



TOLAY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

INTERIM PLAN UPDATE

FEBRUARY 03, 2009



On December 9, 2008, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Tolay Lake Regional Park Interim Public Access & Management Plan (Interim Plan) and approved the Interim Plan Project.

Sonoma County Regional Parks staff presented a proposed Day-Use Permit Program for implementation during the Interim Plan phase. The Interim Plan will provide controlled public access on an interim basis until a Master Plan for permanent park development is prepared, analyzed, and approved by the Board of Supervisors. Public access will be provided through a Day-Use Permit Program, by which interested persons would attend a one-time orientation to receive a Day-use permit. The orientation program will, among other things, provide information on designated trails as well as rules and practices to minimize the impacts of visitor use. The Day-Use Permit Program will provide equitable access to hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. Special Orientations will be scheduled for group-picnic area reservations. Approximately nine miles of trails will be open for public use.

During the Interim Plan implementation phase, Tolay will generally be open 8:00 am – Sunset. The days of operation will vary based on weather conditions. During the dry-weather months, approximately April – September, Tolay will be open to Day-Use permit holders Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. During the wet-weather months, approximately November – March, the days of operation are Saturday and Sunday. The Annual Tolay Fall Festival will continue, as will guided hikes, the education program, restoration, and maintenance.

At this time, it is unknown when the Orientations will begin. Information will be posted on the Regional Parks website and information will be mailed to those on the project mailing list when it is available. The Guided Tours Program is on-going – information about tour dates and reservations is posted on the Regional parks website.

On January 8, 2009, a lawsuit was filed challenging the Mitigated Negative Declaration. Regional Parks is working through its legal counsel to resolve the issues in contention through a comprehensive settlement.

If you have questions regarding the Interim Plan, please contact Michelle Julene, Environmental Specialist, at mjulene@sonoma-county.org or (707) 565-3962.

Thank you for your interest in Tolay Lake Regional Park!