



# Eel River Trail Project

**Final Initial Study / Mitigated Negative  
Declaration**

SCH No. 2023110319

City of Rio Dell

December 27, 2023





# Final Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration Eel River Trail Project SCH No. 2023110319

Prepared for:



**City of Rio Dell**

675 Wildwood Avenue  
Rio Dell, California 95562 USA

Prepared by:



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# 1. Purpose of the Final IS/MND

This Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Eel River Trail Project consists of the Public Circulation IS/MND, comments received during public circulation, City of Rio Dell (City; Lead Agency) responses to comments, and minor revisions to the IS/MND via errata. The Public Circulation IS/MND identified the likely environmental consequences associated with the Project and recommended mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts.

# 2. Environmental Review Process

The City, serving as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency, prepared an IS/MND for the Eel River Trail Project (hereafter referred to as the Project). The IS/MND was circulated for 30 days between November 13, 2023 and December 13, 2023 to allow agencies and the public the opportunity to review and comment on the document. 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.

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 the State Clearinghouse. The Notice of Intent to Adopt was filed with the Humboldt County Clerk Recorder on November 13, 2023. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15072 (b) (1), the Notice of Intent was published in the *North Coast Journal* on November 23, 2023. The City made a hardcopy available for public review at Rio Dell City Hall at 675 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell, California.

As detailed in the Notice of Intent to Adopt, the Rio Dell City Council will hold a hybrid virtual and in-person meeting in City of Rio Dell Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to consider adoption of the IS/MND and approval of the Project. 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.

The contact person for the City is:

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# 3. Comments and Responses

During the public comment period for the IS/MND, no written comments were received. On December 4, 2023, City representatives attended a field tour with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

to review the project. During the field tour, CDFW requested incorporation of wildlife proof trash cans at trail heads. The request will be considered as the design progresses. CDFW also requested incorporation of additional invasive species removal into the Project's Habitat Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (HMMP), specifically English ivy and French broom. The HMMP was updated as requested and resubmitted to CDFW.

## **4. Errata**

The purpose of errata is to document revisions to the IS/MND that are intended to clarify Project details since it was submitted to the Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse. There is no errata included in this Final IS/MND.

## **5. Report Preparers**

### **5.1 City of Rio Dell**

Kyle Knopp, City Manager

### **5.2 GHD**

Andrea Hilton, Senior Environmental Planner

