



SANTA CLARA VALLEY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

MALECH ROAD PUBLIC ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Date: December 14, 2021

To: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Interested Persons

RE: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Malech Road Public Access Improvement Project

The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Authority) is the Lead Agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for the Malech Road Public Access Improvement Project (project) Initial Study (IS) and Proposed Mitigated Declaration. An IS has been prepared to assess the project's potential effects on the environment and the significance of those effects. Based on the IS, it has been determined that the project would clearly not have any significant effects on the environment with the implementation of mitigation measures.

Agencies and interested parties are invited to provide the Authority with written and/or email comments on the IS during the 30-day public review period that begins on December 14, 2021 and ends on January 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

PROJECT LOCATION

The 29-acre project area is located adjacent to the greater Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve (CRID) in unincorporated Santa Clara County, southeast of the city of San Jose and northwest of the city of Morgan Hill. The project area is served by three federal and state highways which are operated and maintained by Caltrans: U.S. Highway 101, State Route 85, and State Route 87. Direct access to the project area is provided by Malech Road.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Authority) proposes to develop the Malech Road Public Access Improvement Project, which includes a parking and staging area and new public access features within the boundary of the Malech Road property. In addition to providing important public access, the project would include the establishment of a formal entrance with a paved access road and public parking areas; an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible central gathering area and restroom; and two walking/hiking trails compliant with the Architectural Barriers Act

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Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas (ABA) and associated picnic areas, benches, and overlooks equipped with shade structures and interpretive signage. Additional features would include a small service vehicle parking area; bicycle racks; fencing; retaining walls; stormwater capture improvements; revegetation of disturbed areas with native stockpiled soils or an appropriate non-irrigated seed mix (to be approved by the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency or qualified biologist); interpretive signage; and a wayfinding kiosk.

No hazardous materials sites listed on the State Water Resource Control Board's GeoTracker database or the Department of Toxic Substances Control's EnviroStor database are present within the project area or within 1,000 feet of the project area.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The Initial Study and supporting documents are available for review online at:

<https://www.openspaceauthority.org/our-work/conservation-projects/coyote-ridge-open-space-preserve.html> as well as at the Authority's Administrative offices at 33 Las Colinas Lane in San Jose, CA 95119.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

Agencies and interested parties may provide the Authority with written and/or email comments on the Initial Study. Comments on the Initial Study should be made in writing during the 30-day public review period that begins on December 14, 2021 and ends on January 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Written comments via email and mail can be provided no later than **January 14, 2022**.

Please send all comments by mail or email to:

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
33 Las Colinas Lane
San Jose, CA 95119

Attn: Lucas Shellhammer
Phone: (408) 224-7476
E-mail: lshellhammer@openspaceauthority.org

Comments provided by email should include "Malech Road IS Comment" in the subject line.