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

DATE: October 07, 2022
PROJECT TITLE: TOYON FIRE ROAD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
PROJECT LOCATION: Cascade Canyon Open Space Preserve. End of Toyon Drive, Fairfax, Marin County

ASSESSORS’ PARCEL: 197-100-16

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to improve conditions of the fire road to provide safer emergency vehicle access for fire and maintenance purposes, and to reduce the potential for road related erosion and sediment delivery to the surrounding stream network, and generally improve drainage consistent with the MCOSD’s Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP). The Toyon Fire Road is an earthen road, approximately 5,535 feet in length with an average width of 10 feet. It is designated multi-use, providing access for hiking, biking, and equestrian use in addition to emergency vehicle and MCOSD maintenance access. The project area includes a section of the fire road and would include the following improvements:

- Reshape / regrade 1,110 linear feet of the fire road to improve drainage and user safety
- Install 44 rolling grade dips and nicks to provide drainage
- Clean / install / rock 1,565 linear feet of drainage ditch along the fire road
- Install 4 ditch relief culverts that outlet to the hillslope below the fire road
- Install / replace 3 stream crossing culverts:
  - One 18-inch diameter, 40-foot long culvert would be installed on a small ephemeral stream that currently is diverted and drains to an inboard ditch. Approximately 16 cubic yards would be excavated and backfilled for the culvert installation. The installation of this culvert would reestablish the natural drainage location of the ephemeral stream. Referred to Site 156 on the construction drawings.
  - One 18-inch diameter, 30-foot long culvert would be installed to replace an existing rusted culvert. Approximately 12 cubic yards would be excavated and backfilled for the culvert installation. Referred to Site 162 on the construction drawings.
  - One 18-inch diameter, 30-foot long culvert would be installed on a small ephemeral stream that currently flows unchecked over the road surface in the axis of a swale at the point of channel initiation. Approximately 12 cubic yards would be excavated and backfilled for the culvert installation. The installation of this culvert would reestablish the natural drainage location of the ephemeral stream. Referred to Site 193 on the construction drawings.
- Rock 2,950 linear feet of the fire road with approximately 545 cubic yards of rock

Construction access would occur from Toyon Drive at the south end of the project and Toyon Fire Road at Camp Tamarancho at the north end of the project area. Staging would occur on the fire road and pullouts along it. Equipment would include an excavator, bulldozer, loader, dump truck, water truck, compactor, and motor grader. Applicable Polices and Best Management Practices included in the MCOSD’s Road and Trail Management Plan would be implemented regarding dry season construction, implementation of erosion control and water pollution prevention measures such as placing straw wattles along drainages and mulching bare soils, and avoidance/minimization measures associated with northern spotted owl (Strix occidentalis caurina), foothill yellow-legged frog (Rana boylii), and Central California Coast steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss) by specifying the timing of project implementation during the dry season and outside of nesting season for northern spotted owl. Regulatory permit authorizations would be required from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Regulatory permit authorizations are not required from the Regional Water Quality Control Board or the United States Army Corps of Engineers because the streams are small and ephemeral. Additional measures that may be required as a result of regulatory permit authorizations would also be implemented. The project area would be closed to public access during project implementation. Project implementation would take approximately 4 months, and would be implemented in two construction seasons during the Fall of 2023 and Fall of 2024.

POSTED: 10/10/22 TO: 11/10/22
Public Agency Approving Project: Marin County Parks and Open Space District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Marin County Parks and Open Space District

Reasons for Exemption: The MCOSD 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 the MCOSD repairing and implementing minor alterations of an existing fire road trail involving negligible or no expansion of the existing or former use. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant impacts based on location and would not impact an environmental resource or any designated environmental resource of critical concern. The project area is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 or within a state scenic highway. Implementation of the proposed project would not affect scenic resources, historical buildings, rock outcroppings, result in cumulative impacts; or result in a significant effect to the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

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CASCADE CANYON OPEN SPACE PRESERVE
Toyon Fire Road Drainage Improvement Project
October 07, 2022