

County of Santa Clara, California • Parks and Recreation Department
298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos, California 95032 / Telephone (408) 355-2200

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

A notice, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code §§ 21000, et sec.) that the following project when implemented will not have a significant impact on the environment.

Project Title	File
Joseph D. Grant County Park Master Plan Amendment	None
Project Location	APN (s)
Joseph D. Grant County Park 18405 Mount Hamilton Road San José, CA 95140	627-06-002, 627-07-013, 627-07-014
Owner	Applicant
County of Santa Clara	County of Santa Clara Department of Parks and Recreation
Project Description	
<p>The Proposed Project is a Master Plan Amendment for Joseph D. Grant County Park. The Master Plan Amendment would provide for public use and access of the former Sulphur Springs Ranch by creating two new backpack camps for use by backpackers: Sulphur Springs Ranch Backpack Camp and Valley Oak Backpack Camp; The Master Plan Amendment would also include construction of required infrastructure to support the proposed camping uses and trail access.</p> <p><i>New Campsites</i></p> <p>Sulphur Springs Ranch Backpack Camp would be located on a grassy hilltop in the northwest Amendment area. Sulphur Springs Ranch Backpack Camp would offer seven campsites one larger group site. The campsites would include a flat area of compacted earth, a metal food locker, and an embedded pad for camp stove cooking.</p> <p>The Valley Oak Backpack Camp would be more remotely situated approximately one mile directly east of the Sulphur Springs Ranch Backpack Camp. Valley Oak Backpack Camp would offer five individual sites. The campsites would include a flat area of compacted earth, a metal food locker, and an embedded pad for camp stove cooking. No toilet facility would be provided at this location.</p>	

Staging Area

An existing staging area, Stockman's Group Picnic Area, would be utilized as staging for overnight visitors who have reservations at one of the new backpack camps. The Stockman's Group Picnic Area is located near the main Park entrance and includes a permanent restroom building and numerous parking stalls. It would be an approximately 6-mile hike from this access point to the proposed camps.

Backcountry Toilet

A new toilet would be added at the Sulphur Springs Ranch Backpack Camp. The backcountry toilet would be a vault-type toilet and ADA compliant. Development would include installation of a backcountry vault toilet at the Sulphur Springs Ranch Backpack Camp and improvements to the ranch road leading from State Route 130 (Mount Hamilton Road) to allow installation and maintenance of the toilet.

Access Roads and Trails

Several ranch roads would be repurposed as trails for public use while other roads would be converted to operations and maintenance access roads or decommissioned. Nearly two miles of new trail would be constructed, three miles of existing ranch roads would be repurposed as multi-use trails and over one mile would be repurposed as an operations and maintenance access only road; two miles of ranch road would be decommissioned.

The new Sulphur Springs Ranch Trail would connect Smith Creek Trail to the Sulphur Springs Ranch Backpack Camp. This new trail would be developed from a segment of repurposed ranch road and two segments of newly constructed trail and is approximately 0.5-mile in length.

The Smith Creek Trail is an existing Park trail that would be extended into the Amendment area to connect to the Valley Oak Backpack Camp. This trail extension would be developed from a segment of new trail that connects to a new bridge over Sulphur Creek and a segment repurposed of ranch road. The trail extension alignment follows Smith Creek on the northeast bank for a section and then climbs the slope terminating at Valley Oak Backpack Camp. The segment of new trail and the extension combined are approximately 0.5-mile.

The new Isabel Ridge Trail begins at a junction with Smith Creek Trail and climbs Isabel Ridge, offering visitors sweeping views of the Western Diablo Range. Isabel Ridge Trail would be developed from repurposed ranch road and is nearly two miles in length.

The Manzanita Trail is an existing Park trail that would be extended into the Amendment area to connect to Smith Creek Trail. A segment of the Manzanita Trail would be decommissioned from public use and converted to access road. From the junction with the access road, the alignment of Manzanita Trail would be extended in a southeasterly direction toward the Amendment area's southern boundary, at which point it would cross Smith Creek. The trail would cross the creek as a wet crossing, meaning there would not be a bridge. From Smith Creek the trail would continue northwesterly until it connects at a junction with Smith Creek Trail. The Manzanita Trail extension is over one mile of new trail construction.

Purpose of Notice

The purpose of this notice is to inform you that the County of Santa, Parks & Recreation Department Staff have recommended that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be adopted for this Project. Action is tentatively scheduled on this proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration before the **County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors** on **Tuesday, December 15, 2020** in the Board Chambers, 70 W. Hedding, San Jose, CA 95112.

It should be noted that the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration does not constitute approval of the project under consideration. The decision to approve or deny the project will be made separately. Meeting information will be posted on the County of Santa Clara's website at www.sccgov.org under Board Agendas or contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (408) 299-5001.

Review Period

The public review period for this document begins **September 14, 2020** and ends **October 14, 2020**. Public comments regarding the correctness, completeness, or adequacy of this Mitigated Negative Declaration are invited. Such comments should be based on specific environmental concerns. Written comments must be received on or before the close of the public review period and should be addressed to the **County of Santa Clara, Department of Parks and Recreation, Planning and Development Section, 298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032, attention Kimberly Brosseau, AICP, Senior Planner.**

Oral comments may be made at the County of Santa Clara Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation Committee Meeting, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 70 W. Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95112. Oral comments may also be made at the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors Meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2020 in the Board Chambers.

In response to the COVID-19 and Shelter-in-Place policy, hard copies are no longer available at the typical locations such as the County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department, located at 298 Garden Hill Drive in Los Gatos; and at Joseph D. Grant County Park during normal business hours. Therefore, if requested, a hard copy will be mailed to you. Please allow time for printing and delivery.

The Draft IS/MND is available for review at the County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department's website at: www.parkhere.org/JDGrantMPAmendment

Agencies sent copy of this document

- County of Santa Clara, Department of Environmental Health
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency

Basis for Mitigated Negative Declaration Recommendation

The Planning and Development Section of the Department of Parks and Recreation has reviewed the initial study for the project and, based upon substantial evidence in the record, finds that although the proposed project could initially have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect on the environment because of mitigation measures that have been incorporated into the project.

This finding is based on the follow considerations (See Note below):

Based on the environmental evaluation presented in the Initial Study, the Project will not cause significant adverse effects related to aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, energy, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, transportation, or utilities. In addition, the Project does not have any significant, unavoidable adverse impacts.

Mitigation measures are required for the following environmental impact areas: air quality, biological and cultural/historical/archaeological resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, noise, recreation, and tribal cultural resources. Implementation of specified mitigation measures will avoid or reduce the effects of the Project on the environment and ensure that all impacts remain less-than-significant impacts. See the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for a discussion of the potential impacts and those measures necessary to mitigate or avoid significant environmental impacts as a result of the implementation of the Project. These impacts and mitigation measures are identified in further detail in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) and are briefly summarized below.

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|--------------|---|
| BIO-1 | To avoid impacts to special-status plants and sensitive plant communities, protocol-level rare plant and sensitive communities surveys shall be conducted prior to construction by a qualified biologist. |
| BIO-2 | The project shall obtain coverage through the SCVHP for all SCVHP-covered special-status species and shall follow mitigation requirements defined in the SCVHP for each special-status wildlife species present within the SCVHP plan area. |

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|--------------|--|
| BIO-3 | Prior to construction activities that occur during the nesting season (generally March 1 to August 31), a survey for nesting birds shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. No action is necessary if no active nests are found, or if construction occurs outside of nesting season. |
| BIO-4 | To protect native trees and riparian trees, County Parks shall implement the mitigation measures identified in the MMRP and include the wording of these measures in all final construction plans and specifications. |
| BIO-5 | To limit spread and new infestations of invasive plant species during construction and long-term management of the Amendment area, County Parks shall implement the mitigation measures in the MMRP and include the wording of these measures in all final construction plans and specifications. |
| BIO-6 | The County shall implement the mitigation measures identified in the MMRP for bridge design to prevent adverse effects to creeks and riparian corridors and include the wording of these measures in all final construction plans and specifications. |
| BIO-7 | To avoid or minimize impacts to covered species listed on Table 1-2 of the SCVHP, all applicable conditions outlined in SCVHP Chapter 6: Conditions on Covered Activities and Application Process, shall be implemented during each phase of the Master Plan Amendment. |
| CR-1 | Trail Construction crews will be trained by qualified archaeologists to recognize potentially significant cultural resources and appropriate procedures in the case of discovery of potentially significant cultural resources. |
| CR-2 | Potentially sensitive areas will be identified in a pre-construction survey by a qualified archaeologist. Based on pre-construction surveys, if there is any potential for unearthing cultural resources then monitoring will be required. Construction-related ground disturbance within these sensitive areas shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. |
| CR-3 | If human remains are found during construction there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until the coroner of Santa Clara County is contacted to determine whether investigation of the cause of death is required. Additionally, excavation or disturbance shall stop until procedures outlined in the County Ordinance Relating to Indian Burial Grounds and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 can be implemented. |
| GEO-1 | If a fossil is discovered during excavations of 10 feet or more below ground surface, excavation activity within 50 feet of the find shall be temporarily halted or delayed until the find is examined by a qualified paleontologist in accordance with Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standards. |

Note: A reporting or monitoring program must be adopted for measures to mitigate significant impacts at the time the Mitigated Negative Declaration is adopted, or the project is approved, in accordance with the requirements of Section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Codes.

Prepared by:

Kimberly Brosseau, AICP,
Senior Planner
Santa Clara County Parks

DocuSigned by:

K.B.
Kimberly Brosseau

9/8/2020

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Signature

Date

Approved by:

Annie Thomson, Deputy Director of
Planning, Development and Land
Stewardship
Santa Clara County Parks

DocuSigned by:

A.T.
Annie Thomson

9/8/2020

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Signature

Date



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2020 ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT
DFW 753.5a (REV. 12/01/19) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:

ENV22929

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA DEPARTMENT OF	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 09/09/2020
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SANTA CLARA	DOCUMENT NUMBER	

PROJECT TITLE

JOSEPH D. GRANT COUNTY PARK MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA DEPARTMENT OF	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (408) 355-2200
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 298 GARDEN HILL DRIVE	CITY LOS GATOS	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 95032

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$3,343.25	\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,406.75	\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,136.50	\$	

☐ Exempt from fee
 ☐ Notice of Exemption (attach)
 ☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☒ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ \$0.00

SIGNATURE X	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Patricia Camarena, Deputy County Clerk-Recorder
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County of Santa Clara
Office of the County Clerk-Recorder
Business Division

County Government Center
70 West Hedding Street, E. Wing, 1st Floor
San Jose, California 95110 (408) 299-5688



Santa Clara County - Clerk-Recorder Office
State of California

File Number: ENV22929

ENVIRONMENTAL FILING

No. of Pages: 7

Total Fees: \$0.00

File Date: 09/09/2020

Expires: 10/09/2020

REGINA ALCOMENDRAS, Clerk-Recorder

By: Patricia Camarena, Deputy Clerk-Recorder

CEQA DOCUMENT DECLARATION

ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE RECEIPT

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

1. LEAD AGENCY: County of Santa Clara Department of Parks and Recreation
2. PROJECT TITLE: Joseph D. Grant County Park Master Plan Amendment
3. APPLICANT NAME: County of Santa Clara Department of Parks and Recreation PHONE: 408-355-2200
4. APPLICANT ADDRESS: 298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032
5. PROJECT APPLICANT IS A: ☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity
6. NOTICE TO BE POSTED FOR 30 DAYS.

7. CLASSIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

a. PROJECTS THAT ARE SUBJECT TO DFG FEES

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. <u>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT</u> (PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE §21152)	\$ 3,343.25	\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. <u>NEGATIVE DECLARATION</u> (PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE §21080(C))	\$ 2,406.75	\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. <u>APPLICATION FEE WATER DIVERSION</u> (STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ONLY)	\$ 850.00	\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. <u>PROJECTS SUBJECT TO CERTIFIED REGULATORY PROGRAMS</u>	\$ 1,136.50	\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. <u>COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE FEE</u> (REQUIRED FOR a-1 THROUGH a-4 ABOVE) Fish & Game Code §711.4(e)	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00

b. PROJECTS THAT ARE EXEMPT FROM DFG FEES

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (\$50.00 COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE FEE REQUIRED)	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. A COMPLETED "CEQA FILING FEE NO EFFECT DETERMINATION FORM" FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME, DOCUMENTING THE DFG'S DETERMINATION THAT THE PROJECT WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON FISH, WILDLIFE AND HABITAT, OR AN OFFICIAL, DATED RECEIPT / PROOF OF PAYMENT SHOWING PREVIOUS PAYMENT OF THE DFG FILING FEE FOR THE *SAME PROJECT IS ATTACHED (\$50.00 COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE FEE REQUIRED)		
DOCUMENT TYPE: <input type="checkbox"/> ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> NEGATIVE DECLARATION	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00

c. NOTICES THAT ARE NOT SUBJECT TO DFG FEES OR COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

<input type="checkbox"/> NOTICE OF PREPARATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOTICE OF INTENT	NO FEE	\$ NO FEE
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8. OTHER: _____ FEE (IF APPLICABLE): \$ _____
9. TOTAL RECEIVED..... \$ 0.00

*NOTE: "SAME PROJECT" MEANS NO CHANGES. IF THE DOCUMENT SUBMITTED IS NOT THE SAME (OTHER THAN DATES), A "NO EFFECT DETERMINATION" LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME FOR THE SUBSEQUENT FILING OR THE APPROPRIATE FEES ARE REQUIRED.

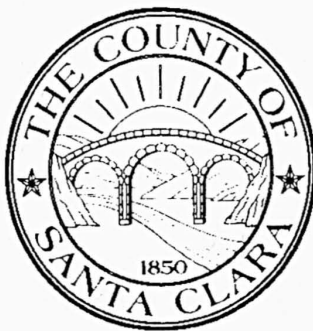
THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND ATTACHED TO THE FRONT OF ALL CEQA DOCUMENTS LISTED ABOVE (INCLUDING COPIES) SUBMITTED FOR FILING. WE WILL NEED AN ORIGINAL (WET SIGNATURE) AND TWO (2) COPIES. IF THERE ARE ATTACHMENTS, PLEASE PROVIDE THREE (3) SETS OF ATTACHMENTS FOR SUBMISSION. (YOUR ORIGINAL WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU AT THE TIME OF FILING.)

CHECKS FOR ALL FEES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: SANTA CLARA COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER

PLEASE NOTE: FEES ARE ANNUALLY ADJUSTED (Fish & Game Code §711.4(b); PLEASE CHECK WITH THIS OFFICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME FOR THE LATEST FEE INFORMATION.

"... NO PROJECT SHALL BE OPERATIVE, VESTED, OR FINAL, NOR SHALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERMITS FOR THE PROJECT BE VALID, UNTIL THE FILING FEES REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION ARE PAID." Fish & Game Code §711.4(c)(3)

(Fees Effective 01-01-2020)



Regina Alcomendras
Santa Clara County
Clerk-Recorder
(408) 299-5688
<https://www.clerkrecorder.org>

Receipt: 20-185438

Product	Name	Extended
CEQA	ENVIRONMENTAL FILING	\$0.00
	# Pages	7
	Document #	ENV22929
	Document Info:	COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
	Filing Type	F
Total		\$0.00
Change (Cash)		\$0.00

PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE