



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

4/25/2024

SHELLY SCOTT
MARIN COUNTY CLERK
By O. Lobato, Deputy
21 - 2024 - 072

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

Date: April 25, 2024
Project Title: Boundary Trail
Project Location: Stafford Lake Park, Novato, Marin County, California
Assessor Parcel: 125-090-19, 125-090-22

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to establish an active recreation-focused trail from the Novato Boulevard park entrances to the existing bike park and Picnic Area 1. The Boundary Trail would also improve access for rangers and emergency responders on foot or using small all-terrain vehicles to the Back Meadow area of Stafford Lake Park and the existing Disc Golf Course.

Project Setting: The project area is located at the 139-acre Stafford Lake Park in northern Marin County, west of the City of Novato, which provides multiple recreational opportunities, including picnic areas, fishing, playgrounds, event venues, a bike park, nature trail and a disc golf course. The current transportation infrastructure at the park includes a paved public access road and parking lots, an asphalt pathway connecting the large group areas, an unsurfaced park maintenance road, and natural surfaced nature trail. In addition to automobile access to the park, the Novato Boulevard Bike Path, a Class I pathway provides non-motorized access from the City of Novato. The surrounding land use includes private ranching lands, the Stafford Lake drinking water reservoir managed by North Marin Water District, and the Indian Valley Golf Club.

Project Description: The Boundary Trail would be generally located along the park boundary adjacent to Novato Boulevard. The trail would traverse behind the existing park residences and maintenance yard to connect to the existing bike park and a short connector trail would link the Boundary Trail to the existing Area 1 picnic area. In total, the Boundary Trail would be 0.78-mile / 4,140-feet in length and would be 5-foot-wide trail with an average gradient of 1.5 percent. Ground disturbance would be minimal consisting of scraping away the grass, adding a base, and compacting the trail. The average depth of disturbance would be a maximum of three inches.

New signage would be installed at each trailhead and trail intersection to indicate use and direction of travel where applicable.

The project area is located in disturbed areas of the park and no sensitive plant or animal species would be affected. Vegetation removal would consist solely of turf and annual non-native grasses and forbs. The proposed project does not include any water crossings or work in wetlands. Standard construction Best Management Practices would be implemented. For these reasons, no regulatory permit authorizations are required.

Construction: Project implementation is planned for 2025. Construction would occur Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and would require approximately 8 months. Equipment would include trail dozers, mini-excavators, loaders, compactors, cement mixers, rubber track carriers, generators, ATVs, generators, jackhammers, power saws, and other hand tools. Access to the project site for construction equipment would be through the main gate at Stafford Lake Park at Novato Boulevard. Construction staging areas would be restricted to existing Stafford Lake Park property that would avoid any significant impacts on sensitive natural resources. Construction staging areas would occur on disturbed areas of Stafford Lake Park and would not affect sensitive habitats, plant, or animal species. During construction, trails within the project area would be closed for recreation for safety purposes. Emergency access would be maintained during construction.

Operation and Maintenance: The Boundary Trail would be maintained by Stafford Lake Park staff. As the trail is sustainably designed, the level of maintenance is expected to be low. Regular maintenance would include brushing of the trail corridor, maintaining trail surface and drainage and clearing fallen trees and trail obstructions as needed.

Public Agency Approving Project: Marin County Parks
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Max Korten, Director

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 the minor alteration of an existing public facility involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The proposed project would develop a natural surface trail to connect the park entrance to existing recreational facilities. 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 resources. 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.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

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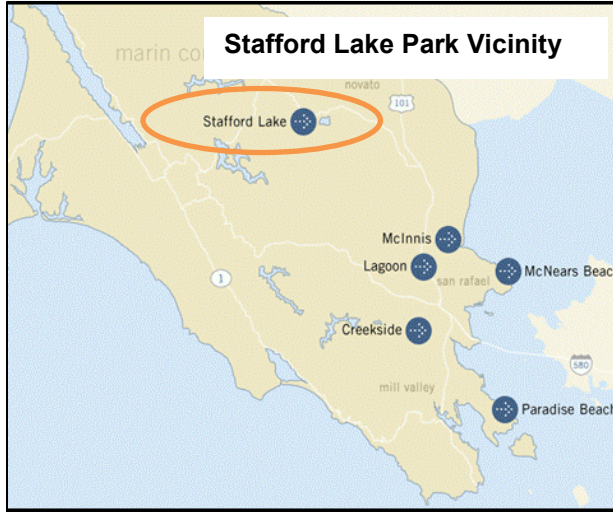
POSTED 4/25/24 TO 5/25/24



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION – PROJECT LOCATION

Stafford Lake Park – Boundary Trail

April 25, 2024



Proposed Boundary Trail Location



Boundary Trail Stafford Lake Park, Marin County

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

