



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Date: April 5, 2024

To: Responsible Agencies, Agencies with Jurisdiction by Law, Trustee Agencies, Involved Federal Agencies, and Agencies/Organizations/Individuals Requesting Notice

From: County of Alameda, Public Works Agency

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Niles Canyon Trail Project

Notice is hereby given that the County of Alameda), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Niles Canyon Trail Project (project). In accordance with Section 15087 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City has prepared this Notice of Availability (NOA) to invite agencies, organizations, and interested parties to provide comments on the Draft EIR.

PUBLIC REVIEW

Comments on the Draft EIR will be accepted for a period of 45 days, beginning on April 5, 2024, and ending on May 20, 2024. Comments must be received before 5:00 p.m. on May 20, 2024, in order to be considered. However, we would appreciate your response at the earliest possible date. Please send your written comments to Amber Lo at the address shown below or by email to amberl@acpwa.org with "Niles Canyon Trail Project Draft EIR" as the subject. Public agencies that provide comments are asked to include a contact person for the agency.

Amber Lo, Principal Civil Engineer
Alameda County Public Works Agency
399 Elmhurst Street
Hayward, CA 94554
Email: amberl@acpwa.org

Written and verbal comments on the draft EIR will be also accepted during the Sunol Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting to be held at **6:30 PM** on Wednesday April 17, 2024. The meeting will be held in person at Sunol Elementary School, 11601 Main Street, Sunol, CA

PROJECT LOCATION

The project site consists of an approximately six-mile trail alignment through Niles Canyon between the Niles District in the City of Fremont and the unincorporated community of Sunol in Alameda County (Figure 1). The project site is defined as the proposed trail alignment, which would be approximately 14 feet wide and extend approximately 6 miles in length.

The project area and vicinity is characterized by a variety of conditions, including urban and built environments, State Route-84, the Union Pacific and Niles Canyon railroad tracks, and the Sunol Aqueduct. Topography along the proposed trail alignment ranges from relatively flat within the urban lands of Fremont and along existing roadways to very steep within the undeveloped lands along Alameda Creek. The majority of the proposed trail alignment would run along Alameda Creek, which flows from east to west and eventually drains to the San Francisco Bay.

The majority of the proposed trail alignment would be located within public right-of-way (e.g., City of Fremont, Caltrans) or on lands owned by public agencies, including East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), Alameda County and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). Some private properties would also be traversed.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The proposed multi-use trail would be developed in three phases. Each phase would be independent in service and function. Figure 2 depicts the proposed conceptual trail alignment. The phases are:

Phase 1 – Niles District to Palomares Road. The first phase would complete the connection from the Niles District in the City of Fremont to Palomares Road. To provide independent utility, the project would need to create a new crossing of SR-84 parallel to the Farwell Bridge.

Phase 2 – Palomares Road to Brightside Railroad Yard. The second phase would begin at Palomares Road and end at the Brightside Railroad Yard.

Phase 3 – Brightside to Sunol. The final phase would complete the trail between Niles and Sunol.

The multi-use trail would be open to hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. The proposed trail would consist of a 10-foot wide, all-weather surface with 2-foot shoulders on either side composed of decomposed granite. The trail surface would likely consist of 4 inches of asphalt concrete atop 6 inches of class II aggregate base. The trail would meet accessibility guidelines, meaning that the grade in the direction of travel would be less than 5 percent and the cross slope would be no more than 2 percent. The trail design would incorporate several different barrier options to separate trail users from railroad and highway traffic. These barriers would be designed to accommodate wildlife passage. In addition, retaining walls would need to be installed in some locations to accommodate slope cuts. These walls would be sculpted concrete with soil nail tiebacks.

The project would include provisions of staging areas with sufficient parking to avoid impacts to surrounding neighborhoods from visitors' vehicles. Staging areas would be created at both Niles and Sunol, as well as Palomares Road. In addition, existing staging areas associated with the Alameda Creek Trail could support the need for parking.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The following environmental resource areas are addressed in the EIR: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Utilities and Service Systems. All potential impacts to these resource areas are either less than significant or less than significant through the implementation of identified mitigation measures.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES

The project site is not located on any list of hazardous materials waste sites compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

EIR PROCESS

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15105(a), the Draft EIR will be available for public review and comment for a 45-day review period. Following the close of the public review period on Monday May 20, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., the County will prepare a Final EIR, which will include responses to all substantive comments received on the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR and Final EIR will be considered by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in making the decision to certify the EIR and approve or deny the project.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

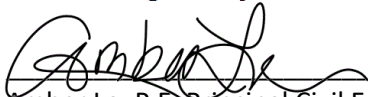
The Draft EIR, all documents incorporated by reference, and additional information regarding the proposed project can be accessed at the following website: <https://www.acpwa.org/projects/2021/Niles-Canyon/NilesCanyon.page> .

A paper copy and the proposed project's environmental file is available for public review during regular business hours at the Alameda County Public Works Agency 399 Elmhurst Street, Hayward. Paper copies are also available for review during regular hours at the following libraries:

- Niles Library
150 I Street
Fremont, CA 94536
- City of Pleasanton Library
400 Old Bernal Ave
Pleasanton, CA

If you require additional information, please contact Amber Lo at: amberl@acpwa.org

DocuSigned by:


Amber Lo, P.E. Principal Civil Engineer
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Date: 4/4/2024



FIGURE 1

LSA

LEGEND

- Project Phase
- Phase 1
 - Phase 2
 - Phase 3



0 4000 8000
FEET

SOURCE: CSW [ST2 (06/2022); Esri World Street Map (2023).

I:\STU2001\GIS\Maps\EIR\Figure 3-1_Regional Location.mxd (10/30/2023)

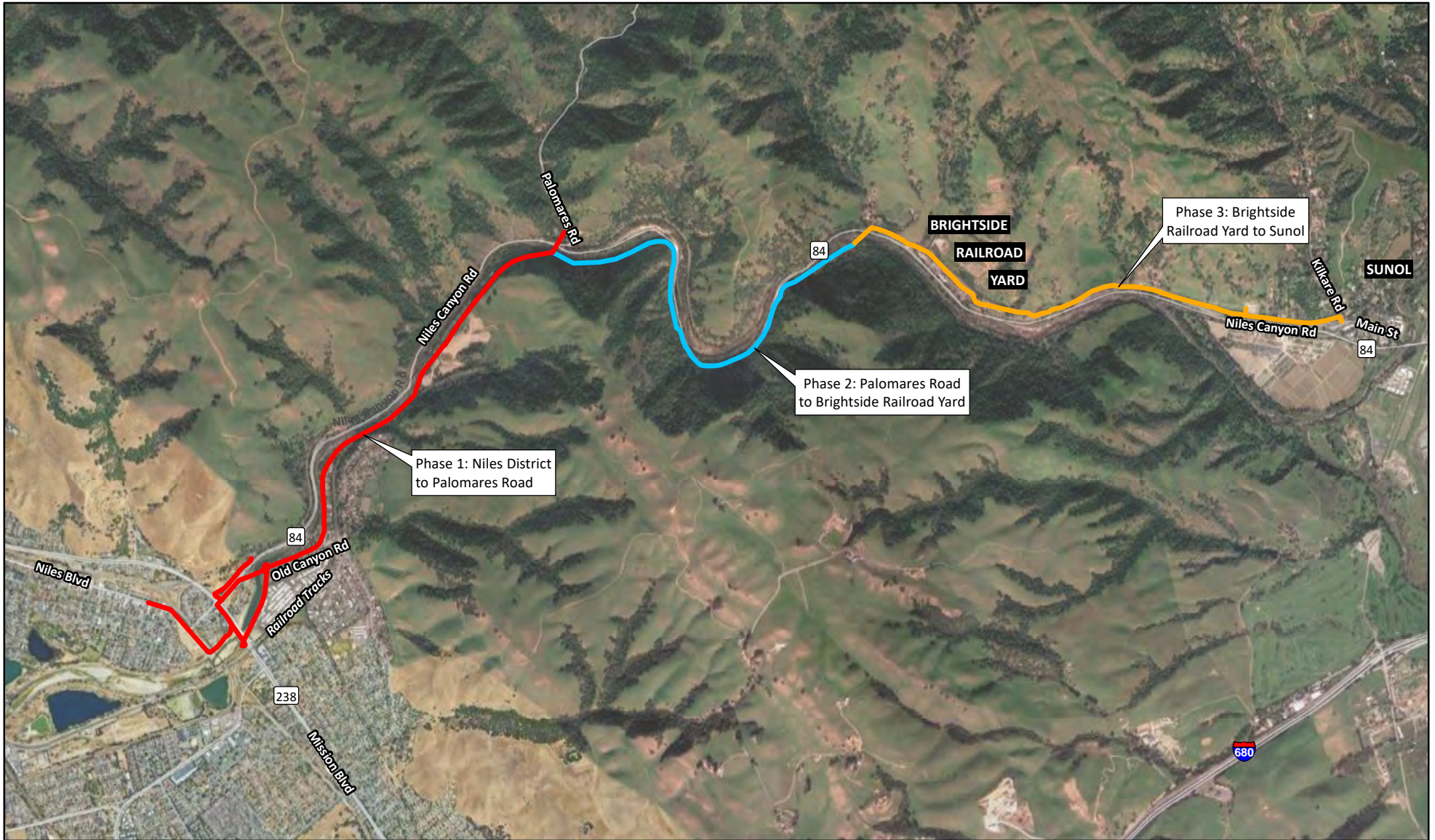


FIGURE 2

LSA

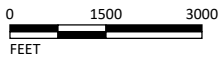
LEGEND

Project Phase

— Phase 1

— Phase 2

— Phase 3



SOURCE: CSW | ST2 (06/2022); Google Maps (2023).

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Niles Canyon Trail Project
 Environmental Impact Report
 Project Corridor