

Sonoma County Parks and
Recreation Advisory
Commission

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Informational

Action

Commission Meeting Date: 09-15-2008

Deadline: N/A

Agenda Title: TOLAY LAKE REGIONAL PARK – INTERIM PLAN: PUBLIC COMMENT
TOLAY LAKE REGIONAL PARK – MASTER PLAN: UPDATE

Executive Summary

Summary of PRAC Meetings. Associated with the Tolay Lake Regional Park Interim Public Access & Management Plan (Interim Plan).

October 16, 2006: Scoping Meeting. It has been the practice of Regional Parks to have a Scoping Meeting as early as possible in the planning and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process for a project to let the public know that we're initiating a project and obtain feedback. The feedback assists staff in formulating the Project Description and alerts us to concerns that need to be addressed in the CEQA document.

February 26, 2007: Interim Plan Project Description. Regional Parks released the draft Interim Plan Project Description for a 30-day comment period. This was not required by CEQA but Regional Parks determined it was in the best interest of the public and the project to obtain feedback. In general, the Project Description was received favorably.

July 16, 2007 - Interim Plan Project Description Revisions. Staff discussed the comments received in response to the Interim Plan Project Description. These comments resulted in the need to scale back the Interim Plan in several areas. Items that were discussed at length included the change associated with equestrian use. The February 2007 Project Description provided for un-guided equestrian access when the park would be open for public access. This was scaled back to provide equestrian & bicycle access through our existing Guided Tours program.

March 31, 2008 – Day-Use Permit Program Proposal. Staff presented a proposal to provide public access to Tolay Lake Regional Park via a day-use permit program, similar to that used at Willow Creek (Sonoma Coast State Beach). The Interim Plan Day-Use Permit Program was developed with a specially-developed Working Group, composed of individuals representing hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians.

Interim Plan - Current Status. The document was made available for public review on August 18, 2008. The public review period will close on September 19, 2008.

Interim Plan - Next Steps. After the close of the public comment period, the next steps are:

- ❖ Staff will respond to comments received and incorporate changes to the document as needed.
- ❖ Present the document to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors for the following actions:
 - Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration
 - Approve the Interim Plan Project
- ❖ Sonoma County Department of Transportation & Public Works will make safety improvements to Cannon Lane.
- ❖ Regional Parks will implement the Interim Plan, which will provide public access and use beyond the current guided tour program.

Master Plan - Current Status. Staff is continuing to work on various aspects of the Master Plan, including the water-right permit.

Master Plan – Next Steps. Staff is pursuing the following:

- ❖ Develop plan to better identify boundaries of known cultural resources in the lakebed so that the lake restoration alternatives can be determined.
- ❖ Determine which unoccupied buildings can be reused for a Visitor's Center, educational facilities, and equestrian center.
- ❖ Develop a Trail Plan that decommissions existing routes through undesirable areas and provides new trails in desirable areas.
- ❖ Develop other options for improvements and long-term development.

Staff Recommendation

This item is for informational purposes and to provide the public with an opportunity to voice their comments on the Interim Plan document. A staff recommendation is not needed.

Requested Commission Action

This item is for informational purposes and to provide the public with an opportunity to voice their comments on the Interim Plan document. No Commission action is requested.

Attachments

- None. PRAC members were mailed copies of the Interim Plan document when the public review period was initiated.
- There are no new materials associated with the Master Plan.