

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk
County of San Mateo
500 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

From: Department of Public Works
City of Belmont
1 Twin Pines Lane
Belmont, CA 94002

Project Title: Salson Trail and Culvert Project

Project Applicant: City of Belmont Department of Public Works

Project Location – Specific:

Salson Trail Fire Road at East Laurel Creek (see Figures 1 and 2, attached).

Project Location – City: Belmont

Project Location – County: San Mateo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Salson Trail is an unpaved fire road that provides important emergency firefighting access to the San Juan Canyon and Sugarloaf open spaces, which abut residential neighborhoods on all sides (Figure 1, Figure 2; attached). It also supports recreational use by hikers and bicyclists and provides maintenance access to a 10-inch-diameter vitrified clay pipe (VCP) City of Belmont sewer main serving approximately 400 houses in the adjacent residential area to the south.

The proposed project addresses damage to the Salson Trail roadway and an existing 48-inch-diameter corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert that conveys East Laurel Creek flows beneath the Trail. During the large storm events of December 2022 – January 2023, the Creek overtopped the Trail, eroding out a portion of the road and severely damaging the culvert. The north end of Salson Trail has been closed since that time to reduce risks to public safety, and firefighting access is compromised as a result. A segment of existing sewer main that crosses the culvert in the subsurface (about 50 linear feet in total) is also damaged and requires replacement.

The Salson Trail and Culvert Project is proposed to restore culvert function, prevent sanitary sewer leaks and spills, and restore firefighting access at the urban/wildland interface. Specific project objectives include

- replacing and upsizing the failing culvert to reduce the potential for similar damage in the future
- replacing the damaged and at-risk segment of sewer main
- repairing Salson Trail so it can be reopened for firefighting access and recreational use

The Project would include the following elements (Figure 3, attached).

- A new 60-inch-diameter RCP culvert
- Headwall, wingwalls, and “debris catcher” poles at the upstream end of the culvert
- Headwall and riprap apron at the downstream end of the culvert
- Replacement of the damaged section of 10-inch-diameter sewer line with high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe at the same diameter
- Restoration of the Salson Trail where it was damaged by floodflows

Extensive Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) have been incorporated into the Project to avoid adverse impacts on water quality, special-status species, and habitat associated with East Laurel Creek. Following construction, riparian habitat disturbed for construction access will be restored per a *Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan* (Redtail Consulting 2024) subject to review by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Belmont Public Works Department

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Belmont Public Works Department

Exempt Status (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080[b][1]); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080[b][3]; 15269[a])
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080[b][4]; 152699b), [c])
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- Statutory Exemption. State code number: CEQA Guidelines Section 15269, Emergency Projects

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Project falls under *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15269[a] ("Projects to maintain, repair, restore ... or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor"), *Guidelines* Section 15269[b] ("Emergency repairs to ... service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare), and—because it would restore critical firefighting access at the wildland-urban interface—*Guidelines* Section 15269[c] ("Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency").

Lead Agency _____ **Area Code/Telephone** _____
Contact Person: Nisha Patel **Number/Extension:** 650.595.7459

If filed by applicant: (N/A)

1. Attach a certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  **Date:** 4-15-25 **Title:** Director of Public Works
 Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

References Cited

Mott MacDonald. 2024a. Department of Public Works CCN 2024-631, Salson Trail Culvert, Bid-Ready Planset. (December.) Prepared for City of Belmont. On file with Redtail Consulting, Fremont, CA.

Mott MacDonald. 2024b. Work Area Map for Cultural and Biological Resources Studies, Salson Trail Culvert. San Jose, CA. (September.) Prepared for Redtail Consulting; on file with Redtail Consulting, Fremont, CA.

Redtail Consulting. 2024. City of Belmont Salson Trail and Culvert Project Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. Fremont, CA. Prepared for City of Belmont. On file with California Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 3 and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

U.S. Geological Survey. 2021. Topographic Map of San Mateo 7.5' Quadrangle, California (scale 1:24,000). Available: <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#4/39.98/-99.93>. Downloaded: October 2023.





