

**Department of
Conservation and
Development**

30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

Phone:1-855-323-2626

**Contra
Costa
County**



John Kopchik
Director

Jason Crapo
Deputy Director

Maureen Toms
Deputy Director

Deidra Dingman
Deputy Director

Ruben Hernandez
Deputy Director

Gabriel Lemus
Assistant Deputy Director

July 2, 2024

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code and the "Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970" as amended to date, this is to advise you that the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development, Community Development Division, has prepared an initial study evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the following project:

- 1. Project Title:** Wildcat Creek Fish Passage and Community Engagement Project
- 2. County File Number:** County File No. 22-17
- 3. Lead Agency:** Contra Costa County, Department of Conservation and Development
- 4. Lead Agency Contact Person:** Syd Sotoodeh, Senior Planner
(925) 655-2877
syd.sotoodeh@dcd.cccounty.us
- 5. Project Location:** Along Wildcat Creek between Rumrill Boulevard and 6th Street in the unincorporated North Richmond area and the Cities of Richmond and San Pablo
(APNs: 409-300-XXX, 409-300-036, 409-311-001, 409-312-XXX, 409-320-XXX, 411-020-XXX, 411-020-034, 411-030-007)
- 6. Applicant:** Contra Costa County Public Works Department; Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Contact: Laura Cremin (925) 313-2015

7. Description of Project:

The purpose of this project is to improve habitat connectivity for aquatic species, including Central California Coast steelhead trout, improve stormwater conveyance through Wildcat Creek, and provide community amenities. Project activities include retrofitting an existing fish ladder within the Lower Wildcat Creek Flood Control Channel to create a more natural fish passage corridor. Downstream of the fish ladder, the existing sediment basin will be expanded and desilted to increase sediment storage capacity. Training berms and maintenance access ramps will be constructed within the sediment basin to stabilize the low flow channel of Wildcat Creek to enhance fish passage. Upstream of the fish ladder, the Wildcat Creek channel will be modified by removing riprap to improve sediment transport. In the parcel adjacent to the fish ladder, community amenities will include trail improvements, overlook areas, interpretive features, and potential recreational and educational areas. Utility relocations and right of way transactions may be necessary.

8. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The project site is located in an urbanized area of Contra Costa County within the communities of City of San Pablo, City of Richmond, and unincorporated North Richmond. The project site is developed with existing flood control and fish passage structures, downstream sediment basin, trail, and Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District corporation yard. Wildcat Creek originates in Wildcat Canyon and continues to flow to San Pablo Bay, approximately two miles west of the project site. Topographically, the project site is fairly flat. Land uses adjacent to and included in the Project Site are light industrial and residential, with light industrial buildings, schools, and residences along the creek corridor. Adjacent lands include a railroad line.

9. Determination:

An Initial Study for the proposed project identified potentially significant impacts in the environmental area of air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, hazards & hazardous materials, noise, and tribal cultural resources. Environmental analysis determined that measures were available to mitigate potential adverse impacts to insignificant levels. As a result, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(c), 21064.5, and Article 6 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15071) the MND describes the proposed project; identifies, analyzes, and evaluates the potential significant environmental impacts, which may result from the proposed project; and identifies measures to mitigate adverse environmental impacts. Mitigations identified in this document designed for the proposed project will ensure that the project will not cause a significant impact on the environment.

Prior to adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration, the County will be accepting comments on the Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration during a 30-day public comment period.

The initial study/draft mitigated negative declaration may be reviewed at the Contra Costa County Public Works Department, 255 Glacier Drive, Martinez, during normal business hours, or viewed online at the following link: <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/4841/Public-Input>. All documents referenced in the reference index can be provided upon request.

Public Comment Period – The period for accepting comments on the adequacy of the environmental document will **begin Friday, July 5, 2024, and extend to 5:00 P.M., Monday, August 5, 2024.** Any comments should be submitted in writing to the following:

Laura Cremin
Contra Costa County Public Works Department
255 Glacier Drive
Martinez, CA 94553
Laura.Cremin@pw.cccounty.us

The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will be considered for adoption at a meeting of the County Board of Supervisors on September 10, 2024. To confirm the Board date, please contact Laura Cremin at Laura.Cremin@pw.cccounty.us or directly at 925-313-2015.

Sincerely,



Syd Sotoodeh
Senior Planner
Department of Conservation & Development

attach: Figure 1: Project Location
Figure 2: Project Site Overview Map

cc: County Clerk's Office (2 copies)
Adjacent Occupants and Property Owners
Notification List (Agencies, Interested Parties)



Figure 1: Project Location

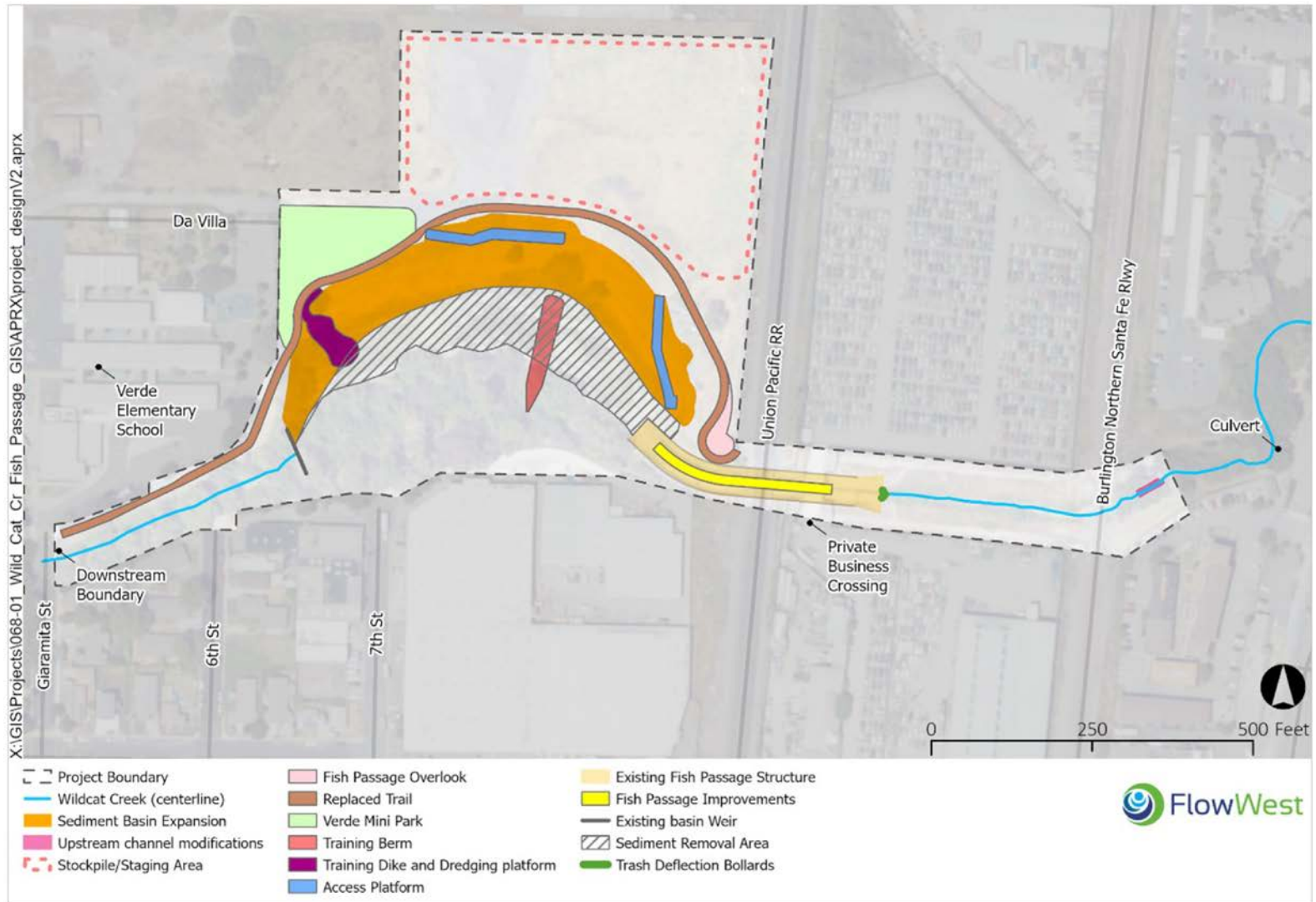


Figure 2: Project Site Overview Map