



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FILING REQUESTED BY AND WHEN FILED, RETURN TO:

Marin County Parks and Open Space District
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 260, San Rafael, CA 94903
www.marincountyparks.org
(415) 473-6387

FILED

04/08/2022

SHELLY SCOTT
MARIN COUNTY CLERK
By O. Lobato, Deputy
21-2022 -082

To: Marin County Clerk
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 234
San Rafael, CA 94903

DATE: April 07, 2022

PROJECT TITLE: MILL VALLEY-SAUSALITO MULTI-USE PATH BRIDGE REPAIR PROJECT

PROJECT LOCATION: Mill Valley-Sausalito Multi-Use Path; Mill Valley, Marin County, CA

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL: 052-191-13 and 052-350-34

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to repair two bridges on the Mill Valley – Sausalito Multi-Use Path, which have deteriorated due to their age and saltwater corrosion, to continue to provide public access on the Mill Valley – Sausalito Multi-Use Path, which is one of the county's most-heavily used trail segments. The proposed project consists of maintenance and repair of two bridges along the existing Mill Valley-Sausalito Multi-Use Path between Almonte Boulevard and Shoreline Highway. Bridge 1 is approximately 105 feet long and 10 feet wide and spans the main branch of Coyote Creek. Bridge 2 is approximately 26 feet long and 10 feet wide and spans a smaller branch of Coyote Creek. The proposed project would replace all steel hardware with stainless-steel hardware, repair and replace decayed wood, and augment existing riprap with additional rock slope protection to protect the bridge abutments. The rock slope protection would augment existing riprap and would not change the character, size, or scope of the original fill design. Approximately 25 cubic yards of rock slope protection would be placed, which is considered fill for regulatory permit authorizations. Implementation of the proposed project is expected to take 32 days and would involve the following equipment: two-axle trucks for materials and hauling, one or two multi-axle cranes, small loaders (Bobcat class), pickup trucks, generators, pneumatically and electrically driven power tools, lighting, and hand tools. Visitor access along the path would be managed in a controlled fashion through the construction area and on the two bridges for public safety. During project implementation, alternating sides of the bridges would be closed to public access during work activities.

Work would primarily occur within the existing paved Mill Valley – Sausalito Multi-Use Path and the bridges, including equipment access. Off-path work would be limited to accessing the undersides of the bridge from the channel. To access the lower areas at Bridge 1 without sinking in the bay mud and to protect the work area, the contractor may place flat surfaces in the channel, such as full-sized plywood sheets or steel plates. These flat surfaces would be under 2,000 square feet in size. All work surfaces would be removed after construction. Flat surfaces would not be used at Bridge 2 since the channel bottom is covered with rock slope protection. The paved parking surface under the Caltrans Highway 101 bridge would be used for construction staging.

Implementation of the proposed project would occur between the months of September and January to avoid nesting season for Ridgway's rail (*Rallus obsoletus*), nesting season January 15 – August 31, unless regulatory permit authority allows implementation during bird nesting season and pre-construction nesting surveys yield negative results. If determined necessary by regulatory agencies and/or Marin County Parks biologist, a bio-monitor would be on-site during project implementation of the proposed project and would conduct presence/absence surveys before the start of each workday. Input from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife supported the determination that salt marsh harvest mice are likely deterred from the project area due to distance of salt marsh vegetation from the path and heavy visitor use. Implementation of the proposed project would occur within a 0.01-acre area mapped as tidal non-wetland waters, a 0.36-acre area mapped as tidal waters, and a 0.08-acre area mapped as tidal salt marsh. The proposed project will not result in temporary or permanent loss of wetlands or other Waters of the United States, and no vegetation removal is planned. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a net loss of tidal waters as the bridges and path will remain under the influence of tidal waters and tidal non-wetland waters would still flow over the paved path. The project area is mapped within the 100-year floodplain. Project implementation would occur during low tides to the greatest extent possible and would not occur during storm events or when the path is inundated. For any construction that would need access to the lower areas of the bridges, the contractor would monitor the San Francisco Bay tide schedule and access those regions only during low tide periods. Marin County Parks standard erosion control specification would be implemented during project implementation, which include bio-degradable straw wattles and fiber rolls to form a barrier between the work area and the wetlands.

POSTED 04/08/22 TO 05/08/22

Public Agency Approving Project: Marin County Parks

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Max Korten, Director and General Manager

Reasons for Exemption: Marin County Parks has reviewed the project along with its environmental setting and has determined it to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the following sections of the California Administrative Code:

Section 15301: Existing Facilities. The proposed project consists of maintenance and repair of two bridges along the Mill-Valley Sausalito Multi-Use Path, an existing public facility. The repaired bridges would have the same purpose and capacity as the existing bridges and no expansion of existing or former use would result from implementation of the proposed project. The proposed project is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The project area is not located within an officially designated state scenic highway and nonetheless would not affect scenic resources including trees, historical buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resource. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a significant effect to the environment due to unusual circumstances; or change the significance of a historical resource.

The proposed project is located in a sensitive tidal marsh and creek environment however, implementation of the proposed project would not affect sensitive habitats or water quality. Work associated with Bridge 1 would require the contractor to temporarily place flat surfaces in the channel, such as full-sized plywood sheets or steel plates, which would be under 2,000 feet in area and removed after the work is complete. This is necessary to prevent sinking into the bay mud and protect the work area. The channel bottom at the Bridge 2 work area is covered with rock slope protection and therefore does not require this protection measure. No vegetation would be removed as result of project implementation and the proposed project would be implemented during low tides to the greatest extent possible and would not occur during storm events or when the path is inundated. Marin County Parks standard erosion control specification would be implemented during project implementation, which include bio-degradable straw waddles and fiber rolls to form a barrier between the work area and the wetlands and for these reasons, the proposed project would not negatively affect water quality in the sensitive tidal marsh and creek environment.

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in cumulative impacts when considered with the recently completed Mill Valley – Sausalito Multi-Use Path Maintenance Project, for which a Notice of Exemption was filed on July 31, 2020 and project implementation occurring in October 2021. The maintenance project did not result in environmental impacts. The Evolving Shorelines Project at Bothin Marsh, which may relocate the Mill Valley – Sausalito Multi-Use Path, is currently in the planning stages and should that project be approved after completing CEQA compliance and obtaining all regulatory authorizations, implementation would not occur for several years. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not result in cumulative impacts when considered with the future potential Evolving Shorelines Project at Bothin Marsh.

Lead Agency Contact Person:



Michelle Julene, Regulatory Open Space Planner
Marin County Parks and Open Space District
mjulene@marincounty.org
(415) 444-6740 (office cell)



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION – LOCATION MAP

MILL VALLEY-SAUSALITO MULTI-USE PATH BRIDGE REPAIR PROJECT

April 07, 2022



Project Location

Source: Marin County Parks



Project Location

Source: Marin County Parks



Project Vicinity within Marin County

Source: Marin County Parks