

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: City of Arcata Arcata Ridge Trail - Fickle Hill Segment

Lead Agency: City of Arcata

Contact Person: David Loya

Mailing Address: 736 F Street

Phone: (707) 822-5955

City: Arcata

Zip: 95521

County: Humboldt

Project Location: County: Humboldt City/Nearest Community: Arcata

Cross Streets: Zip Code: 95521

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): -124 ° 3 ' 6.48 " N / 40 ° 51 ' 56.5194 " W Total Acres: 6.17 ac

Assessor's Parcel No.: 500-022-004

Section: 34

Twp.: 6N

Range: 1E

Base:

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 101, 255

Waterways: Grotzman Creek, Beith Creek, Gannon Slough, Humboldt Bay

Airports:

Railways:

Schools: Jacoby Creek School, Sunnybrae Middle School

Document Type:

CEQA:

☐ NOP☐ Draft EIR

NEPA:

☐ NOI

Other:

☐ Joint Document☐ Early Cons☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR☐ EA☐ Final Document☒ Neg Dec

(Prior SCH No.)

☐ Draft EIS☐ Other:☐ Mit Neg Dec

Other:

☐ FONSI**Local Action Type:**☐ General Plan Update☐ Specific Plan☐ Rezone☐ Annexation☐ General Plan Amendment☐ Master Plan☐ Prezone☐ Redevelopment☐ General Plan Element☐ Planned Unit Development☐ Use Permit☐ Coastal Permit☐ Community Plan☐ Site Plan☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)☒ Other: Trail Maintenance**Development Type:**☐ Residential: Units

Acres

☐ Office: Sq.ft.

Acres

Employees

☐ Transportation: Type☐ Mining: Mineral☐ Commercial: Sq.ft.

Acres

Employees

☐ Power: Type

MW

☐ Industrial: Sq.ft.

Acres

Employees

☐ Waste Treatment: Type

MGD

☐ Educational:☐ Hazardous Waste: Type☐ Recreational:☐ Water Facilities: Type

MGD

☒ Other: Trail Maintenance

TRAIL BUILDING

Project Issues Discussed in Document:☒ Aesthetic/Visual☐ Fiscal☒ Recreation/Parks☐ Vegetation☐ Agricultural Land☐ Flood Plain/Flooding☐ Schools/Universities☒ Water Quality☒ Air Quality☒ Forest Land/Fire Hazard☐ Septic Systems☒ Water Supply/Groundwater☒ Archeological/Historical☒ Geologic/Seismic☐ Sewer Capacity☒ Wetland/Riparian☒ Biological Resources☐ Minerals☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading☐ Growth Inducement☐ Coastal Zone☒ Noise☐ Solid Waste☐ Land Use☒ Drainage/Absorption☐ Population/Housing Balance☒ Toxic/Hazardous☒ Cumulative Effects☐ Economic/Jobs☐ Public Services/Facilities☐ Traffic/Circulation☐ Other:**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

Zoning is Natural Resources-Timber Production (NR-TP). Land Use Designation in General Plan is Natural Resource.

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

The City of Arcata (City) proposes to complete improvements to a trail segment in the Arcata Community Forest Sunnybrae Tract in Arcata, California. The project site is immediately south of Fickle Hill Road, within parcel APN 500-022-004, a 6.17-acre parcel owned by the City of Arcata. The proposed Project will construct approximately 1,600 linear feet of recreational trail. The project involves construction, use, and maintenance of the recreational trail segment. The project also includes a crossing of Fickle Hill Road to facilitate recreational use connectivity. The trail segment connects two tracts that are part of the greater Arcata Community Forest and is part of the Arcata Ridge Trail. See attached sheet for full project description.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Arcata Ridge Trail - Fickle Hill Segment Project Description

The trail project proposes to construct 1,600 linear feet of recreational trail to connect existing parts of the Arcata Ridge Trail. This project is located within the Arcata City limits and within the City of Arcata's Sunny Brae Forest Tract, just south of the Arcata Community Forest Tract. The project includes a trail crossing at Fickle Hill Road approximately 1.5 miles east of the intersection of Fickle Hill Road and Park Avenue, and about two miles from the nearest Highway 101 off ramp. In the project location, Fickle Hill Road is a County road, and the City of Arcata owns the property on either side of the road (to the north and south) where the proposed crossing is to be located.

The project involves construction, operation, and maintenance of an unpaved all-season recreational trail. The non-motorized multi-use trail will include hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. This trail segment will provide a public access link connection from the Arcata Community Forest Tract lands on the north side of Fickle Hill Road to Community Forest Sunny Brae Tract located to the south. All Community Forest property is within the Arcata City limits. The proposed project links the larger five-mile long Arcata Ridge Trail network as well as other existing community forest trails. This project will provide connectivity to existing public trails and it will be used by the immediate residential neighborhood as well as the community at large. The project will help disperse recreational use throughout the city forest with a potential to decrease congestion in some areas.

The project includes the removal of trees near the road right-of-way. Three Sitka spruce trees with an average diameter at breast height (DBH), which is measured approximately 54" above the ground, of 8" will be removed. All of the Sitka spruce are currently suppressed. Eight redwood trees with an average DBH of 14.8" will be removed for traffic visibility and are part of "stump clumps". The trees either are suppressed or have been previously topped for utility clearance. Trees within the clumps will be preserved and remain alive and intact.

The County of Humboldt, City of Arcata, and the California Wildlife Conservation Board contributing funding for the acquisition of lands on the north side of Fickle Hill Road to enable a public access via public trail. Lands were also purchased on the south side of Fickle Hill Road with funding from the California Wildlife Conservation Board to provide for public access and a public trail, to maintain a working forest and to protect forested habitat for wildlife.

Currently there are several non-sanctioned trespass trails that have existed in the area for decades. One of the project goals is to provide a designed and sanctioned public trail to reduce the nuisance illegal trail use that involves trespass across private properties to get to the public lands.

Three viable options for the crossing location on Fickle Hill Road within the Humboldt County right-of-way are analyzed in this IS/ND. The proposed alignment, labeled the Preferred Crossing in Figure 4, minimizes trail tread within the watershed drainage area contributing runoff to a watercourse that drains to downstream domestic water creek diversions. This option also avoids steeper side hillslopes adjacent to the county road shoulder. It provides adequate traffic visibility and requires less road bank grading on the north side of Fickle Hill Road compared to Option #2, which is east of the proposed alignment. The proposed alignment requires less material and a retaining structure on the south side of county road that would be necessary with Option #3 to the west of the proposed alignment.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # 1 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # 1 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date January 13th Ending Date February 16th

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Transterra Consulting</u>	Applicant: <u>City of Arcata</u>
Address: <u>1225 Central Ave Suite 8A</u>	Address: <u>736 F Street</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>McKinleyville, CA 95519</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Arcata CA 95521</u>
Contact: <u>Tamara Camper</u>	Phone: <u>(707) 825-5955</u>
Phone: <u>(707) 840-4772</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____

Date: 1/8/21

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.