



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FILING REQUESTED BY AND WHEN FILED, RETURN TO:

Marin County Parks and Open Space District
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 260, San Rafael, CA 94903
www.marincountyparks.org
(415) 473-6387

FILED

12/04/2023

SHELLY SCOTT

MARIN COUNTY CLERK

By O. Lobato, Deputy

21 - 2023 - 280

To: Marin County Clerk
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 234
San Rafael, CA 94903

Date: December 04, 2023
Project Title: Stafford Lake Multiuse Path
Project Location: Stafford Lake Park, Novato, Marin County, California
Assessor Parcel: 125-090-19, 125-090-22

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project: Marin County Parks (MCP) is proposing to construct a concrete ADA multiuse pathway to link existing picnic playground area on the east side of Stafford Lake Park with the Large Group Areas on the western side of the park. The pathway would provide a connection between existing park facilities, expand recreational trail opportunities throughout the park, and improve visitor safety by providing separation for park users from vehicles. The improvements would also create an extension of the existing Class 1 Novato Boulevard Bike Path at the eastern end of the park, to the Large Group Use Areas at the western end of the park and existing concrete sidewalk and asphalt path infrastructure. The multiuse pathway would be a linear feature approximately 0.58 miles in length and 6 to 8-foot in width, depending on location, with an average gradient of 0.5 percent comprised of concrete and a 2-foot-wide shoulder comprised of stabilized decomposed granite on the upslope side of the concrete path. The multiuse pathway would cross three existing drainage culverts and an unnamed Class IV stream channel connecting to Stafford Lake utilizing a 40-foot long and 8-foot wide prefabricated Corten steel bridge for multi-use. The proposed bridge would not provide for vehicular access. The proposed project would also improve an existing 8-foot-wide gravel pathway at the western end of the multi-use path by upgrading the surface to vehicle rated asphalt. This will provide a conforming ADA connection from the proposed concrete path to the existing asphalt-surfaced, Group Area 2. The length of the proposed asphalt path is approximately 380-feet and is included in the 0.58-mile multi-use path project. In addition, the project would provide two concrete van-accessible parking spaces compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act Guidelines across from the Novato Boulevard entrance which would provide direct access to the proposed multi-use path. Turf would be removed, and excavation is expected for the concrete path at a 12-inch depth and bridge footings at a 4-foot depth. Equipment that will be required for implementation of proposed project will include an excavator, grader, loader, dump truck, water truck, concrete pump, concrete truck, compactor, ditch witch, and paver. The improvements are proposed to be implemented in 2025 and would take approximately one year. Vegetation removal would consist solely of turf and annual non-native grasses and forbs. BMPs would include dust control, mulching, permanent seeding, construction track-out controls, fiber rolls, silt fencing, storm drain inlet protection, vegetated buffers, general construction site waste management, spill prevention and control measures. The total amount of new impervious surface is approximately 22,750 square feet.

The project area is located at the 139-acre Stafford Lake Park in northern Marin County, west of the City of Novato, which provides multiple recreational opportunities, including picnic areas, fishing, playgrounds, event venues, a bike park, nature trail and a disc golf course. The current transportation infrastructure at the park includes a paved public access road and parking lots, an asphalt pathway connecting the large group areas, an unsurfaced park maintenance road, and natural surfaced nature trail. In addition to automobile access to the park, the Novato Boulevard Bike Path, a Class I pathway provides non-motorized access from the City of Novato. The surrounding land use includes private ranching lands, the Stafford Lake drinking water reservoir managed by North Marin Water District, and the Indian Valley Golf Club.

Marin County Parks will acquire permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as needed and would adhere to the restrictions set forth.

Public Agency Approving Project: Marin County Parks
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Max Korten, Director

Reasons for Exemption: Marin County Parks has reviewed the project along with its environmental setting and has determined it to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the following sections of the California Administrative Code:

Section 15301: Existing Facilities. The proposed project consists of the minor alteration of an existing public facility involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The proposed project would develop a multi-use pathway that would include a trail bridge, a vehicle road for MCP staff and emergency vehicle access, and an ADA-compliant van accessible parking space within Stafford Lake Park, an existing public facility. The pathway would have the same purpose and uses as the roadway that is currently utilized for connection between park features. The proposed project is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The project area is not located within an officially designated state scenic highway and nonetheless would not affect scenic resources including trees, historical buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a significant effect to the environment due to unusual circumstances; or change the significance of a historical resource.

Lead Agency Contact Person:

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POSTED 12/4/23 TO 01/03/24



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION – PROJECT LOCATION

STAFFORD LAKE MULTIUSE PATH

December 04, 2023

Stafford Lake Multiuse Path Project Location



Proposed Multiuse Pathway (in red)

