

## FINAL NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**PROJECT:** ParkIT! Shuttle Program & Day-Use Reservation System Project (“Proposed Project”)

**LEAD AGENCY:** California Department of Parks and Recreation (“DPR” or “State Parks”)

**AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS:** The Draft Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration (“Draft IS/MND”) was made available throughout the 30-day public review period available on DPR’s CEQA notices page for the Central California Region. [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=982](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=982). The Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (“Final IS/MND”) and all supporting materials will be available, by request, at DPR’s Monterey District Headquarters.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Proposed Project consists of two (2) primary project components: 1) the ParkIT! Shuttle Program and associated subcomponents; and 2) State Park’s proposed Day-Use Reservation System for visitors to Point Lobos.

### ParkIT! Shuttle Program

The ParkIT! Shuttle Program consists of three (3) distinct elements: 1) construction of an alternative parking facility located on a portion of vacant land commonly known as Marathon Flats; 2) temporary use of the Blue Roof Office Buildings’ parking lot and/or Palo Corona Regional Park parking lot while the Marathon Flats parking facility is under construction; and 3) shuttle service between Marathon Flats (or temporarily from the Blue Roof Office Buildings’ parking lot), Rancho Canada, Point Lobos, and San Jose Creek trailhead when it opens to the public.

### Day-Use Reservation System

State Parks would implement a Day-Use Reservation System to address the rapid, unsustainable visitation growth at Point Lobos. To enter Point Lobos, all visitors other than State Parks staff, Point Lobos Foundation staff, and docents on duty will need a reservation. Reservations will be made for one (1) of four (4) locations: in-reserve parking; offsite parking at the Marathon Flats Facility; Palo Corona, or walk-in. Visitors can request a reservation for any of the four (4) locations online or in person. If, during Park operations, State Parks observes adverse impacts because of visitor overuse, State Parks would implement adaptive management strategies to mitigate and minimize the impacts consistent with current practices. State Parks will implement a public outreach program to inform visitors that a reservation will be necessary to access Point Lobos. Outreach will include updated signage, information on State Park’s website, press releases, and other similar methods.

## FINDINGS

State Parks prepared an Initial Study to assess the Proposed Project’s potential impacts on the environment and the significance of those impacts and is incorporated in the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration. Based on this Initial Study, State Parks has determined that the Proposed Project would not have any significant impacts on the environment once all proposed mitigation measures and Standard Project Requirements have been implemented. The California Department of Parks and Recreation approved this Project on 9/27/2022 and made the following determinations:

- The Proposed Project would not result in any potential adverse impacts on Agricultural Resources, Mineral Resources, or Population and Housing.
- Potential adverse impacts resulting from the Proposed Project were found to be less than significant in the following areas: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Energy, Geology & Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire.
- The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration concluded that implementation of the Project could result in potentially significant effects on the environment (i.e., Biological Resources and Cultural/Tribal Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise) and identified appropriate and feasible mitigation measures that would reduce the significant effects to a less than significant level. Full implementation of the proposed mitigation measures included in this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration would ensure that potential adverse impacts on Biological Resources and Cultural/Tribal Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Noise, would be reduced to a less than significant level.
- The Department of Parks and Recreation prepared the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act Cal. Pub. Res. Code Section 21000 et seq and associated Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3 Section 15000 – 15387).
- Department of Parks and Recreation prepared a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (“MMRP”), which meets the requirements of CEQA (Public Resources Code, Sec. 21081.6) and Sec. 15074(d) of the CEQA Guidelines) and contains measures for the reporting on and monitoring of measures to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects.
- Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Parks and Recreation independently reviewed and analyzed the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, Final Initial/Study Mitigated Negative Declaration, and other information in the record and considered the information contained therein, prior to adopting and certifying the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and acting upon or approving the Project. The California Department of Parks and Recreation finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of DPR. DPR, as lead agency, also confirms that the mitigation measures detailed in these documents are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the “MMRP”.
- In accordance with Sec. 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines, the California Department of Parks and Recreation makes the following additional findings: (1) the Proposed Project, as mitigated, does not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory; (2) the Proposed Project would not result in the achievement of short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals; (3) the Proposed Project would not result in environmental effects that are

cumulatively considerable; and (4) the Proposed Project would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

This document, along with the Draft Initial Study/Negative Declaration (SCH#2021100338), public comments received on the Draft IS/MND, and the Notice of Determination, constitute the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the ParkIT! Shuttle Program & Day-Use Reservation System Project.

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*Brent C Marshall*

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9/27/2022

Brent Marshall

Date

Monterey District Superintendent