

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Upper City View Trail

Lead Agency: City of Ukiah Contact Person: Michelle Irace, Planning Manager
 Mailing Address: 300 Seminary Drive Phone: (707) 463-6203
 City: Ukiah Zip: 95482 County: Mendocino

Project Location: County: Mendocino City/Nearest Community: Ukiah
 Cross Streets: Low Gap Road Zip Code: 95482

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 39 ° 09 ' 28.23 " N / 123 ° 13 ' 23.50 " W Total Acres: 46

Assessor's Parcel No.: 001-030-01 Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 101 Waterways: Gobson Creek, Doolin Creek, Orr Creek, Russian Rvier, etc.
 Airports: Ukiah Municipal Airport Railways: None operational Schools: Ukiah High, Pomolita Middle

Document Type:

- | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--|
| CEQA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOP | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIR | NEPA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOI | Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Cons | <input type="checkbox"/> Supplement/Subsequent EIR | <input type="checkbox"/> EA | <input type="checkbox"/> Final Document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dec | (Prior SCH No.) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mit Neg Dec | Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> FONSI | _____ |

Local Action Type:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Update | <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Rezone | <input type="checkbox"/> Annexation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Prezone | <input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Element | <input type="checkbox"/> Planned Unit Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Use Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Development Type:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation: Type _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining: Mineral _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Power: Type _____ MW _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste: Type _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational: 1-mile trail loop | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____ | |

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic/Visual | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Parks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vegetation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Flood Plain/Flooding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools/Universities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Land/Fire Hazard | <input type="checkbox"/> Septic Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Supply/Groundwater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archeological/Historical | <input type="checkbox"/> Geologic/Seismic | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Capacity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Riparian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minerals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth Inducement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Zone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage/Absorption | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing Balance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic/Hazardous | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cumulative Effects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic/Jobs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Facilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Circulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Recreation/Public Facilites/Singel Family Residential Hillside Overlay zoning and Rural Residential GP Land Use

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

The Project proposes the development of a one-mile loop of narrow-gauge natural surface trail commonly known as a "hiking trail" that would begin and end on the upper leg of the existing 2.8-mile City View Trail within Low Gap Park. See attached Project Description.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Native American Tribes, in accordance with AB52</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Local departments, stakeholders and agencies</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date January 18, 2022 Ending Date February 21, 2022

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____	Applicant: <u>City of Ukiah</u>
Address: _____	Address: <u>300 Seminary Ave</u>
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: <u>Ukiah, CA 95482</u>
Contact: _____	Phone: <u>(707) 463-6203</u>
Phone: _____	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 1/17/2022

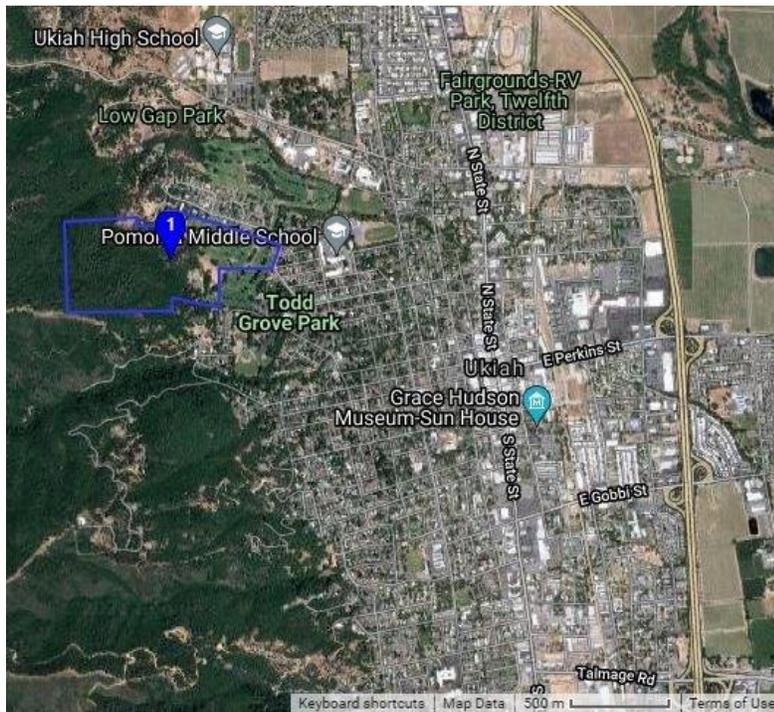
Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

UPPER CITY VIEW TRAIL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Project Location

The approximately 46-acre Project site (APN 001-030-01) is situated within the northwestern most portion of the City of Ukiah. The eastern portion of the parcel contains a portion of the Ukiah Municipal Golf Course and is also developed with water tanks. The western portion of the parcel is undeveloped and just south of Low Gap Park, a County-maintained Park that is developed with recreation facilities including the following trails: Orr Creek Trail, East Orr Creek Trail, Shooting Star Trail, Canyon Creek Trail, the Lost Treasure Road, and the City View Trail that the proposed trail would connect to. **Figure 1** below provides a location map.

Figure 1, Project Location



2. Environmental Setting and Background

The Project area is situated within the Coast Range geologic province. The North Coast Range is comprised of a geologic feature unique to California, the Franciscan Formation, which dictates the vegetative communities. The Franciscan Formation is comprised of serpentinite, sandstone, and other sedimentary rocks. This area is characterized by a Mediterranean climate; the winters are cool and wet, and the summers are hot and dry. Annual average temperatures for this region range from about 30 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Project is located within the Ukiah Valley in central Mendocino County. The Ukiah Valley is located approximately 30 miles east and inland from the Pacific Ocean. It runs north-south for

approximately nine miles, with a maximum width of three miles, with elevations varying from approximately 600-feet above mean sea level up to approximately 3,000 feet in the hills surrounding the city, including the Western Hills. The Russian River enters the valley at the north end and runs south along the valley floor. Ukiah is located along the Highway 101 corridor and near the east/west intersection of Highway 20, two hours north of the Golden Gate Bridge. Incorporated in 1876, Ukiah is the county seat and largest city in Mendocino County.

Vegetation communities in the area include mixed oak, sparse redwood forest stands, chaparral, and manzanita, with some sparse redwood groves. The proposed trail will run almost entirely beneath a substantial tree canopy cover of natural woodlands consisting mainly of native tree and understory species. The creek nearest the Project is Orr Creek, approximately 0.3-mile north of the proposed trail alignment. There is also an unnamed Class III watercourse in the north portion of the alignment, near the City View Trail connection.

The 2.8-mile existing City View Trail was constructed by the Ukiah Valley Trail Group in 2009 and in 2010 was designated as a park facility in Division 1, Chapter 12, Parks and Recreation Facilities, of the Ukiah City Code (section 1965).

The proposed trail route and design was established by the Ukiah Valley Trail Group (UVTG), a volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, enhancing, and establishing trails in the Inland of Mendocino County. UVTG staff and volunteers have extensive experience in trail design, building, and maintenance. In 2015, the UVTG developed the Low Gap Park Trail Plan which identifies existing trails within the park, issues and recommendations for existing trails, as well as opportunities for new trails. The proposed Upper City View Trail was one of the trails identified in the plan as a new potential trail.

3. Project Components

The Project proposes the development of a one-mile loop of narrow-gauge natural surface trail commonly known as a “hiking trail” that would begin and end on the upper leg of the existing 2.8-mile City View Trail. The City View Trail is primarily used for hiking, walking, and trail running and is accessible year-round. The new trail will utilize a series of switchbacks to ascend, then traverse approximately one-half mile before descending to return to the upper leg of City View Trail. Beginning from the northern junction with City View Trail, the proposed trail crosses moderate side slopes and utilizes a series of switchbacks through mixed hardwoods with occasional small redwoods to gain elevation. After gaining approximately 200 feet the trail begins its contouring southerly traverse. The proposed trail crosses an unsanctioned “use” trail that climbs steeply to the Ukiah “U.” As the trail approaches the southern boundary of the property it descends and reverses direction twice before reconnecting with the southern end of City View Trail. The proposed trail alignment is shown in **Figure 2** below, as well as in **Figure 3** which also shows the existing City View Trail.

Trail grades will vary according to topography with average grades of 7 to 8 percent, for the majority of the trail, with some shorter trail sections in the steeper areas reaching approximately 12 percent. However, this trail route will ensure that the average grade for the entirety of the trail does not exceed the 10 percent threshold suggested in the UVTG standards. The proposed trail will run almost entirely beneath a substantial tree canopy cover of natural woodlands consisting mainly of native tree and understory species (see **Figure 4** below for an example of existing habitat; more photographs are included in **Attachment A**). In accordance with the UVTG design and maintenance standards, the trail will be 2 to 4 feet wide, back sloped to create an angle of repose to the greatest extent possible, and built with a 3 to 5 percent outslope and rolling dips to

allow sheet water drainage. The proposed trail alignment would cross the unnamed Class III watercourse, which is categorized as having no aquatic life present, but shows evidence of being capable of sediment transport to Class I and II waters under normal high water flow. UVTG plans to complete the work during the dry season and the UVTG Design and Maintenance Standards intended to reduce erosion will be implemented. The trail will be assessed annually for the first three years to determine if a crossing such as a footbridge is needed; other techniques such as hardening or the use of a culvert may be used if a footbridge is determined to be impractical. See Section V.4, Biological Resources, for more information.

The proposed trail route and design was established by the UVTG and was selected to maintain consistent slope integrity and to keep disturbances to natural areas at minimal levels. Trimming of encroaching tree branches will be required along portions of the trail. Tree branch pruning, trimming, and root care activities will be limited to those branches that would represent hazards to hikers or cause extensive detours and additional grading for the trail route. The trail crosses a few areas of dense, immature redwood trees of less than 6 feet diameter breast height (dbh). Thinning of these small, immature trees will be required to create a trail corridor. Thinning of these dense stands of immature redwoods will reduce fuel load while leaving many small trees on both sides of the trail for continued growth. No trees greater than 6" dbh will be removed for this project.

The proposed trail was also designed with input from the Sanhedrin Chapter of the Native Plant Society, who often collaborates with the UVTG to review trail design to ensure impacts to special status plant species are reduced or avoided. An additional loop was proposed in the original design, but removed from the plan in response to concerns cited by members of the botanical review team in regard to the potential impact to native plants (see Biological Resources section for more information).

The trail will be built in accordance with the UVTG Design and Maintenance Standards (**Attachment B**). Construction is anticipated to take approximately two weeks to complete. Trail construction will be completed mostly by hand tools (McLeod, pulaski, axe, pick, pole saw, hand saw, loppers, shovel, etc.). However, different trail construction methods and tools will be utilized to accommodate the varied topography, vegetation, and other natural conditions on the Project site; this may include the occasional use of power equipment tools such as chainsaws, power wheel barrows, vibra-plates, jackhammers, or small trail dozers designed specifically for trail building. First, vegetation and detritus materials will be removed to establish the trail's path and contour. The trail is designed to minimize impacts on this natural vegetation, but the grading required to establish the 2 to 4-foot wide trail at a relatively even grade will require the removal of groundcover and bushes along its entire length. Base cuts will then be made to remove the uppermost organic layer and expose base soils while causing minimal disturbances to trailside banks. This method also allows the construction of the three percent out-slopes (from the inner edge of the trail to the outer edge) and tapered shoulders to allow water to sheet off the trail, decreasing the potential for erosion, as described in the UVTG trail design standards in **Attachment B**.

The proposed trail will be constructed by UVTG volunteers and the California Conservation Corps. Once constructed, UVTG trail maintenance standards require that natural vegetation be permitted to grow back on the sides of the trail and along the shoulder areas to help maintain the trail base and reestablish its original natural appearance.

Parking will be provided in the existing Low Gap Park parking lot and the trail will be accessed through the main park entrance. Existing restrooms, trash receptacles and water fountains are provided within the park. The trail is intended for hikers only and will be accessible during regular Low Gap Park hours (8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.).

The Project will be funded by UVTG through donations collected by the Pacific Medical Redwood Group as a part of UVTG fundraising efforts. Similar to the existing City View Trail, the proposed trail will be predominantly maintained by UVTG volunteers in order to minimize or avoid the use of City Park staff.

Figure 2, Proposed Trail Alignment



Figure 3, Existing City View Trail and Proposed Trail



Figure 4, Example Habitat along Proposed Trail

