



Arcata Annie & Mary Trail Connectivity Project

**Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative
Declaration – SCH No. 2022110030**

City of Arcata

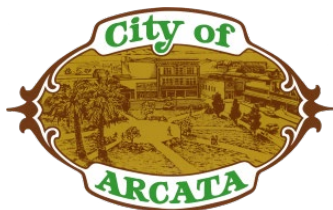
7 December 2022



Arcata Annie & Mary Trail Connectivity Project

Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration – SCH No. 2022110030

Prepared for:



City of Arcata

736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521

T 707.825.2163 | **Website** <https://www.cityofarcata.org/>

Prepared by:



GHD

718 3rd Street
Eureka, California 95501, United States

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Contents

1.	Project Information	2
1.1	Introduction	2
1.2	Project Location and Description	2
1.3	Environmental Review.....	2
1.4	Comments.....	3
1.5	Mitigation Measures	4
1.6	Determination	4
1.7	Location of Documents.....	4

1. Project Information

1.1 Introduction

The City of Arcata (City), serving as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency, prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Annie & Mary Trail Connectivity Project (hereafter referred to as the Project). The IS/MND was circulated for 30 days, between November 2, 2022 and December 2, 2022, to allow agencies and the public the opportunity to review and comment on the document. Noticing and review periods required by CEQA have been satisfied. The IS/MND was completed under the direction and supervision of the City with support from their consultant team and reflects the City's independent judgement and analysis of the potential environmental effects of the Project. This document, together with the circulated IS/MND, constitutes the complete IS/MND.

The contact person for the City is:

Emily Sinkhorn, Environmental Services Director
City of Arcata
736 F Street, Arcata, CA 95521
Phone: (707) 822-8184
Email: esinkhorn@cityofarcata.org

1.2 Project Location and Description

The Project would construct approximately 3.5-miles of Class I bike path with highway overpass and trailhead improvements. The Project would provide a walking and biking route from the existing northern terminus of the Humboldt Bay Trail at the Arcata Skate Park/Larson Park to the Valley West neighborhood, the Aldergrove business park, and the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) Park 1 along the Mad River. In addition to safety and connectivity improvements, the trail would provide opportunities for nature study and recreation.

The trail would be an asphalt-concrete paved Class I pathway, with a ten-foot-wide trail (five feet per travel lane) with two 2-foot gravel shoulders. In locations with adequate space, such as near the Arcata Ridge Trail connection on West End Road, the trail would have one 2-foot gravel shoulder and one wider 4-foot gravel shoulder for potential equestrian use. The trail may be narrowed in limited locations where unavoidable site constraints exist. The trail would include new bridge crossings over gullies and drainages. The trail would cross multiple city streets and provide trail access at multiple locations. Connectivity improvements ranging from new striping to structure widening would occur at the existing US 101 and SR 299 overpass bridges to enhance safe trail access from Valley West to Cal Poly Humboldt. At those locations, pedestrian and bicyclist safety features would be constructed in accordance with industry standards noted below. Due to width limitations for the existing Park 1 access road, painted sharrow markings may be used for the portion of the trail that would be shared with vehicles entering and exiting the Park 1 parking area.

The Project would be designed in general accordance with the Caltrans Highway Design Manual. In addition, the Project would be designed in accordance to specific sections of other applicable standards, including the 2019 California Building Code, Regulations Governing Standards for Warning Devices for At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossings, California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, Urban Bikeway Design Guide, and the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design.

1.3 Environmental Review

A copy of the IS/MND that was circulated for public review is included in Appendix A. The IS/MND was circulated for a 30-day public review period from November 2, 2022 to December 2, 2022. In accordance with the requirements of CEQA, the City provided a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration to the public, responsible

agencies, trustee agencies, Humboldt County Clerk, and State Clearinghouse. The City published a notice in the Mad River Union on November 2, 2022, and the notice was posted at the Humboldt County Clerk’s office for a period of at least 30 days. The City posted the IS/MND on its website at <https://www.cityofarcata.org/831/Annie-Mary-Trail-Connectivity-Project> and made a hardcopy available for public review at the Environmental Services Department at Arcata City Hall, 736 F Street, Arcata. The City also held a discussion at the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on November 9, 2022 and a public tabling event at the Arcata Skate Park on December 1, 2022. The IS/MND was submitted to the State Clearinghouse for review by state agencies, and to agencies with jurisdiction by law over resources affected by the Project.

1.4 Comments

During the public comment period for the ISMND, the City received no formal comments from agencies or the public. During the public outreach at the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting and the tabling at the Arcata Skate Park several comments were recorded, summarized Table 1.4-1.

Table 1.4-1 Comments Received During Public Outreach

Public Comment Received	City Response
Request for restroom facilities.	This request will be considered as the design progresses.
Comment in support of improved connectivity between L K Wood Boulevard and St. Louis Road.	The City appreciates the comment. The Project would increase connectivity throughout the trail corridor.
Comment in support of the Project and trails.	The City appreciates the comment.
Comment in support of the parklet under the St. Louis underpass.	The City appreciates the comment.
Comment in support of reduced road conflicts.	The City appreciated the comment. As the design progresses, reducing roadway and user conflicts will remain a priority.
Request that the Project includes curb appeal to encourage travel along the trail to the Craftsman Mall site and not through Eye Street and Jay Street.	This request will be considered as the design progresses.
Request to improve the Foster/Sunset roundabout to improve the crossing of the trail.	This request will be considered as the design progresses.
Request to include lighting and clear lines of sight to improve night safety.	The Project includes lighting installations to improve safety. Design details related to lighting will be further considered as the design progresses.
Comment in support of the Project.	The City appreciates the comment.
Request for a western connection from the Craftsman Mall site.	This request will be considered as the design progresses.
Request to remove and control invasive plant species along the Project.	Invasive plant species would be removed, where feasible, within and near mapped sensitive natural communities. Additional removal of invasive species near the trail will be considered as the design progresses.
Comment in support of a safe route along West End Road.	The City appreciates the comment.
Comment in support of the project, and a request to connect to Manila.	The City appreciates the comment. Future trail connections to Manila and elsewhere will continue to be considered as part of the City’s broader trail planning effort moving forward.
Request for neighboring properties west of Park 1 to have direct access to the Project.	This request will be considered as the design progresses.

1.5 Mitigation Measures

City staff has considered the information contained in the IS/MND. Pursuant to its responsibilities as the CEQA Lead Agency for the Project, the City has prepared a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures identified and proposed in the IS/MND. The MMRP is included within the IS/MND as Appendix B and was publicly circulated.

1.6 Determination

On the basis of the evaluation in the IS/MND, it is determined that with the mitigation measures that the City has imposed, no significant adverse effects to the environment are expected from the Project. The Project would not have a detrimental effect upon either short-term or long-term environmental goals. The Project would not have impacts which are individually limited but cumulatively considerable, nor have environmental impacts which will cause substantial adverse effects upon human beings, either directly or indirectly.

1.7 Location of Documents

Copies of this document and supporting references are available at the Environmental Services Department at Arcata City Hall, 736 F Street, Arcata, CA 95521.

Appendix A

**Public Circulation Draft IS/MND
(Attached Separately)**



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