



Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

To: Public Agencies, Interested Parties, and Mendocino County Clerk

Project Title: Willits Rail with Trail Project

Lead Agency: City of Willits, 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, CA 95490

Contact: Dusty Duley, Community Development Director, City of Willits
Tel: (707) 459-7124; E: dduley@cityofwillits.org

Review Period: March 24, 2022, to April 22, 2022

The City of Willits (City) has prepared this notice to inform agencies and interested parties that it is releasing a CEQA Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/Proposed MND) for the Willits Rail with Trail Project.

Project Description and Location

The City of Willits (City) has prepared this notice to inform agencies and interested parties that it is releasing a CEQA Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/Proposed MND) for the Willits Rail with Trail Project. The Project would construct an approximately 1.6-mile Class I Trail (pedestrian and bicycle trail) from East Commercial Street to East Hill Road within the Great Redwood Trail Agency (formerly the North Coast Railroad Authority) right of way, within the City limits. Installation of this 1.6-mile trail would improve access and safety for pedestrian and bicycle users as well as create opportunities for nature study and recreation. The trail would include at-grade bridge crossings over Broaddus, Baechtel and Haehl Creeks, lighting, signage, benches, landscaping, and other features related to public access, and may include enhancements to existing street crossings. The trail would be a paved pathway Class I facility, approximately ten-foot wide (five feet per travel lane) with 2-foot shoulders. The Project would not conflict with the Skunk Train rail excursion or other railroad use. Small areas of inactive track may be removed, primarily associated with grade crossings or inactive spurs. The Project is located in the vicinity of several sites enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Providing Comments

A 30-day public review period for the IS/Proposed MND will extend from March 24 to April 22, 2022. The IS/Proposed MND will be available for public review online within the Community News section at www.cityofwillits.org, as well as at the Willits Community Development Department office at 111 E. Commercial Street, Willits, California. Please e-mail any comments on the IS/Proposed MND by 5 PM on April 22, 2022, to Dusty Duley at dduley@cityofwillits.org.

After the review period closes, the Willits City Council will consider adopting the IS/Proposed MND and approving the Project during a public meeting tentatively scheduled for April 27, 2022, at 6:30 PM. We encourage you to check the City's webpage to confirm the date, time, and location of the Council meeting at the following website address:

www.cityofwillits.org.