

4.13 IMPACTS NOT FOUND TO BE SIGNIFICANT

CEQA Guidelines Section 15128 requires that an EIR contain a statement briefly indicating the reasons that various possible significant effects of a project were determined not to be significant and were therefore not discussed in detail in the EIR. For this EIR, issues related to agriculture, hazards and hazardous materials, mineral resources, population and housing, and public services-schools were found not to be significant, as discussed below, and are not addressed further in the EIR.

4.1.1 Agriculture and Forest Resources

Agricultural Resources

With regard to potential impacts to agriculture, Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines asks whether a project would directly or indirectly result in the conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural use, or conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or with a Williamson Act contract. The City does not contain prime or other agricultural lands as mapped on the State Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), but is designated as “Urban and Built-up Land” (City of Santa Cruz, April 2012, DEIR volume). Moore Creek Preserve is designated as “grazing land,” in the FMMP. Grazing currently occurs on the property, primarily as a means to restore natural habitat and endangered species. However, there are no recommendations in the Parks Master Plan that would affect grazing at Moore Creek. Grazing also is conducted at Arana Gulch Open Space to help restore the Santa Cruz tarplant and coastal prairie habitat.

Except for Moore Creek Preserve and Arana Gulch Open Space, none of the other existing City parks, community facilities, or open space lands is used for grazing or agricultural production or are located adjacent to lands that are in agricultural production. Grazing formerly occurred at Pogonip Open Space, and the proposed Parks Master Plan recommends renovation of the former cattle grazing infrastructure and re-initiation of grazing on the property. The Parks Master Plan policies and actions also support community garden space in higher-density or lower-income areas (Goal 1-Policy C, Action 4), on the east side of the San Lorenzo River and in the Beach Flats area (Goal III-Policy G, Action 1c), and for consideration at specific locations (Round Tree Park, Star of the Sea Park). The City currently provides community garden plots at Beach Flats Community Gardens (not city-owned), Lighthouse Avenue Park, Riverside Gardens Park, and Trescony Park. The facilities are located in developed areas and contain small plots that are available to rent for personal recreational enjoyment and non-commercial food production.

Therefore, the project and future implementation of park and recreational facility improvements would not interfere or conflict with agricultural operations or lead to conversion of agricultural lands to other uses. Therefore, the project would have *no impact* on agricultural resources.

Forestry Resources.

There are no areas in the City that are zoned Timberland Preserve that are considered forestry resources. No commercial timber harvesting occurs within the City. Areas of mixed evergreen, redwood forest, and oak woodlands occur within the City, primarily within the city-owned open space greenbelt lands. Furthermore, Goal I-Policy A, Action 1f, of the proposed Parks Master Plan calls for increasing the number of trees and tree canopy, and Action 1g calls for expansion of the program to plant more trees. Thus, the proposed project would not result in or lead to the conversion of forest lands to other uses. Therefore, the project would have *no impact* on forestry resources.

4.1.2 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

The project consists of adoption and implementation of a Parks Master Plan. The proposed Plan will guide future parks and recreational facility planning and development. The proposed Plan identifies a range of projects that would result in improvements to existing park and recreational facilities. No specific development is proposed as a part of the Parks Master Plan.

The Parks Master Plan addresses park and recreational facilities and identifies improvements to enhance the quality of the parks system. While some sites within the planning area may contain toxic materials (cleaning agents, gasoline, etc.), no specific development will be permitted upon adoption of the Parks Master Plan that is not already allowed under the General Plan and current zoning. The types of uses and activities associated with the Parks Master Plan park and facility recommendations generally would not require transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials and would not result in exposure to health hazards or creation of a health hazard. There are no park sites located within the City that are included on a list of hazardous materials compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5 (known as the Cortese List). Therefore, *no impacts* related to hazardous substances would result from the adoption and implementation of the *Parks Master Plan 2030*.

Location Near Airports.

The City is not located near an airport. The site is not included in a state hazardous materials site list. Therefore, *no impacts* related to hazards due to location near airports would occur as a result of the Project.

Emergency Response.

The City of Santa Cruz has an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that details the City's concept of operations in response to disasters. The EOP outlines how information and resources are coordinated for disasters or threat of disasters. The City of Santa Cruz Emergency Operations Center Manager endeavors to conduct annual trainings, tabletop exercises, and other drills that support the

preparedness and response capabilities of city staff and the readiness of the Emergency Operations Center. Information updates and tabletop discussions are conducted to clarify staff roles and responsibilities in the EOC, in the Department Operations Centers (DOCs), and in the field to help protect people and property (SOURCE V.2b).

The proposed Parks Master Plan does not include a change to the existing circulation pattern within the City, although new bicycle and pedestrian facilities may be added in the future. Implementation of the Parks Master Plan improvements and projects would not physically interfere with emergency response or evacuation routes. The project will not significantly impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, and there would be *no impact*.

4.1.3 Mineral Resources

The CEQA Appendix G Guidelines consider that a project would have potential impacts on mineral resources if it would result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource or locally important mineral resource recovery site. There are no identified mineral resources within the City of Santa Cruz (City of Santa Cruz, April 2012, DEIR volume). Thus, the project would have no impact on known or locally important mineral resources.

4.1.4 Population and Housing

The CEQA Appendix G Guidelines related to potential population and housing impacts ask whether a project would either directly or indirectly induce substantial population growth or displace substantial numbers of existing housing or people. The proposed Project consists of adoption and implementation of a Parks Master Plan. No residential development is proposed, and the project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth. Implementation of the Plan and future improvements would be located in parks and recreational areas and would not result in displacement of existing housing or people. Therefore, the project would have no impact on population and housing.

4.1.5 Public Services - Schools

With regard to potential public services impacts, the CEQA Appendix G Guidelines focus on whether a proposed project would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or need for, new or physically altered governmental facilities, including fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and other public facilities, in order to meet acceptable performance objectives. The project would not include any new land uses that would generate new demand for public services. As described above in Section 4.1.4, the Project would not result in an increase in population, and therefore, would not generate students or have an effect on schools.

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