



**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
AND  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

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**April 25, 2011**

An Initial Study of environmental impact has been prepared by the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department and considered by the Sonoma County Environmental Review Committee for the following project:

**COASTAL PRAIRIE TRAIL PROJECT**

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project is located between Bay Hill Road and Keefe Avenue in Bodega Bay, CA.<sup>1</sup>

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Coastal Prairie Trail will be a Class 1 bike path, as defined by the Caltrans Highway Design Manual and will provide equitable access for all modes of trail use, including bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian.

**The Trail:** The Coastal Prairie Trail will be approximately 1.0 miles in length and 12-feet wide. The trail width includes an 8-foot wide trail with rock aggregate shoulders along each side of the trail. Approximately 4,230 feet of the trail will be surfaced with resin-stabilized aggregate. The trail shoulders will be one-foot wide along one side of the trail and three-feet wide on the other side, the three-foot wide shoulder will accommodate equestrian use. The remaining sections of the main trail will consist of approximately 918 feet of boardwalk over wetlands within federal regulatory jurisdiction and a 120-foot long bridge over an unnamed tributary.

**Parking:** The trailhead will be located approximately half-way along the trail, approximately 0.10 mile south of State Park's Bodega Dunes Campground entrance road off State Highway 1. The trailhead will include a parking area accessed from a paved entrance, a screened portable restroom, picnic tables, bicycle rack, trash cans and other amenities. The trailhead parking area will accommodate approximately 15 passenger vehicles, including one van accessible disabled parking space in compliance with ADA requirements. The trailhead parking area will include access for school and public transit busses as well as emergency access vehicles. Additional parking for seven vehicles, including one ADA-compliant parking space, will be provided at the northern terminus of the Coastal Prairie Trail at Keefe Avenue. A wildlife-friendly vehicle barrier consisting of logs and bollards will be placed around the parking areas so that vehicles cannot drive onto the trail itself.

**State Highway 1 Improvement:** A 300-foot section of shoulder along the east side of State Highway 1 will be widened to provide an 8-foot paved width across from the access driveway to the trailhead parking area. The paved shoulder will include 50-foot long tapered ends on both sides. The purpose is to provide an "escape route" to prevent rear-end collisions on northbound State Highway 1 of vehicles making the left turn into the trailhead parking area. This improvement will occur on both sides of the Caltrans maintenance facility driveway on an existing Caltrans easement.

**Miscellany:** The project will also include installation of two culverts on the south side of the Bodega Dunes Campground entry road, interpretive and operational signage along the trail, and relocation of one PG&E utility pole along State Highway 1.

**PROJECT PURPOSE:** The purpose of the proposed project is to develop a section of Class I bicycle path along State Highway 1 to provide a safe travel way separate from the state highway. The Class I bicycle path will be multi-use for bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian use. Currently, the only path for non-motorized use along this section of State Highway 1 is a very narrow section of paved shoulder immediately adjacent to the vehicle travel lane. Development of the Coastal Prairie Trail is expected to encourage alternatives to motorized travel between existing residential, recreational, and commercial areas in Bodega Bay and reduce traffic congestion.

**FINDING:** On the basis of the Initial Study, the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department has determined that with the incorporation of the mitigation measures proposed in the Initial Study, the proposed project would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

**COMMENT PERIOD:** The proposed Negative Declaration is available for review and comment, along with the Initial Study, at the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department. The posting and review period for the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration is:

**April 25 – May 27, 2011**

Written comments should be addressed to Mark Cleveland, Senior Park Planner at Sonoma County Regional Parks. The address and phone number are listed above, or e-mail at: [mclevela@sonoma-county.org](mailto:mclevela@sonoma-county.org)

**PROJECT APPROVAL:** The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors is the decision-making body responsible for adopting the proposed Negative Declaration and approving the proposed project. The environmental document and the comments received thereon will be referred to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors at a meeting that will be scheduled.

**DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:** The Initial Study and supporting documents are available for review at the Regional Parks main office, located at 2300 County Center Drive, Suite 120A; Santa Rosa, CA.

<sup>1</sup> APN: 100-220-008 & -009; 100-230-011 & -042; 101-020-042, -043, -044, & -045.