

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

SCH# _____

Project Title: Smith Field Park Improvements Project

Lead Agency: City of Half Moon Bay Department of Public Works

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Project Location: Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or other consequences:

The project would improve facilities at the existing Smith Field Park. Improvements include paving the parking area; upgrading four softball ballfields with new natural turf, one multi-use field with either natural or artificial turf, and enlarging the dog park and adding either natural or artificial turf; adding new facilities including a playground, picnic areas, walking trail, concession/restroom building; and improvements to landscaping, lighting and utilities including replacement of the existing water line and new hydrants. The property contains Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas which would be conserved by the project.

Construction of Phase 1 of the project is anticipated to commence in Spring 2026 and is scheduled to last approximately 6 months, ending in Fall 2026. To the extent possible, construction would occur between the spring and fall ball league schedules. Construction of Phase 2 would take a total of 12 months to complete, but would likely be accomplished in smaller individual stages as funding allows.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The project could have potentially significant biological effects, including effects to waters; Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHAs); special status species including California red-legged frog, perennial goldfields, and Choris's popcorn flower; and nesting birds. Project mitigations include preconstruction surveys (BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-5), environmental awareness training (BIO-1a), biological monitoring (BIO-1b, BIO-3b), measures to protect nesting birds (BIO-5); identification and flagging of sensitive areas (BIO-1c, BIO-2a, BIO-5a), stormwater controls and protections including measures to prevent spoils, exposed soil, and hazardous materials from entering runoff (BIO-1j, BIO-4a through BIO-4d), basic site housekeeping (BIO-1e); no firearms, dogs or excessive speeds (BIO-1f, BIO-1g); inspection of construction materials prior to moving and inspection of steep walled holes and trenches (BIO-1i), measures to avoid introduction of invasive weeds (BIO-1k); procedures for if wildlife is discovered (BIO-1d), seasonal construction restrictions (BIO-2o, BIO-4b), measures to control invasive weeds (BIO-1k).

The project could have potentially significant effects on subsurface cultural and archeological resources and mitigation measures will require cultural awareness training (CUL-1).

The project could have potentially significant effects on undiscovered paleontological resources and mitigation measures will require work to cease and a paleontologist to be contacted if paleontological resources are discovered (GEO-1).

Construction noise would comply with local noise regulations, so impacts related to construction noise would be less than significant. Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would further reduce this less-than-significant impact.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

The City is considering the use of artificial turf on Field 3 and the dog park. Some concerns have been raised related to existing artificial turf options, including human health concerns from potential exposure to hazardous chemicals, release of microplastics into the environment, increase in sports injuries and resistant bacterial infections, and local heat island effects. There is research and literature that highlight concerns about the potential impacts of long-term exposure to the

existing synthetic turf options that are currently on the market. However, at this time, there is insufficient research defining health impacts and exposure levels for athletes and other users. Any artificial turf would be installed in Phase 2. Phase 2 construction is expected to take approximately 12 months and would likely occur in several stages; however, the timing for construction of Phase 2 is unknown at this time. As the science and technology regarding artificial turf continues to evolve, the options for synthetic turf will continue to improve. When the City is in a position to make a materials selection, if synthetic turf with low known hazardous exposure cannot be procured, the City will install natural turf. Therefore, health and hazard impacts related to artificial turf would be less than significant.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Coastal Commission