

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PONTI FIRE ROAD TO TRAIL PROJECT PACHECO VALLE AND IGNACIO VALLEY OPEN SPACE PRESERVES NOVATO CALIFORNIA

April 29, 2019

The Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) is proposing a trail project at Pacheco Valle and Ignacio Valley Open Space Preserves and has prepared an Initial Study / Mitigated Declaration (IS/MND) to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The purpose of this Notice of Intent to Adopt an MND (NOI) is to initiate the 30-day public review and comment period on the MND, which begins on April 29, 2019 and ends on May 31, 2019 at 5:00pm. Comments can be submitted online using the comment form <https://www.marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/our-work/os-main-projects/rtmp-projects>, under the section titled "Ponti Ridge." Comments can also be submitted by email or USPS as follows:

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Marin County Open Space District; 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 260; San Rafael, CA 94903

PROJECT TITLE: Ponti Fire Road to Trail Project

PROJECT LOCATION: Pacheco Valle and Ignacio Valley Open Space Preserves, Novato, CA

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT. The purpose of the proposed Project is to implement the MCOSD Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) to provide the public with a safe multi-use trail system to enhance the visitor experience, reduce the environmental impacts of the road on sensitive resources by reducing sedimentation and erosion, and establish a sustainable system of roads and trails that meet design and management standards and would provide year-round access along the trail alignment. The project includes the following elements, which are summarized below and fully described in the Project Description section of the IS/MND:

- **Realign the Upper Segment of the Ponti Fire Road.** Realign the existing 1.2-mile long, 14-foot wide upper segment of the Ponti Fire Road with an average slope of 20 to 35 percent into a 2.8-mile long, 5-foot wide sustainable multi-use trail with an average grade of 10 percent. Change fire road designation to multi-use trail.
- **Maintain and Improve the Lower Segment of the Ponti Fire Road.** Improve the existing 0.5-mile long, 14-foot wide lower segment of the Ponti Fire Road within the existing footprint to improve stability, drainage, and the overall sustainability of the fire road for visitor use and to maintain access for emergency vehicles.
- **Construct a New Connector Trail from Ponti Fire Road to Pacheco Hill Pathway.** Construct a new connector trail from the lower segment of the Ponti Fire Road to the Pacheco Hill Pathway, which is an existing paved trail adjacent to State Highway 101. The connector trail would be 0.4 mile in length, 5 feet wide, earthen surface, and a grade of less than 10 percent.
- **Decommission Non-Designated Trail and Redundant Road and Trail Segments.** Decommission 1.02 miles of non-designated Trail 18645 in the Ignacio Valley Open Space District, approximately 3 miles of trails associated with the Ponti Fire Road that would include non-designated trails parallel to the existing Ponti Fire Road and sections of the existing Fire Road that would become redundant after the upper segment of the Ponti Fire Road is realigned.

The IS identified potentially significant environmental impacts in the areas of Biological Resources and Hydrology/Water Quality. Mitigation measures to reduce the significance of these impacts to a less-than-significant level are included in the IS. The IS concludes that, with implementation of the mitigation measures, the proposed project will not have significant environmental impacts. The document is available for review at Marin County Parks headquarters at the Marin Civic Center, 3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 260, San Rafael CA; on the Marin County Parks website at <https://www.marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/our-work/os-main-projects/rtmp-projects> under the section titled "Ponti Ridge;" and at the South Novato Library, 931 C Street, Novato, CA.

If you have any questions or need more information, contact Jon Campo at (415) 473-2686.