



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

330 Distel Circle Los Altos, CA 94022

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: County Clerk
San Mateo County

From: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022

Project Title: Ravenswood Bay Trail Habitat Restoration

Project Location: Ravenswood Open Space Preserve

City: Menlo Park & East Palo Alto

County: San Mateo County

Project Description:

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) proposes the Ravenswood Bay Trail Habitat Restoration Project (Project) to remove invasive vegetation and establish native plants in the marsh-upland transition zone along portions of the San Francisco Bay Trail (Bay Trail) within the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve (Preserve). The Project site is located within the City of Menlo Park, although portions of the Project site may extend into the City of East Palo Alto near Bay Road.

The Project encompasses a 1.3-mile segment of the Bay Trail (Figure 1) and includes removal of invasive plant species, revegetation with native plant species, and restoration site monitoring along the shoulders of this Bay Trail segment. In total, the project site is approximately 3.2 acres (a 20-foot corridor over 1.3 linear miles). A small portion of the Project may include chemical treatment of invasive species consistent with the District's Integrated Pest Management program and with concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The Bay Trail segment within the Project area abuts tidal marsh habitat for the state/federally endangered California Ridgway's rail (*Rallus obsoletus*) and the state/federally endangered salt-marsh harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*). To avoid and minimize impacts to special status species, Project activities would comply with relevant conditions established in the Biological Opinion issued by the USFWS for the District's 2016 Ravenswood Bay Trail Project, supplemented by Project-specific technical recommendations provided by USFWS, listed below.

- Work will occur above the high tide line and will not occur during high tide or king tide events.
- A qualified biologist will inspect habitat restoration areas for salt marsh harvest mouse and California Ridgway's rail prior to each day of construction work where the work will remove vegetation cover.
- Vegetation cover will not be removed to a height lower than 6 inches.
- Staff and volunteers working on the Project site will receive biological awareness training and worksite supervision from a qualified biologist.

The Project will comply with all applicable requirements found in the following permits issued for the 2016 Ravenswood Bay Trail Project:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers File No. 2016-00194S; 404 Nationwide Permit, amended May 2020
- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission Permit No. M2019.025.00
- Regional Water Quality Control Board Regulatory Measure ID 420909; California Integrated Water Quality System Place ID No. 846516; 401 Water Quality Certification, Amended May 2020
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion 08FBTD00-2018-F-0346

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Same

CEQA Compliance: In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, the project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the following sections:

Section 15333 – Small Habitat Restoration Projects: Class 33 consists of projects under five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife provided that:

- a) There would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitat pursuant to Section 15065.

Finding: With implementation of conditions established by the USFWS, the Project would not result in significant adverse impacts on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitat.

- b) There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed.

Finding: The Project would not disturb or remove hazardous materials.

- c) The project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

Finding: The Project would not result in impacts that would substantially contribute to a significant cumulative impact.

Section 15333(d)(1) specifically lists the following as an example of an exempt project: (1) revegetation of disturbed areas with native plant species.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Alex Casbara
acasbara@openspace.org
650.625.6593

Attachment: Figure 1: Project Map

Signature: 
Jane Mark, Planning Manager

Date: 6/1/2022



Figure 1 - Project Area