

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2021060231

Project Title: Lake Merced West Project

Lead Agency: San Francisco Planning Department

Contact Name: Julie Moore

Email: CPC.LakeMercedWestEIR@sfgov.org Phone Number: (628) 652-7566

Project Location: San Francisco San Francisco
City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) proposes the Lake Merced West Project which would create a recreational facility on approximately 11 acres located at 520 John Muir Drive, on the southwest side of Lake Merced, in southwestern San Francisco, California. The City and County of San Francisco, under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), owns the project site. RPD and SFPUC collectively manage recreation activities at Lake Merced, including the lease of the former site tenant, the Pacific Rod and Gun Club. RPD will also manage recreation activities at the proposed Lake Merced West recreational facility through selection and oversight of a concessionaire to construct and operate the facility.

The project consists of the construction and operation of the Lake Merced West recreational facility. The recreational facility would offer an array of active and passive activities open to the public, such as trail use, picnicking, paddleboarding, kayaking, fishing, fitness activities, use of a ropes course, birdwatching, outdoor exercise, skateboarding, basketball, and other activities on multi-use courts, as well as restaurant dining, and indoor space for gatherings such as community meetings and birthday parties. Based on their condition, the existing buildings would be demolished. A new community building, restaurant and outdoor patio would be built near the center of the site, along with a playground, multi-use court, basketball court and picnic areas surrounded by meadows and natural areas. A new boathouse, boat dock, and watercraft soft landing area are proposed adjacent to the lake. An arborist office and yard are also proposed at the southeastern end of the site; new restrooms, a ropes course, and skatepark are proposed on the west side of the site. Special events up to 500 people could occur 12 times per year at the project site and may involve exceptions to normal operating hours and temporary use of amplified sound in compliance with San Francisco permit requirements.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The project site is a cultural landscape that is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historic Resources. The project would demolish the buildings and structures that are contributors to the cultural landscape. Even with proposed mitigation measures, the historic resources impact would be significant.

The Draft EIR also determined that the project would result in significant impacts related to noise, biological resources, and paleontological resources which could be mitigated to a less-than-significant level with the implementation of mitigation. The Draft EIR identifies mitigation measures to address significant impacts for each environmental topic identified.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Known controversy regarding project design is primarily focused on types of facilities proposed for the site. Many commenters from the rowing community recommended increasing the size of the project's boating facilities; other commenters suggested less development and more site area preserved for open space, or that the project exclude the restaurant, or add an interpretive center.

Other public comments received on the NOP, while not controversial, address the following topics:

- Effects on aesthetic resources, including views and nighttime lighting
- Effects on wetlands, wildlife, and lake water quality
- Use of native and climate-appropriate plantings
- Project area maintenance, including management of invasive species and litter
- Effects of the new facility on traffic congestion, travel patterns, and safety
- Noise, emissions, and pollution associated with the new land use
- Cumulative impacts of the project along with other development around Lake Merced

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- California Coastal Commission
- State Water Resources Control Board
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 3
- California Office of Historic Preservation
- Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 2
- San Francisco Planning Department
- San Francisco Department of Building Inspection
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- San Francisco Board of Supervisors
- San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department
- San Francisco Health Department