



**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE
DECLARATION
FOR THE NEW AQUATIC AND COMMUNITY CENTER AT HEATHER
FARM PARK PROJECT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: As the project Applicant and the Lead Agency, the City of Walnut Creek has completed an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed New Aquatic and Community Center at Heather Farm Park Project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA guidelines Sections 15369/5 and 15071, and Public Resources Code Section 21092.

PROJECT: New Aquatic and Community Center at Heather Farm Park Project

LOCATION/ADDRESS: The approximately 4.7-acre project site is generally situated in the center and southern portion of Heather Farm Park (Park) in the City of Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County. The Park is approximately 102 acres in size and is located northwest of the intersection of North San Carlos Drive and Heather Drive (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 144-050-019). Local access to the project site is provided via North San Carlos Drive, which connects to Ygnacio Valley Road south of the site, and from Heather Drive, which connects to Marchbanks Drive west of the site. Regional access to the project site is provided by the Ygnacio Valley on- and off-ramp of Interstate 680 (I-680). The Walnut Creek Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station is approximately 2 miles to the west of the project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Walnut Creek (City) proposes to demolish the existing Heather Farm Community Center, construct a new Aquatic/Community Center and implement other associated parking and site improvements (e.g., landscaping, pathways, modifications to the existing concrete pond). Following construction of the new Aquatic/Community Center, the City would demolish the existing Clarke Memorial Swim Center. The proposed Aquatic/Community Center would be 27,023 square feet in size and single-story (approximately 30 feet) in height with event and multipurpose spaces, classrooms, locker rooms, offices, a conference room, and a kitchen. Two pools would be located between North San Carlos Drive and the proposed building: a 50-meter lap pool and a recreational pool. A pool mechanical building and a park storage building would also be constructed near the southeast corner of the project site. The proposed project would also include outdoor improvements to the project site, including a new entry courtyard and staff patio on the eastern side and an event terrace, event garden, and multiple lawns on the western side between the proposed building and the Concrete Pond. Lawns would also be provided surrounding the new pools. New accessible pedestrian paths would be installed throughout the project site, and the existing bicycle path that runs along North San Carlos Drive would be retained.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: Heather Farm Park is approximately 102 acres in size and is located northwest of the intersection of North San Carlos Drive and Heather Drive. The Park is bounded by single-family and residential uses to the north and east, recreational and commercial uses to the south, and single-family residential units and Diablo Hills Golf Course to the west. In addition to the Heather Farm Community Center and Clarke Memorial Swim Center, the Park includes an all-abilities playground, baseball fields, basketball courts, an equestrian center, a garden center, and an off-leash dog park, in addition to other amenities.

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE LISTS: The project site is not included in the lists enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5, including, but not limited to, lists of hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste property, and hazardous waste disposal sites.

DECLARATION: Based on the Initial Study dated June 2024, the City of Walnut Creek has determined that, with project incorporation of the mitigations identified in the Initial Study:

- This project does not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
- The project will not achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
- This project will not have impacts which are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.
- This project will not have environmental impacts which will cause substantial adverse effects upon human beings, either directly or indirectly.

The aforementioned findings are contingent upon incorporation into this project of the mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study (Conditions for Mitigated Negative Declaration).

Environmental documents supporting the Initial Study are available for public review at the City of Walnut Creek Public Services Department, 1666 North Main Street, Walnut Creek, California during regular business hours and can be found on the City website: www.walnut-creek.org. From June 28, 2024, through July 29, 2024 (the 30-day public review period), the public is invited to submit written comments to the contact persons and addresses indicated below regarding the Initial Study environmental findings and Mitigated Negative Declaration determination.

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION PREPARED BY:

Contact Person:

Rich Payne, Interim Assistant Director of
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Lead Agency

City of Walnut Creek
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Signature

6/25/24