presence of sensitive biological resources.

The project site consists of nonnative grassland and landscaped and developed areas. Habitat on the project site is considered low quality. No sensitive natural vegetation communities or special-status wildlife species were identified on the project site during the field surveys (refer to Figure 3), and no special-status plant or wildlife species are expected to occur within the project site due to the lack of suitable habitat and developed/maintained conditions present in all portions of the project site. A total of 25 wildlife species were observed on or near the project site during the April 2021 field survey. However, the species that were observed commonly occur in and around open space and developed areas throughout California (e.g., house finch [*Haemorhous mexicanus*], mourning dove [*Zenaida macroura*], and black phoebe [*Sayornis nigricans*]). No aquatic resource areas (e.g., wetlands, vernal pools, or critical habitats for sensitive species) were observed on the project site during the field survey. Additionally, there are no water bodies or drainage features on the project site that may be subject to jurisdiction by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and/or CDFW. Furthermore, the project site does not function as a wildlife movement corridor.

The proposed project includes removing the existing eucalyptus grove near the park entrance and replacing it with native vegetation. Eucalyptus trees are not subject to the 2010 Monterey County

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<sup>1</sup> The term “special-status species” refers to those species that are listed or proposed for listing under the California Endangered Species Act and/or Federal Endangered Species Act, California Fully Protected Species, California Species of Special Concern, and California Special Animals. It should be noted that “Species of Special Concern” and “California Special Animal” are administrative designations made by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and carry no formal legal protection status. However, Section 15380 of the *State CEQA Guidelines* indicates that these species should be included in an analysis of project impacts if they can be shown to meet the criteria of sensitivity outlined therein.

<sup>2</sup> United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2021. IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation. Website: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/> (accessed April 2021).

<sup>3</sup> USFWS. 2021. National Wetlands Inventory. Wetlands Mapper. Website: <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/Mapper.html> (accessed April 2021).

<sup>4</sup> USFWS. 2021. National Wetlands Inventory. Wetlands. Website: <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/> (accessed April 2021).

Zoning Ordinance for tree removals;<sup>1</sup> therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. Furthermore, the project site is not covered by and therefore would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan or other adopted local, regional, or state approved habitat conservation plan. Replacing the eucalyptus grove with native vegetation will result in a net increase of native habitat and biological resource functions and values and would result in a beneficial impact to biological resources.

Project construction could involve the removal of trees and vegetation that provide nesting habitat for a variety of resident and migratory bird and raptor species. Nesting birds are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the California Fish and Game Code. Therefore, project contract specifications would stipulate that vegetation removal should occur outside the nesting season if possible, which is typically between January 1 through September 15. If vegetation removal or construction activities during the nesting season are not avoidable, project contract specifications would stipulate that, in compliance with the MBTA and the California Fish and Game Code, the County should retain a qualified biologist to conduct a preconstruction survey within 36 hours prior to construction activities. The survey area should include the proposed construction site and surrounding habitat areas that could be indirectly impacted by increased noise and vibration. If active bird nests are observed within the direct and/or indirect disturbance limits, the qualified biologist should identify an appropriately sized exclusion zone around the nest in which no work would be allowed until the qualified biologist determines that the nest is no longer active.

Project construction could involve the removal of trees and vegetation that provide roosting habitat for bat species. All bats are protected from take as nongame mammals under Section 4150 of the California Fish and Game Code. Therefore, to ensure compliance with Section 4150 of the California Fish and Game Code, project contract specifications should stipulate that the County retain a qualified biologist to conduct a preconstruction survey for roosting bats within a week prior to tree removal or trimming activities. If nonvolant (flightless) bats are found to be roosting in trees scheduled for removal or trimming, tree removal/trimming activities should not occur. Tree removal and trimming activities may commence once the qualified biologist confirms that the nonvolant roosting bats are absent. The qualified biologist should continue monitoring for nonvolant bats until the tree removal and trimming activities are complete.

### *Cultural Resources*

Please refer to the discussion below under Criterion 15300.2(f), Historical Resources.

### *Energy*

Energy use from utilizing construction equipment would be short-term and temporary. Energy use during operation would include a small amount of electricity use. As such, construction and operation of the proposed project would not result in the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary

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<sup>1</sup> County of Monterey. 2013. Monterey County Municipal Code. Title 16. Environment. Chapter 16.60— Preservation of Oak and Other Protected Trees. Website: [https://library.municode.com/ca/monterey\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=TIT16EN\\_CH16.60PROAOTPRTR](https://library.municode.com/ca/monterey_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT16EN_CH16.60PROAOTPRTR) (accessed April 21, 2021).

consumption of fuel or energy. Furthermore, the proposed project would not conflict or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or for addressing energy efficiency.

### *Geology and Soils*

The project site, like most of California, would be subject to seismic ground shaking in the event of an earthquake. The proposed project would be required to comply with the California Building Code (CBC) in effect at the time of construction and would not exacerbate an existing geologic or seismic hazard. Furthermore, the project site is not located within a known earthquake fault zone, liquefaction zone, or landslide zone.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts related to geology and soils.

### *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*

Construction activities, such as site preparation, excavation, on-site heavy-duty construction vehicles, equipment hauling materials to and from the site, and motor vehicles transporting the construction crew, would produce combustion emissions from various sources. However, due to the small area of disturbance and limited number of project improvements, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions during construction would be negligible. In addition, operation of the proposed project would generate minimal GHG emissions associated with vehicle trips, electricity, and activities such as landscaping and routine maintenance. However, these emissions would be minimal and would not exceed thresholds established by MBARD. As such, the proposed project would not generate substantial GHG emissions that may have a significant impact on the environment and would not conflict with any applicable plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions.

### *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*

Please refer to the discussion below under Criterion 15300.2(e), Hazardous Waste Sites.

### *Hydrology and Water Quality*

Construction activities would involve disturbance, grading, and excavation of soil, which could result in temporary erosion and movement of sediments into the storm drain system, particularly during precipitation events. However, the proposed project would comply with all applicable National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements to reduce impacts to water quality. If project construction results in the disturbance of greater than 1 ac of soil, the proposed project would be subject to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Storm Water Runoff Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000002, as amended by Order Nos. 2010-0014-DWQ and 2012-0006-DWQ) (Construction General Permit). If compliance with the Construction General Permit is required, the County and its contractor would be required to prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and best management practices (BMPs), including, but not limited to, erosion control and sediment control BMPs designed to minimize erosion and retain sediment on site, and good housekeeping BMPs to prevent spills, leaks, and discharge of construction debris and waste into receiving waters. Regardless, because of the

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<sup>1</sup> California Department of Conservation. 2016. Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation. Website: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/> (accessed April 15, 2021).

small amount of ground disturbance during construction, project construction activities have a low potential to impact water quality. Furthermore, proposed improvements would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, and the resulting increase in storm water runoff associated with implementation of the proposed project would be minimal due to the small increase in impervious surface. In addition, as part of the habitat enhancement, the proposed project would include installation of a bio swale to provide storm water retention. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts associated with hydrology and water quality.

### *Land Use and Planning*

The proposed project involves improvements within an existing park that is currently developed with day-use and overnight recreational facilities and therefore would not divide an established community. In addition, the proposed project does not propose or require any changes to the land use or zoning designations. Therefore, the proposed project would not have impacts associated with land use and planning.

### *Mineral Resources*

The project site is located within the Central Salinas Valley planning area, which does not contain any known mineral resources of value as designated by the State Geologist.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the proposed project would not impact mineral resources.

### *Noise*

The County Municipal Code limits loud and unreasonable noise within unincorporated areas of the County between the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. the following morning. Loud and unreasonable noise includes any sound that is audible at a distance of 50 ft in any direction from the source of sound or any sound that exceeds the nighttime hourly equivalent continuous sound level ( $L_{eq}$ ) (45 A-weighted decibels [dBA]) or the maximum noise level (65 dBA). Construction of the proposed project would be restricted to the daytime hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. as allowed by the County Municipal Code. Therefore, the proposed project would have no construction-related noise impacts.

Since the proposed project involves upgrading existing recreational facilities, noise generated from daily operational use of the proposed project would be similar to noise currently generated by existing uses at the site. The proposed project would not result in a significant increase in the generation of vehicle trips; therefore, the proposed project would also not result in an increase in vehicle noise at the project site. Furthermore, given the nature of the existing uses at the site and the proposed park improvement, the proposed project does not include any sources of stationary noise (e.g., a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning [HVAC] system). Therefore, implementation of the proposed project does not result in impacts associated with stationary noise. Therefore, the proposed project would have no long-term noise impacts.

### *Population and Housing*

The proposed project includes improvements to an existing park currently developed with day-use and overnight recreational facilities. The proposed project would not directly induce population

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<sup>1</sup> County of Monterey. 2008. Monterey County 2007 General Plan Environmental Impact Report: Mineral Resources. September.

growth in the region, as it is intended for use by the existing population. Although the proposed project would involve new utility connections, the proposed project will tie into existing infrastructure and will not involve the construction or extension of existing infrastructure (e.g., roads or sewer lines) that will indirectly induce population growth. Additionally, the proposed project is located within an existing park and therefore would not displace existing people or housing. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts to population and housing.

#### *Public Services*

The proposed project includes improvements to an existing park currently developed with day-use and overnight recreational facilities. The proposed project improvements would not require additional public services (e.g., fire protection, police protection, schools, or parks) beyond what currently exists. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts to public services.

#### *Recreation*

The proposed project includes improvements to an existing park currently developed with day-use and overnight recreational facilities. Although development of the proposed project may result in increased use of the existing SLP, the intent of the proposed project is to improve the overall character and condition of the project site to accommodate existing and future visitor use. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the physical deterioration of the existing SLP as a result of an increase in visitors. Additionally, the proposed project involves improvements to a recreational facility and therefore would not require the construction or expansion of other recreational facilities that may have adverse physical effects on the environment. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts associated with recreational facilities.

#### *Transportation*

As a result of adoption and enactment of Senate Bill (SB) 743 by the California legislature, delay and level of service (LOS) are no longer criteria for determination of transportation impacts in CEQA. With the current *State CEQA Guidelines*, transportation impacts are to be evaluated based on a project's effect on vehicle miles traveled (VMT). VMT is the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project. For agencies and jurisdictions that have not yet adopted or established VMT guidelines or thresholds, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA (TA)*, dated December 2018, provides guidance for analyzing a project's impacts related to VMT. The OPR TA recommends that a project generating 110 average daily trips or fewer be screened from a VMT analysis due to the presumption of a less than significant impact. The proposed project would upgrade recreational facilities within the existing SLP. Although the proposed project may generate additional trips to and from the project site, it is unlikely to generate more than 100 ADT. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a substantial or measurable increase in VMT. In addition, the proposed project would maintain the existing access driveways and would not require any improvements to the existing roadways adjacent to the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts related to design hazards, incompatible uses, or inadequate emergency access. The proposed project would not result in transportation-related impacts.

### *Tribal Cultural Resources*

As discussed under Criterion 15300.2(f): Historic Resources below, the proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of the *State CEQA Guidelines*. In addition, given the previous disturbance of the project site and the negative findings during the site survey, the likelihood of encountering subsurface tribal cultural resources during ground-disturbing activities is low. Furthermore, AB 52 consultation is not required for categorically exempt projects. Therefore, impacts to tribal cultural resources would not occur.

### *Utilities and Service Systems*

The project site is currently served by existing utility service providers. The proposed project would upgrade recreational facilities within the existing SLP, connecting to existing utility infrastructure. Given the nature the proposed park improvements (e.g., installation of a splash pad and new play structures, renovation of existing barbeque areas, construction of an outdoor classroom, construction of a perimeter trail, and replacement of a eucalyptus grove with native habitat), demand for water, wastewater treatment, storm water drainage, or electricity would be negligible. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on utilities or service systems.

### *Wildfire Hazard*

The project site is not located within any State Responsibility Areas (SRA) for fire service and is not within a very high fire hazard severity zone.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the proposed project would not exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.

### *Conclusion*

As described above, the proposed project would not result in any significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. Therefore, the exception under *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15300.2(c) does not apply to the proposed project.

### **Criterion 15300.2(d): Scenic Highway**

- d. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project, which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a State Scenic Highway. This criterion does not apply to improvements required as mitigation by an adopted Negative Declaration or certified EIR.*

The project site is not within view of an officially designated or eligible State Scenic Highway.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, no scenic resources within view of a State Scenic Highway would be altered as part of the

<sup>1</sup> California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. 2020. California Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer. Website: <https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/> (accessed April 15, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> California Department of Transportation. 2018. California State Scenic Highway System Map. Website: <https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2e921695c43643b1aaf7000dfcc19983> (accessed April 15, 2021).

proposed project, and the exception under *State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(d)* does not apply to the proposed project.

#### **Criterion 15300.2(e): Hazardous Waste Sites**

- e. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site, which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.*

The project site does not include any active storage sites listed on the SWRCB Leaking Underground Storage (LUST) database<sup>1</sup> or the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) site cleanup program,<sup>2</sup> two of the component databases of the State's Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (Cortese List) of known hazardous materials compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, no impacts associated with locating a project on a site included on a list of hazardous materials would occur, and the exception under *State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(e)* does not apply to the proposed project.

#### **Criterion 15300.2(f) Historic Resources**

- f. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project, which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.*

As documented in Attachment C, a cultural resources survey assessment (consisting of background research and a field survey) was conducted to assess the potential of the proposed project to impact cultural resources.

Background research included a record search at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC). The NWIC record search results indicate that two previous cultural resources studies have included a portion of the project site. Both studies were archaeological surveys conducted in the 1970s. An additional nine cultural resources studies, all archaeological surveys, have been conducted within 0.5 mi of the project site. The record search results indicate that no cultural resources have been recorded within the project site as a result of previous studies. Two historic-period built environment cultural resources have been recorded within 0.5 mi of the project site: P-27-002322 (El Camino Real/Highway 101) and P-27-002820 (the King City High School District). Both resources are more than 0.25 mi from the project site.

A field survey was conducted on April 21, 2021. No archaeological resources were identified during the field survey.

While sediments in the project site date to a time period that includes human occupation of the area, the project site has been subject to disturbance as a result of development since prior to 1919. Because the project does not propose any impacts to existing buildings, no historic-period buildings

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<sup>1</sup> State Water Resources Control Board. 2021. GeoTracker. Website: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=1160+Broadway+St%2C+King+City%2C+CA+93930> (accessed April 15, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> California Department of Toxic Substances Control. 2021. EnviroStor. Website: <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=1160+Broadway+St+%23+14+King+City%2C+CA+93930> (accessed April 15, 2021).

would be impacted by the proposed project. Additionally, a majority of the ground disturbance during project construction would be direct-bury, consisting of hand excavation of holes no more than 1 ft wide and 1.5 ft deep, with placement of poles directly in the holes followed by backfill, and the remaining excavation would be to a depth of no more than 2 ft at any location. Given the previous disturbance of the project site dating to before 1919, the use of the project site as a park for decades, and the small areas of ground disturbance associated with direct-bury for poles, there is a low likelihood that intact subsurface cultural resources would be encountered during proposed construction due to near-surface sediment disturbance from previous development.

There are no known historical resources as defined by CEQA that would be impacted by the proposed project. If human remains are encountered during construction activities, the regulatory process outlined in Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 must be followed, which involves coordination with the Native American Heritage Commission and a Native American Most Likely Descendant. Adherence to this code and PRC Section 5097.98, which addresses the treatment of Native American human remains, means that the proposed project would not cause an adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource. Therefore, *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15300.2(f) does not apply to the proposed project.

## SUMMARY

As described above, none of the exceptions are applicable to the proposed project. On the basis of the evidence provided above, the proposed project is eligible for Class 3 and Class 33 CEs in accordance with Sections 15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, and 15333, Small Habitat Restoration Project, of the *State CEQA Guidelines*. Because the proposed project meets the criteria for categorically exempt projects listed in *State CEQA Guidelines* Sections 15303 and 15333 and it would not have a significant effect on the environment, this analysis finds that a Notice of Exemption may be prepared for the proposed project.

Attachments: A: Figures  
B: California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) Search  
C: Cultural Resources Survey Assessment

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## ATTACHMENT A

### FIGURES



LSA

LEGEND

Project Site

FIGURE 1



0 375 750  
FEET

SOURCE: ESRI World Imagery, 2021

I:\SLP\GIS\MXD\Project Description\Figure 1\_ProjectLocation.mxd (4/10/2021)

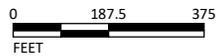
*San Lorenzo Park Project  
Monterey County, California*

**Project Location**



FIGURE 2

LSA



LEGEND

- Project Site
- Existing Trails

**Project Improvements**

- Children's Play Area
- Individual BBQ Area

- Outdoor Classroom
- Habitat Enhancement Area
- Splash Pad
- Proposed SLP Trail

*San Lorenzo Park Project*  
*Monterey County, California*  
**Project Site Plan**

SOURCE: ESRI World Imagery, 2021; Monterey County Park Concept Level Site Plan, March 2021

I:\SLP\GIS\MXD\Project Description\Figure2\_Project Site.mxd (4/21/2021)



Salinas River

LSA



Project Site

**Project Improvements**

Children's Play Area

Individual BBQ Area

Outdoor Classroom

Habitat Enhancement Area

Splash Pad

Proposed SLP Trail

**Vegetation and Land Cover**

Non-native Annual Grassland

Disturbed

Developed

Eucalyptus Grove

Ornamental Landscaping

Mixed Native and Ornamental Plantings

Ruderal

FIGURE 3

San Lorenzo Park Project  
 Monterey County, California  
 Vegetation and Land Cover

SOURCE: ESRI World Imagery, 2021; Monterey County Park Concept Level Site Plan, March 2021

I:\SLP\GIS\MXD\VegetationMap.mxd (4/21/2021)

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## ATTACHMENT B

## CNDDDB SEARCH



# Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database



Query Criteria: Quad (Paraiso Springs (3612133) OR Greenfield (3612132) OR Pinalito Canyon (3612131) OR Reliz Canyon (3612123) OR Thompson Canyon (3612122) OR San Lucas (3612121) OR Bear Canyon (3612113) OR Cosio Knob (3612112) OR Espinosa Canyon (3612111))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i> Cooper's hawk	ABNKC12040	None	None	G5	S4	WL
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird	ABPBXB0020	None	Threatened	G1G2	S1S2	SSC
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i> California tiger salamander	AAAAA01180	Threatened	Threatened	G2G3	S2S3	WL
<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i> arroyo toad	AAABB01230	Endangered	None	G2G3	S2S3	SSC
<i>Anniella pulchra</i> Northern California legless lizard	ARACC01020	None	None	G3	S3	SSC
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> pallid bat	AMACC10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> golden eagle	ABNKC22010	None	None	G5	S3	FP
<i>Ardea herodias</i> great blue heron	ABNGA04010	None	None	G5	S4	
<i>Aristocapsa insignis</i> Indian Valley spineflower	PDPGN0U010	None	None	G1	S1	1B.2
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl	ABNSB10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
<i>Bombus occidentalis</i> western bumble bee	IIHYM24250	None	Candidate Endangered	G2G3	S1	
<i>Calycadenia villosa</i> dwarf calycadenia	PDAST1P0B0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.1
<i>Camissoniopsis hardhamiae</i> Hardham's evening-primrose	PDONA030N0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<i>Caulanthus lemmonii</i> Lemmon's jewelflower	PDBRA0M0E0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
<i>Chlorogalum purpureum var. purpureum</i> Santa Lucia purple amole	PMLIL0G051	Threatened	None	G2T2	S2	1B.1
<i>Chorizanthe pungens var. pungens</i> Monterey spineflower	PDPGN040M2	Threatened	None	G2T2	S2	1B.2
<i>Clarkia jolonensis</i> Jolon clarkia	PDONA050L0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<i>Collinsia antonina</i> San Antonio collinsia	PDSCR0H010	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2



Selected Elements by Scientific Name  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<b><i>Collinsia multicolor</i></b> San Francisco collinsia	PDSCR0H0B0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i></b> Townsend's big-eared bat	AMACC08010	None	None	G4	S2	SSC
<b><i>Delphinium recurvatum</i></b> recurved larkspur	PDRAN0B1J0	None	None	G2?	S2?	1B.2
<b><i>Delphinium umbraculorum</i></b> umbrella larkspur	PDRAN0B1W0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.3
<b><i>Emys marmorata</i></b> western pond turtle	ARAAD02030	None	None	G3G4	S3	SSC
<b><i>Eriastrum luteum</i></b> yellow-flowered eriastrum	PDPLM03080	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Eriogonum butterworthianum</i></b> Butterworth's buckwheat	PDPGN080X0	None	Rare	G2	S2	1B.3
<b><i>Galium californicum ssp. luciense</i></b> Cone Peak bedstraw	PDRUB0N0E3	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.3
<b><i>Juncus luciensis</i></b> Santa Lucia dwarf rush	PMJUN013J0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
<b><i>Lavinia exilicauda harengus</i></b> Monterey hitch	AFCJB19013	None	None	G4T2T4	S2S4	SSC
<b><i>Lavinia symmetricus subditus</i></b> Monterey roach	AFCJB19026	None	None	G4T2T3	S2S3	SSC
<b><i>Layia heterotricha</i></b> pale-yellow layia	PDAST5N070	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
<b><i>Malacothamnus aboriginum</i></b> Indian Valley bush-mallow	PDMAL0Q020	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
<b><i>Malacothamnus davidsonii</i></b> Davidson's bush-mallow	PDMAL0Q040	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Malacothamnus palmeri var. involucratus</i></b> Carmel Valley bush-mallow	PDMAL0Q0B1	None	None	G3T2Q	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Masticophis flagellum ruddocki</i></b> San Joaquin coachwhip	ARADB21021	None	None	G5T2T3	S2?	SSC
<b><i>Navarretia nigelliformis ssp. radians</i></b> shining navarretia	PDPLM0C0J2	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Neotoma macrotis luciana</i></b> Monterey dusky-footed woodrat	AMAFF08083	None	None	G5T3	S3	SSC
<b><i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 9</i></b> steelhead - south-central California coast DPS	AFCHA0209H	Threatened	None	G5T2Q	S2	
<b><i>Optioservus canus</i></b> Pinnacles optioservus riffle beetle	IICOL5E020	None	None	G2	S1	
<b><i>Pentachaeta exilis ssp. aeolia</i></b> San Benito pentachaeta	PDAST6X041	None	None	G5T2	S2	1B.2



Selected Elements by Scientific Name  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<b><i>Perognathus inornatus psammophilus</i></b> Salinas pocket mouse	AMAFD01062	None	None	G2G3T2?	S1	SSC
<b><i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i></b> coast horned lizard	ARACF12100	None	None	G3G4	S3S4	SSC
<b><i>Plagiobothrys uncinatus</i></b> hooked popcornflower	PDBOR0V170	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<b><i>Rana boylei</i></b> foothill yellow-legged frog	AAABH01050	None	Endangered	G3	S3	SSC
<b><i>Rana draytonii</i></b> California red-legged frog	AAABH01022	Threatened	None	G2G3	S2S3	SSC
<b><i>Riparia riparia</i></b> bank swallow	ABPAU08010	None	Threatened	G5	S2	
<b><i>Sidalcea hickmanii ssp. hickmanii</i></b> Hickman's checkerbloom	PDMAL110A2	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.3
<b><i>Spea hammondi</i></b> western spadefoot	AAABF02020	None	None	G2G3	S3	SSC
<b><i>Taricha torosa</i></b> Coast Range newt	AAAAF02032	None	None	G4	S4	SSC
<b><i>Taxidea taxus</i></b> American badger	AMAJF04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
<b><i>Valley Oak Woodland</i></b> Valley Oak Woodland	CTT71130CA	None	None	G3	S2.1	
<b><i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i></b> least Bell's vireo	ABPBW01114	Endangered	Endangered	G5T2	S2	
<b><i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i></b> San Joaquin kit fox	AMAJA03041	Endangered	Threatened	G4T2	S2	

Record Count: 52

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## ATTACHMENT C

# CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY ASSESSMENT

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 26, 2021

**To:** John Akeman, Park Planning Manager, County of Monterey Department of Public Works, Facilities, & Parks

**FROM:** Kerrie Collison, RPA, Associate Cultural Resources Manager, LSA

**SUBJECT:** Cultural Resources Survey Assessment for the San Lorenzo Park Project in Monterey County, California (LSA Project No. MOC1601.09)

This memorandum presents the results of the cultural resources survey assessment for the proposed San Lorenzo Park Project (proposed project) in Monterey County, California. The study consisted of a background search (including a record search) and field survey. The record search was conducted to accomplish the following: (1) establish the status and extent of previously recorded sites, surveys, and excavations in and adjacent to the project site; and (2) note what site types might be expected to occur within the project site based on the existing data from archaeological sites located within 0.5 mile (mi) of the project site. All work has been completed per the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA).

### PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The existing 48-acre (ac) San Lorenzo County Park (SLP) (project site) offers day-use facilities including picnic areas, a gazebo, playgrounds, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts, softball areas, and a walking trail along the banks of the Salinas River. SLP offers over 90 campsites including tent camping and recreational vehicle (RV) hookups and pull-through sites, and it has a large-group picnic area and meeting facilities available for reservation. SLP is also home to the Monterey County Agricultural and Rural Life Museum. The project site is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Thompson Canyon, California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map in unsectioned lands of Township 20 South, Range 8 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian (USGS 1984) (Figure 1; all figures are in Attachment B). SLP is located at 1160 Broadway Street, just outside King City, along the Salinas River (Figure 2).

The County of Monterey (County) is proposing improvements to SLP and intends to pay for the improvements with grant money received from the Statewide Park Program (SPP). Based on information provided by the County, the proposed project would consist of the following improvements, which are described below with anticipated maximum excavation depths noted in parentheses (Figure 3):

- Installation of a splash pad (2 feet [ft] for utilities, 1.5 ft for direct-bury of sign poles, and 3 ft for direct-bury of shade structure poles) (Direct-bury will consist of hand excavation of holes no more than 1 ft wide with placement of poles directly in the holes followed by backfill.)

- Construction of a perimeter recreation trail (0.5 ft for trail creation and up to 3 ft for direct-bury installation of postholes for signs)
- Construction of an outdoor classroom (0.5 ft)
- Construction of a habitat enhancement area within SLP near the park's entrance (2 ft for replanting of native vegetation, 1 ft for the irrigation main line, and 1.5 ft for direct-bury of benches and fence posts)
- Removal of two existing play structures (no excavation required)
- Installation of two new play structures in a new location (2 ft for the play structures and 1.5 ft for direct-bury of footings and posts)
- Renovation of five existing barbeque areas (no excavation required)
- Installation of five new Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliant barbeque areas (0.3 ft for barbeque pads and 18 inches for direct-bury of grill posts)

## RECORD SEARCH

On April 20, 2021, Annette Neal, Researcher at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC), conducted a record search at the NWIC of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park. The NWIC, an affiliate of the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), is the official repository of cultural resources records and reports for Monterey County. The record search included a review of all recorded historic-period and prehistoric cultural resources within a 0.5 mi radius of the project site, as well as a review of known cultural resources surveys and excavation reports. The record search also included a review of the following State and federal inventories:

- Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD)<sup>1</sup>
- California Historical Landmarks (OHP 1996)
- California Points of Historical Interest (OHP 1992)
- *Five Views: An Ethnic Historic Site Survey for California* (OHP 1988)
- California Inventory of Historic Resources (OHP 1976)

The record search results (Attachment C) indicate that two previous cultural resources studies have included a portion of the project site. Both studies were archaeological surveys conducted in the 1970s. An additional nine cultural resources studies, all archaeological surveys, have been

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<sup>1</sup> California Office of Historic Preservation. Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD). Website: [https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=30338](https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30338) (accessed April 20, 2021).

conducted within 0.5 mi of the project site. The record search results indicate that no cultural resources have been recorded within the project site as a result of previous studies. Two historic-period built environment cultural resources have been recorded within 0.5 mi of the project site: P-27-002322 (El Camino Real/Highway 101) and P-27-002820 (the King City High School District). Both resources are more than 0.25 mi from the project site.

## **ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND RESEARCH**

LSA reviewed geologic maps of California to obtain information regarding sediments at the project site. Weidman (1958) mapped the project site as consisting of Quaternary alluvium with deposits dating to the Holocene Epoch, which began approximately 11,700 years ago.

LSA also reviewed aerial photographs and historic-period maps that include the project site.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of this review was to assess the potential for historic-period archaeological deposits in the project site. The oldest available aerial photograph for the project site dates to 1981, at which time the land, including the project site, was already developed. The aerial photograph dating to 1994 shows more development of the project site, which has not been subject to major changes since that development. The oldest map depicting the project site dates to 1919 and includes symbols for buildings in the project site.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY**

On April 21, 2021, LSA archaeologist Kerrie Collison, Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA), conducted a pedestrian survey of the project site. The survey, conducted utilizing transects spaced fewer than 5 meters (16.4 ft) apart, focused on proposed areas of project impact as depicted in Attachment B, Figure 3, rather than the entire 48 ac SLP site. Average ground visibility was less than 25 percent throughout due to woodchips and grass. Rodent burrow holes and backdirt piles were examined for cultural resources, and sediments were occasionally cleared to examine surficial materials. No archaeological resources were identified during the field survey.

## **SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This cultural resources survey assessment, consisting of a background research and field survey, did not identify archaeological cultural resources within the project site. The record search results also indicate that no cultural resources have been recorded within the project site as a result of previous studies. Two historic-period built environment cultural resources have been recorded within 0.5 mi of the project site. While sediments in the project site date to a time period that includes human occupation of the area, the project site has been subject to disturbance as a result of development since prior to 1919. Because the project does not propose any impacts to existing buildings, no historic-period buildings would be impacted by the proposed project. Additionally, a majority of the ground disturbance during project construction would be direct-bury, and the remainder of excavation would be to a depth of no more than 2 ft at any location. Given the previous disturbance of the project site dating to before 1919, the use of the project site as a park for decades, and the

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<sup>1</sup> National Environmental Title Research. Historic Aerials. Website: <http://www.historicaerials.com> (accessed April 25, 2021).

small areas of ground disturbance associated with direct-bury for poles, there is a low likelihood that intact subsurface cultural resources would be encountered during the proposed construction due to near-surface sediment disturbance from previous development.

There are no known historical resources as defined by CEQA that would be impacted by the proposed project. As such, no additional cultural resource studies are recommended for the proposed project, and no further review is necessary per Monterey County Code of Ordinances Section 21.66.050, Subsection D.1.a, which states, "If the Phase I Inventory of Archaeological Resources investigation reveals that the site does not contain archaeological resources, no further review is necessary unless otherwise noted by the archaeologist" (County of Monterey 2020).

If human remains are encountered during construction activities, the regulatory process outlined in Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 must be followed, which involves coordination with the Native American Heritage Commission and a Native American Most Likely Descendant. Adherence to this code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code, which addresses the treatment of Native American human remains, means that the proposed project would not cause an adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource.

If you have any questions concerning the content or the intent of this memorandum, please contact me at [kerrie.collison@lsa.net](mailto:kerrie.collison@lsa.net) or (805) 782-0745.

Attachments: A—References  
B—Project Figures  
C—Record Search Results Summary Letter

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## ATTACHMENT A

### REFERENCES

#### PUBLISHED RESOURCES

California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP)

- 1976 California Inventory of Historic Resources. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento.
- 1988 *Five Views: An Ethnic Historic Site Survey for California*. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento.
- 1992 California Points of Historical Interest. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento.
- 1996 California Historical Landmarks. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento.

County of Monterey

- 2020 Code of Ordinances Section 21.66.050, Subsection D.1.a.

Weidman, R.M.

- 1958 Geology of the King City Quadrangle, California. Scale 1:24,000. Unpublished Ph.D. thesis. University of California, Berkeley.

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

- 1984 *Thompson Canyon, California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. Published 1949; photorevised 1984. Denver, Colorado.

#### ONLINE RESOURCES

California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). Built Environment Resources Directory (BERD).

Website: [https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=30338](https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30338) (accessed April 20, 2021).

National Environmental Title Research (NETR). Historic Aerials. Website: <http://www.historic>

[aerials.com](http://www.historic.aerials.com) (accessed April 25, 2021).

**ATTACHMENT B**

**PROJECT FIGURES**

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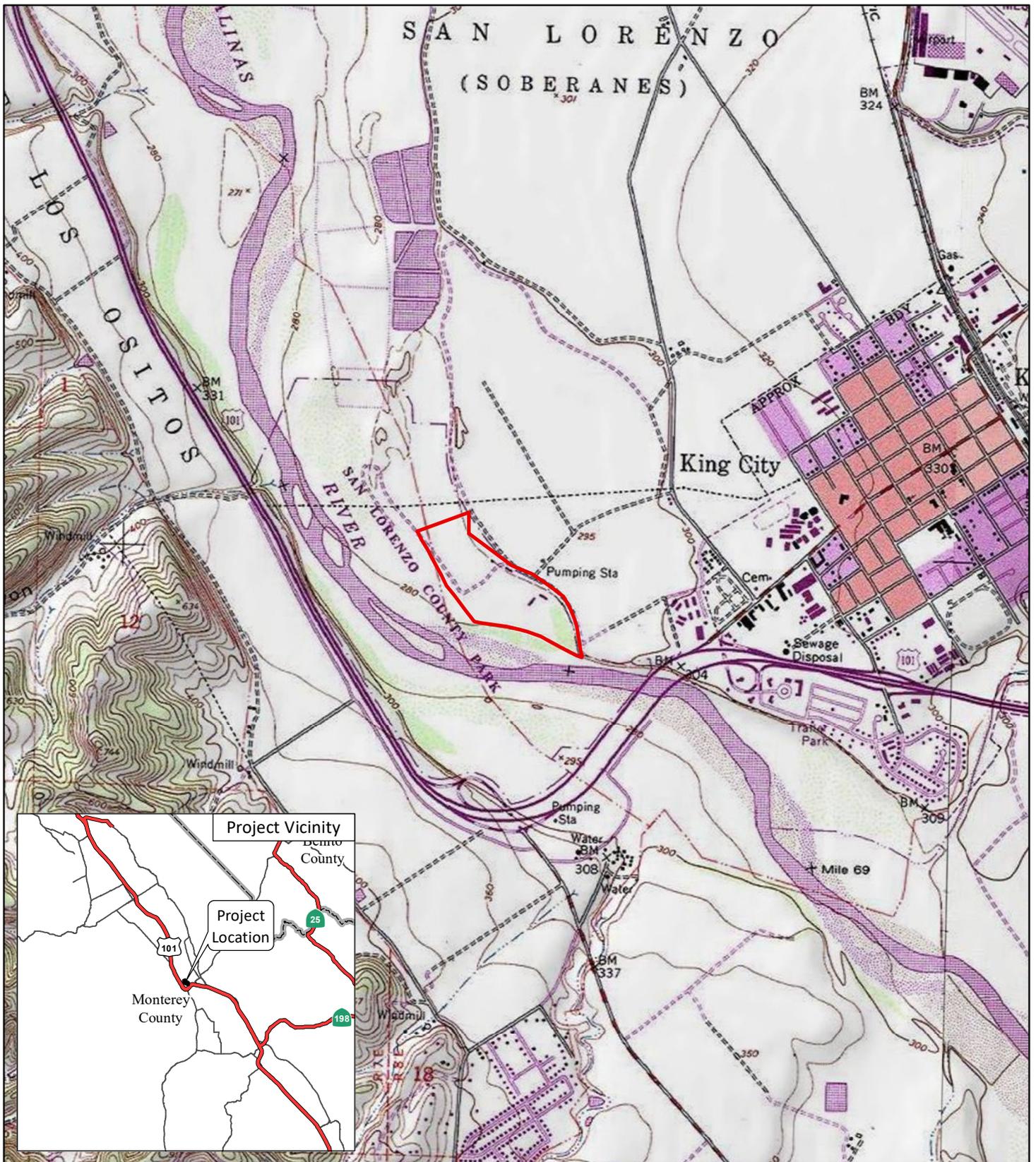


FIGURE 1

LSA

LEGEND

Project Location



0 1000 2000  
FEET

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quad.- Thompson Canyon, CA

I:\SLP\GIS\MXD\Figure 1\_ProjectLocation.mxd (4/8/2021)

San Lorenzo Park Project  
Monterey County, California  
Project Location and Vicinity



FIGURE 2

LSA

LEGEND

 Project Location



0 187.5 375  
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps, 2021

I:\SLP\GIS\MXD\Figure2\_Project Location.mxd (4/8/2021)

*San Lorenzo Park Project  
Monterey County, California  
Project Site*

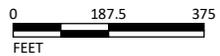


FIGURE 3

LSA

LEGEND

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|  Project Site    | <b>Project Improvements</b>  |  Outdoor Classroom        |
|  Existing Trails |  Children's Play Area |  Habitat Enhancement Area |
|   |  Individual BBQ Area  |  Splash Pad               |
|   |  |  Proposed SLP Trail       |



SOURCE: ESRI World Imagery, 2021; Monterey County Park Concept Level Site Plan, March 2021

I:\SLP\GIS\MXD\Project Description\Figure2\_Project Site.mxd (4/10/2021)

*San Lorenzo Park Project*  
*Monterey County, California*  
 Project Site Plan

## **ATTACHMENT C**

### **RECORD SEARCH RESULTS SUMMARY LETTER**

CALIFORNIA  
HISTORICAL  
RESOURCES  
INFORMATION  
SYSTEM



ALAMEDA  
COLUSA  
CONTRA COSTA  
DEL NORTE

HUMBOLDT  
LAKE  
MAREN  
MENDOCINO  
MONTEREY  
NAPA  
SAN BENITO

SAN FRANCISCO  
SAN MATEO  
SANTA CLATA  
SANTA CRUZ  
SOLANO  
SONOMA  
YOLO

**Northwest Information Center**  
Sonoma State University  
150 Professional Center Drive, Suite E  
Rohnert Park, California 94928-3609  
Tel: 707.588.8455  
nwic@sonoma.edu  
<http://www.sonoma.edu/nwic>

4/20/2021

NWIC File No.: 20-2021

Kerrie Collison  
LSA Associates, Inc.  
285 South Street, Suite P  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Re: San Lorenzo County Park Project (MOC1601.08)

The Northwest Information Center received your record search request for the project area referenced above, located on the San Lorenzo County Park Project (MOC1601.08) USGS 7.5' quad(s). The following reflects the results of the records search for the project area and a 0.5 mi. radius:

Resources within project area:	None listed
Resources within 0.5 mi. radius:	P-27-002322, P-27-002820
Reports within project area:	S-3483, 5412
Reports within 0.5 mi. radius:	S-3473, 8285, 15060, 21218, 30328, 38177, 38440, 45858, 51704

**Resource Database Printout (list):**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**Resource Database Printout (details):**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**Resource Digital Database Records:**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**Report Database Printout (list):**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**Report Database Printout (details):**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**Report Digital Database Records:**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**Resource Record Copies:**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**Report Copies:**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**OHP Built Environment Resources Directory:**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility:**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**CA Inventory of Historic Resources (1976):**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**Historical Maps:**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**Local Inventories:**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

**GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps:**

enclosed  not requested  nothing listed

\*Notes:

\*\* Current versions of these resources are available on-line:

Caltrans Bridge Survey: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/structur/strmaint/historic.htm>

Soil Survey: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/surveylist/soils/survey/state/?stateId=CA>

Shipwreck Inventory: <http://www.slc.ca.gov/Info/Shipwrecks.html>

Please forward a copy of any resulting reports from this project to the office as soon as possible. Due to the sensitive nature of archaeological site location data, we ask that you do not include resource location maps and resource location descriptions in your report if the report is for public distribution. If you have any questions regarding the results presented herein, please contact the office at the phone number listed above.

The provision of CHRIS Data via this records search response does not in any way constitute public disclosure of records otherwise exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act or any other law, including, but not limited to, records related to archeological site information maintained by or on behalf of, or in the possession of, the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation, or the State Historical Resources Commission.

Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the CHRIS Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the record search number listed above when making inquiries. Requests made after initial invoicing will result in the preparation of a separate invoice.

Thank you for using the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).

Sincerely,

*Annette Neal*

Researcher