

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date **Held Until**
 ___/___/___ ___/___/___
Agenda Item No: **Agenda Item No:**

Department: Regional Parks

() 4/5 Vote Required

Contact:
Todd Holmes

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Board Date:
05-05-2009

Deadline for Board Action:
05-05-2009

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:

Cloverdale River Park – Phase 3 Improvements & FEMA Project

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Resolution adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Cloverdale River Park – Phase 3 Improvements & FEMA Project and approving the project

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES

ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

Estimated Cost \$

Contingencies \$
(Fund Name:)

Amount Budgeted \$

Unanticipated Revenue \$
(Source:)

Other Avail Approp \$
(Explain below)

Other Transfer(s) \$
(Source:)

Additional Requested: \$

Add'l Funds Requested: \$

Explanation (if required):

Prior Board Action(s):

01-30-2007. Resolution No. 07-0080. Regional Parks Storm Damage Report & Implementation Plan
 02-08-1999. Resolution No. 09-0152. Adopting a Negative Declaration for a Zone Change

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:

The Mitigated Negative Declaration will not be adopted, Phase 3 of the project will not be developed, and the FEMA storm damage will not be repaired resulting in loss of FEMA reimbursement and Proposition 50 funding.

BACKGROUND: (On File with the Clerk: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration attached to the Initial Study; Comment letters received on the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration)

Discussion: Regional Parks is requesting the Board adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Cloverdale River Park – Phase 3 Improvements & FEMA Project and approve the project.

Cloverdale River Park – Phase 3: Phase 3 was originally described and analyzed in a 1998 Master Plan and Initial Study. It consists of recreation improvements, bank stabilization, and habitat restoration. Recreation improvements generally include construction of an ADA-accessible boat portage; a small, compacted gravel parking area for three vehicles; eight family picnic sites with barbecues, two of which will be ADA-accessible; development of 190 lineal feet of ADA-accessible connecting pathways; and installation of two new interpretive panels to provide information on the riparian/riverine ecosystem and water safety tips, printed in both Spanish and English. The bank stabilization and habitat restoration element generally consists of removing portions of existing eroded levee that currently isolates the Russian River from its floodplain; restoration of 1,200 lineal feet of eroded riverbank using clean fill; regrading, seeding, and planting the slopes with over 300 native trees and shrubs; implementation of bio-technical bank stabilization measures including live siltation baffles and willow-planted rock structures (three of six rock structures will be funded by FEMA); and erosion control measures including coir erosion blankets, willow mattresses, willow sprigging, cottonwood poles, silt fencing, straw wattles, mulching, and hydroseeding.

The Phase 3 project is funded via a \$742,839 grant from the State of California River Parkways Grant Program, which distributes funds enabled from Proposition 50 funding. This grant was awarded to fund recreation and habitat improvements at Cloverdale River Park, components of which will self-mitigate potential habitat impacts that could result from implementation of the FEMA project repairs.

FEMA Project: Regional Parks' facilities suffered extensive damage during the 2005-2006 New Year Storm Event. Floodwater, debris, slides, and violent tidal action cause the majority of the damage. A total of 51 distinct repair projects covering 28 park facilities were approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) for funding. To date, the Department has completed 21 FEMA projects, including debris removal, emergency protective measures, road repairs, and various other projects within the Regional Parks system.

The Cloverdale River Park FEMA project was included in OES Declaration #2006-01, issued February 03, 2006. This Declaration corresponds with Presidential Declaration DR-1628-CA. FEMA has Categorically Excluded this project from the need to conduct environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Regional Parks is working with federal regulatory agencies regarding issues germane to the various jurisdictions.

Attachments: Resolution

On File With Clerk: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration attached to the Initial Study; Comment letters received on the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (if other than "Requested")

Vote:

BACKGROUND cont:

The Cloverdale River Park FEMA project includes restoration of an eroded bank slope. The restoration will be accomplished by regrading the slope, replacing eroded rock rip-rap with planted rock structures (three of six rock structures are funded by FEMA); stabilizing the slope with hydroseed; replacing irrigation pipe, wire, irrigation valves, controllers, and boxes; replacing a section of a concrete slab in the interpretive area; replacing damaged stairs that provided public access to the Russian River with an ADA-accessible ramp; and replacing two existing damaged park signs, 1,000 lineal feet of split-rail fencing, and 90 lineal feet of existing trail section.

FEMA has authorized a total of \$582,319 for the FEMA repairs.

CEQA Document & Process: Regional Parks contracted with a consultant to prepare an Initial Study in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Cloverdale River Park Phase 3 Improvements & FEMA Project. Regional Parks and the consultant presented the Initial Study to the Sonoma County Environmental Review Committee (ERC) on March 3, 2009. The Initial Study concluded that all potentially-significant environmental impacts could be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the proposed mitigation measures. Regional Parks recommended that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be prepared for the project based on the Initial Study and ERC agreed with this recommendation.

The required 30-day comment period was between March 9 and April 10, 2009. One comment letter was received during this time from Caltrans. The Caltrans letter is essentially a form letter and has no bearing on the project.

Regional Parks also received a comment letter from the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) past the comment period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration. The CSLC stated that the Initial Study should address how the project would contribute to greenhouse gases and global climate change pursuant to AB32. Even though this comment letter was received past the due date for the comment period, Regional Parks is addressing the concern here.

California's Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32) is a statewide effort to cap greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of California's economy. AB32 requires state agencies and all local government to take actions on local and state sponsored projects to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and to take other actions to reduce collectively the effects of government projects and actions on global climate change. It requires the state by 2020 to cut greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming to 1990 levels - 169 million metric tons, the equivalent of taking 28 million cars off the road.

The project area is located within the Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District (NSCAPCD). Local air quality regulations are established and regulated by them. The NSCAPCD regulates air quality through its permit authority for most types of stationary emission sources, and through its planning and review activities for other sources. As part of the State EPA Air Resources Board, guidelines are currently in development for the evaluation of greenhouse gas effects related to development projects. There are currently no established thresholds or recommended methodologies for determining the significance of a project's potential cumulative contribution to global climate change in CEQA documents. However, the focus of the draft guidelines is on larger projects and actions with significant emissions of greenhouse gases.

BACKGROUND cont:

The proposed Cloverdale River Project – Phase 3 Improvements and FEMA Project will have a less than significant impact on greenhouse gases and global climate change. The project will result in short-term, temporary air pollutant emissions from construction activities, which would be managed with the utilization of Best Management Practices for operation, maintenance and storage of project equipment with incorporation of the mitigation measures proposed in the Initial Study. Although there may be some limited, short term releases of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases associated with the heavy equipment needed to do the earthwork and grading for bank repair and stabilization, this short term and local affect is less than significant in context with the scale of the project. Furthermore, any minimal contribution to greenhouse gases and global climate change that could result from implementation of the project is expected to be offset by the planting of over 100 riparian trees and shrubs along the now-denuded banks of the Russian River. Tree planting is generally credited with a beneficial affect on greenhouse gases and global climate change due to their release of oxygen and entrapment of carbon containing gases in the atmosphere.

The proposed project would result in limited, temporary emissions of particulate matter, carbon monoxide, reactive organic compounds (ROG), and nitrogen oxides (NOx) during construction as a result of ground disturbance activities and the operation of construction vehicles and equipment. These impacts would be minimal due to the limited nature of the project and short-term construction period. These short-term construction emissions are, therefore, not anticipated to affect applicable air quality planning and have been addressed in the Initial Study.

The proposed project is not capacity increasing in that it would not result in an increase additional motor vehicle trips, and therefore would not result in increased operational air quality emissions. The project would provide operational and safety improvements and would not support increased use of the existing roadway. New long-term impacts to air quality are not expected, and this comment does not affect the CEQA document.

Both of these letters are attached to this Board Report.

Next Steps: Regional Parks and the consultant are working with various regulatory agencies regarding applicable permits as well as the final construction documents. The project will go out to bid after the permits are received so that permit conditions can be incorporated, as needed. Then the project will go out to bid with implementation target for the 2009-2010 construction season.

Request: Resolution adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Cloverdale River Park Phase 3 Improvements and FEMA Project and approving the project.