



## 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](http://www.marincountyparks.org)  
(415) 473-6387

# FILED

08/25/2021

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

**SHELLY SCOTT**  
**MARIN COUNTY CLERK**  
By **J. Gilardi, Deputy**  
21-2021 - 175

**DATE:** August 25, 2021

**PROJECT TITLE:** CHERRY HILL CONNECTOR TRAIL

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Terra Linda Open Space Preserve, San Rafael, Marin County, CA

**ASSESSOR'S PARCEL:** 165-010-43

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project:** The purpose of the proposed project is to implement the Marin County Open Space District's (MCOSD) Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) by improving a defined social trail that was proposed for designation as a multi-use trail in the Region 5 proposed designation process. The Cherry Hill Connector Trail would provide the public with a safe multi-use connector trail between the existing Cherry Hill and Springs Hill Fire Roads to enhance the visitor experience while reduces the environmental impacts of the existing social trail by establishing a sustainable trail that meets design and management.

The proposed project would decommission an existing social trail and would construct a new multi-use trail. The proposed trail decommissioning would involve 625 feet of fall-line social trail that descends at a 28 percent gradient. The proposed multi-use trail would be located across moderately steep north facing slopes, approximately 1,100 feet in length, 4-foot width, with an average grade of 10 – 12 percent. One switchback would be included to reduce trail gradient. Rolling dips would be installed to provide trail drainage. The proposed trail is located on areas of locally steep sideslopes and potentially unstable ground, and therefore two sections of the proposed trail would include stacked rock retaining walls. One section is approximately 100 feet in length and the second section is approximately 125 feet in length. The retaining walls would be approximately 2 – 3 feet in height along the outer edge in these sections. A third section of the proposed trail would cross a shallow ephemeral watercourse, which is less than four-inches deep and drains a one-acre drainage. A rock ford would be utilized to cross this drainage. A wetland delineation was conducted and determined that the area is not a jurisdictional wetland, Waters of the State, or Waters of the United States, and no regulatory permit authorizations are required. Implementation of the proposed trail alignment would be constructed with a trail dozer, mini-excavator, power carriers and hand labor by the MCOSD trail crew. Implementation of the proposed project would occur between September 1 – January 30 to avoid bird nest period, and would require approximately 3 weeks to complete. Trail development would occur during the dry season and within one week of bird nesting surveys yield negative results.

A biological resources study was completed for the proposed project and concluded the proposed trail would not result in significant environmental impacts, and no mitigation measures were recommended. The project area primarily supports annual and perennial grasslands and coyote brush scrub. There are patches of native purple needlegrass and serpentine grassland communities nearby the project area, which would not be adversely affected by the proposed project. No special status plant or animal species were identified within the project area, though breeding/wintering/foraging habitat is present for a number of native bird species and foraging habitat is present for special-status and common bat species. Roosting habitat for bats is limited due to the lack of large mature trees and other appropriate roost sites. MCOSD would implement applicable RTMP policies and Best Management Practices to protect habitat, wildlife, bird, and bat species. A cultural resources study was completed for the proposed project and concluded that the proposed trail would not result in significant impacts, and no mitigation measures were recommended.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** Marin County Open Space District

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

POSTED: 08/25/2021 TO: 09/25/2021

**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 15304: Minor Alterations to Land.** The proposed project would decommission an existing social trail and would develop a new multi-use trail to create a sustainable multi-use trail for public recreational use. The project area is not located in a sensitive environment such as wetlands or on a hazardous waste site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Implementation of the proposed project would not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees; affect scenic resources including trees, historical buildings, rock outcroppings, or a scenic state highway; result in cumulative impacts; or result in a significant effect to the environment due to unusual circumstances.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:**

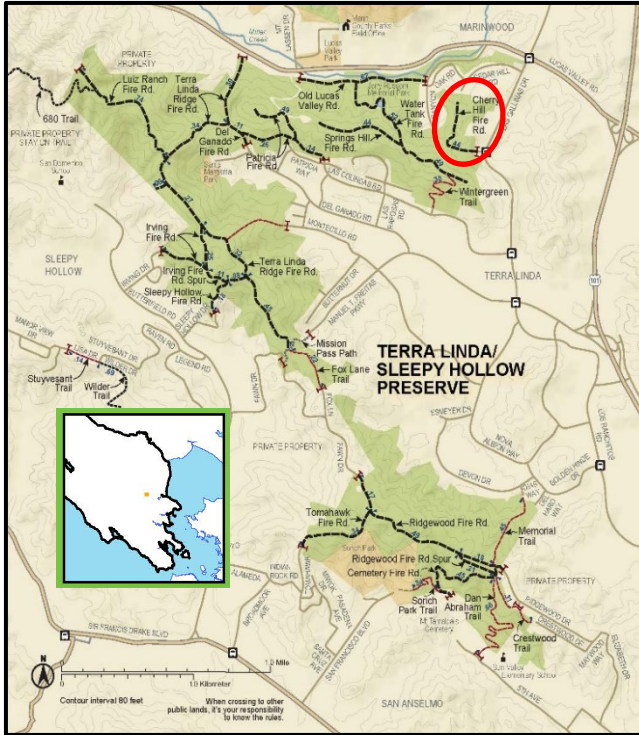
*Michelle Julene*

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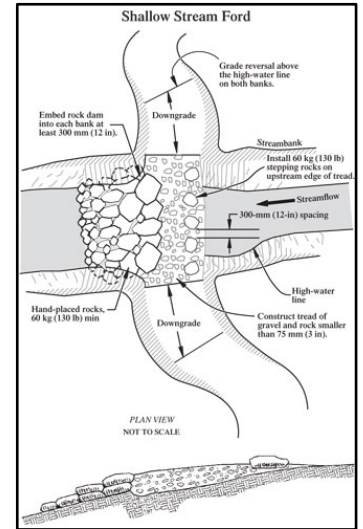
Michelle Julene, Regulatory Open Space Planner  
Marin County Parks and Open Space District  
(415) 444-6740 (office cell)



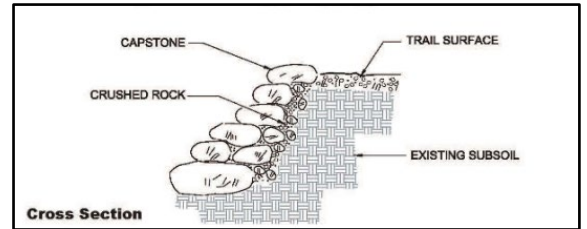
# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION – LOCATION TERRA LINDA OPEN SPACE PRESERVE - CHERRY HILL CONNECTOR TRAIL August 25, 2021



Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Open Space Preserve Trail Ma; Source: MCOSD



Typical Rock Retaining Wall  
Source: LA County Trails Manual



Typical Rock Ford Crossing  
Source: MTDC Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook

