

TOLAY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

INTERIM PLAN UPDATE



JANUARY 30, 2008

On December 17 & 18th, 2007, Regional Parks presented the draft Initial Study for the Interim Public Access & Management Plan (Interim Plan) at two well-attended public meetings.

At the December 17th public meeting, Regional Parks heard mostly from equestrians and bicyclists. The messages were that these two user groups want equitable access to Tolay Lake Regional Park during the interim plan implementation phase, that the current Interim Plan seems to favor hikers, and that Regional Parks should look at a day-use permit system similar to that used at Willow Creek.

At the December 18th meeting before the Sonoma County Environmental Review Committee (ERC), most of the public comment was similar to that presented the night before. Regional Parks committed to researching and considering a day-use permit program for implementation during the interim plan implementation phase, and updating the CEQA document with any changes prior to initiating the 30-day public comment period on the document. ERC agreed with this approach and recommended that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be prepared for the Interim Plan.

During the past month, Regional Parks has been researching, compiling information, discussing options for structure of the day-use permit program, and getting the Working Group going. Regional Parks invited representatives from hiking, equestrian, and bicycle groups and clubs. In general, Parks plans to talk about the information we've gathered regarding the Willow Creek Day-Use permit program and how it could apply to the Tolay Interim Plan. However, this is a forum to hear ideas and concerns from the Working Group. The Working Group will meet in February.

A Public Workshop focusing on a proposed day-use permit program for Tolay Lake Regional Park Interim Plan will be scheduled after the goals of the Working Group are achieved. It is unknown at this point how many Working Group meetings will be needed.

If you have questions about the Interim Plan, the Working Group, or would like to be on the mailing list for this project, please contact Michelle Julene, Environmental Specialist, at mjulene@sonoma-county.org or (707) 565-3962. If you are interested, a copy of the draft Initial Study is posted on Regional Parks website at www.sonoma-county.org/parks