




**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	May 6, 2025
TITLE	Adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Calaveras Ridge Trail Project and Approval of the Project: Calaveras Ridge Trail
DIVISION	Acquisition, Stewardship, and Development
FROM	Brian Holt, Division Lead of Planning, Trails, Cultural Resources & GIS Ken Wysocki, Assistant General Manager of Acquisition, Stewardship & Development
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District):

1. Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Calaveras Ridge Regional Trail Project; and
2. Approve the project as described below.

BACKGROUND

The Park District is developing a new 2.5-mile regional trail segment of the proposed Calaveras Ridge Trail in Contra Costa County (Project). The Project proposes to construct 1.2 miles of new trail and will utilize 1.3 miles of an existing dirt roadway. Much of the Project is within an easement owned by the Park District or City of Lafayette over private land. This trail segment would connect to the existing Lafayette/Moraga Regional Trail from the Olympic Blvd Staging Area, south to Rohrer Drive. The Calaveras Ridge Trail is one of the originally designated regional trail corridors in the Park District Master Plan. Once constructed, this multi-use trail corridor parallels the I-680 corridor connecting six regional parks. Construction of preliminary project elements including but not limited to fencing, gates, and plantings are anticipated to begin in 2025. Trail construction is anticipated to begin in 2026.

ANALYSIS

Prior to project approval, staff engaged ECORP Consulting, Inc. via an on-call contract to complete environmental review of the project. An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared for the project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15070 – 15073. A Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was released for public review on January 13, 2025, and the 30-day public review period concluded on February 15, 2025. The MND finds that the proposed project would result in “potentially significant” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” environmental impacts related to biological resources, cultural resources, paleontological resources, transportation, and tribal cultural resources. Implementation of feasible mitigation measures would either avoid or reduce to a level of insignificance the identified environmental impacts. Mitigation measures developed to minimize project impacts are included in the MMRP prepared to comply with the requirements of State law (Public Resources Code Section 21081.6). Best Management Practices (BMP's) were Incorporated into the Project to further avoid Significant Effects. All comments received and responses to those comments are included in the Final MND. Three additional mitigation measures were added to the MMRP in response to comments, but none of the comments received required substantial changes to the project requiring major revisions to the MND.

All necessary biological, wetland and cultural surveys were completed in spring 2024. The project crosses one ephemeral drainage designated as Waters of the US. A clear span bridge is planned outside of the bed and bank of this drainage and will therefore have no impact to the drainage, and as such, the Park District will request a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination and concurrence that no authorization under Clean Water Act Section 404 is required for this Project.

Preconstruction surveys will be conducted to identify the presence of special status plant or animal species, and preconstruction trainings will take place to educate construction workers on potential special status plants on the property. Preconstruction trainings by a qualified archeologist will inform construction workers of the archeologically sensitive nature of the area, and work will be stopped if paleontological resources, Native American or historic period resources, or human remains are found during ground disturbance, and appropriate measures enacted to protect any discovered resource. The Park District has also formally consulted with the Confederated Villages of Lisjan, and the Tribe will be contacted if any tribal cultural resources are identified during Project implementation.

Staff recommends adoption of the MND and the MMRP for the Calaveras Ridge Trail Project, and that the Park District determine that the project with mitigations set forth in the MND will not have significant environmental effects [Guidelines, sec. 15070].

The link to the CEQA.net database where the Draft MND is available for review, is on the Park District's website at: <https://www.ebparks.org/projects/calaveras-ridge-regional-trail>. The MMRP is available from Park District staff upon request (Rourke Healey, Planner, rhealey@ebparks.org).

FISCAL IMPACT

There are two fees required for the filing of the MND. There are sufficient funds available in the Develop Calaveras Ridge Trail account (CIP #169000).

SOURCE OF FUNDS	
Develop Calaveras Ridge Trail (CIP #169000) Budget	\$ 125,000
Encumbered and Expended	\$118,064
Total Funds Available	\$6,936

USE OF FUNDS	
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) Fee	\$ 2,969
Contra Costa County Clerk Processing Fee	50
Total Current Project Cost	\$ 3,019

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – Calaveras Ridge Trail Project Map



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 05 -
MAY 6, 2025**

**ADOPTION OF A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE
CALAVERAS RIDGE TRAIL PROJECT AND APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT:
CALAVERAS RIDGE TRAIL**

WHEREAS, the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) is developing a new 2.5-mile regional trail segment of the proposed Calaveras Ridge Trail in Contra Costa County to connect the Lafayette/Moraga Regional Trail to its current terminus at Rohrer Drive, Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project finds that the proposed project would result in “potentially significant” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” environmental impacts related to biological resources, cultural resources, paleontological resources, transportation, and tribal cultural resources, but that implementation of feasible mitigation measures would either avoid or reduce to a level of insignificance the identified environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Park District issued a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Calaveras Ridge Trail project on January 13, 2025, and the 30-day public review period for the MND for the project concluded on February 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the MND and the Public Notice of Intent to Adopt a MND was posted on the Park District’s website and was provided to responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and the Contra Costa County Clerk; and

WHEREAS, three comment letters were received and those comments and responses are included in the Final MND and none of the comments received required substantial changes to the project requiring major revisions to the MND; and

WHEREAS, three additional mitigation measures were added to minimize project impacts and are included in the MMRP prepared to comply with the requirements of State law and Best Management Practices to further avoid Significant Effects;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors finds, based upon the Mitigated Negative Declaration, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and all substantial evidence presented at the time of hearing:

1. Notice of the hearing on the Mitigated Negative Declaration was given as required by law and the actions described herein were conducted pursuant to CEQA and CEQA Guidelines; and
2. That the public comments do not propose substantial changes to the project requiring major revisions to the Mitigated Negative Declaration due to: (a) the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or (b) the involvement of new information of substantial importance showing that the project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration or that mitigation measures previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible; and
3. That there have been no substantial changes with respect to the circumstances under which the project will be undertaken which will require major revisions to the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
4. There is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment in that adequate mitigation measures have been made a part of the project to avoid any such effects; and
5. The project reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the Park District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby adopts the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Calaveras Ridge Trail Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors hereby approves the Calaveras Ridge Trail Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Manager is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Park District and in its name, to execute and deliver such documents and to do such acts as may be deemed necessary or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolution.

Moved by Director _____, and seconded by Director _____,
and adopted May 6, 2025, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: