

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

## **Introduction**

The Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) Board of Directors approved the Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) and certified the associated program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) on December 16, 2014. The RTMP divided the MCOSD's 34 open space preserves into six regions and provided a process for the public to participate in decision-making regarding the designation of existing roads and trails and for the public to propose projects for each region. This Memorandum summarizes the road and trail designation process for Region 5, which consists of the Santa Venetia, Santa Margarita Island, San Pedro Mountain, Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow, and Bald Hill Open Space Preserves.

## **Region 5 Conditional Designation Process**

The purpose of the Region 5 proposed conditional designation maps is to provide a planning document to guide MCOSD staff efforts to implement the RTMP, guide future project development within Region 5, and thereby improve the road and trail network. The process involved extensive site visits and meetings with stakeholders and MCOSD staff, including a public meeting on August 25, 2018, which is discussed below.

To develop the proposed conditional Designation Map, MCOSD assessed the existing roads and trails within Region 5 and then recommended which to propose for designation as part of the trail system ("system trails"). These trails have trail signage and are currently maintained by the MCOSD and are shown as black trails on the Trail Designation Map. Existing roads and trails that were not proposed for designation as a system trail category do not have existing trail signage and are not currently maintained by the MCOSD. The trails that were not proposed for future designation as system trails and are shown as red trails on the Designation Map. The remainder were proposed as provisional system trails, to be considered for future designation subject to future resource studies and planning processes, and are shown as purple trails on the Designation Map. In the future, trails that are not proposed for designation as system trails will be considered for decommissioning, consistent with RTMP policies, and subject to additional evaluation and planning processes. The Designated Use Map proposes use type for designated and provisional system trails. Designated trail-use categories include Multi-use, hiker/horse, bike/hiker, hiker only, and road to multi-use trail conversion.

The draft proposed conditional Designation Map and Designated Use Map include the following:

- Designation of all existing roads and trails that have trail signage and are currently maintained by the MCOSD as system trails. None of these existing system trails are recommended for consideration of future removal or decommissioning.
- Provisional designations for proposed system trail adoptions in newly acquired parcels, including Sky Ranch, which is now part of Bald Hill Open Space Preserve, Heron Hill, which is now part of San Pedro Mountain Open Space Preserve, and Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Open Space Preserve.

- Use designation of several provisional designation trails in Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow and Bald Hill Open Space Preserves as hiking only or as multiuse trails. These trails currently are not system trails but are proposed for future designation as system trails.

### **Public Meeting and Comment Period on the Draft Proposed Conditional Designation Maps**

MCOSD staff hosted a public meeting on Saturday, August 25, 2018. At this meeting, MCOSD staff presented the draft proposed conditional designation maps for Region 5 and requested public input. Fifty members of the public attended the meeting and provided comments during breakout sessions with the draft proposed conditional designation maps. The public was invited to comment on the draft proposed conditional designation maps from August 25 - October 20, 2018. A total of 91 public comments were received. Comments received are summarized below.

- Support for all the proposed trail adoptions at Bald Hill, Heron Hill, and Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Open Space Preserves, thereby closing key gaps in the trail system.
- Concern about no bicycle accessible trail designations at San Pedro Mountain Open Space Preserve. The MSCOD determined that bicycle access at San Pedro Mountain would conflict with existing resources.
- Concern about trail 32200 at San Pedro Mountain Open Space Preserve not being recommended for designation as a system trail.
- Support for recommending that some non-system trails are not designated as system trails, and thereby reducing habitat fragmentation.
- Support for closing key gaps in the Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Open Space Preserve trail system by recommending provisional designation for the Fox Lane, Cherry Hill, and Spring Hill trails.
- Concern about how the Fox Lane Trail designation as would provide safe multiuse
- Support for additional mountain biking access throughout Region 5 by recommending more multi-use trail designations

### **Region 5 Designation Process – Next Steps**

Based on the comments received, the MCOSD will move forward with the proposed conditional designation maps for Region 5 and will develop a planning process that prioritizes the following:

- Feasibility analysis of a bicycle accessible connection at the San Pedro Mountain Preserve
- Feasibility analysis of a multiuse connection within the Fox Lane Trail corridor at Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Open Space Preserve
- Feasibility analysis of a multiuse trail connection of the Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Open Space Preserve from the Ridgewood Fire Road to Terra Linda neighborhood

The planning processes for future projects, including decommissioning of non-system trails, will include a detailed evaluation of the proposed conditional trail designations, including resource studies, preparation of environmental documents pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, and public involvement.

### **MCOSD Contacts**

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