Print From

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 #: _____

Project Title: Steele Peak Inaugural Trail

Lead Agency: Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA)

Contact Name: Riana Fisher, Program Manager

Email: rfisher@wrcog.us Phone Number: (951) 405-6708

Project Location: Communities of Good Hope and Gavilan Hills, Riverside County

City *County*

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

RCHCA proposes to establish a 1.2-mile sustainable trail loop on existing dirt roads within the Steele Peak Reserve for the public to enjoy, while also preserving and restoring disturbed areas outside the proposed trail. The Project would narrow disturbed existing 10-12 feet wide roads to 6 feet using composite split rail fencing. Other amenities include wayfinding, interpretive signage, seating boulders and trash receptacles. The new fencing will help prevent existing unauthorized off-highway vehicle (OHV) use and illegal dumping within the Preserve and keep trail users on the designated paths. The narrowing of the roads would result in approximately 0.48 to 0.73 acre of area that can revegetate to become viable Stephens' kangaroo rat habitat. Parking for up to 10 cars will be established outside of the Preserve on a portion of the landfill site owned by the Riverside County Department of Waste Resources. A full-time patrol will be present during operational hours, from sunrise to sunset, to encourage appropriate use and discourage vandalism and OHV use. The gate to the parking area, which provides access to the trail, will be locked outside of operational hours. Installation of the fencing and other amenities is anticipated to take approximately 2 months and use minimal equipment.

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 has been designed to avoid direct impacts to sensitive biological resources, and specifically to the Stephens' kangaroo rat. Mitigation measures (MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-7) were developed to ensure the Project would not result in indirect impacts to sensitive biological resources, including plants and wildlife, and are summarized below:
MM BIO-1: A total of 0.22-acre of existing disturbed trail devoid of vegetation will be restored with Riversidean sage scrub (RSS) vegetation consistent with the RCHCA's Riversidean Sage Scrub Restoration Plan.
MM BIO-2: All construction related activities will be monitored by a qualified biologist to ensure that impacts do not extend outside of the proposed impact area and has authority to halt activities that may result in direct or indirect impacts to sensitive species.
MM BIO-3: A qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction host plant survey for Quino checkerspot butterfly and if suitable habitat is present construction activities in or near habitat shall be conducted outside the flight season.
MM BIO-4: A pre-construction and breeding status survey for coastal California gnatcatcher within RSS within 500 feet.
MM BIO-5 & 7: If construction to occur in nesting season, conduct pre-construction burrowing owl and nesting bird survey and if active nests, avoid by appropriate buffers.
MM BIO-6: Before ground disturbance, an SKR permitted biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey of the impact area to determine the presence and/or absence of SKR sign. Adjustments to the trail alignment or width will be made to ensure avoidance and no direct or indirect impacts occur to SKR.

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

Authorized public access to the Steele Peak Stephens' Kangaroo Rat (SKR) Preserve.

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

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Riverside County Department of Waste Resources