



SANTA CLARA VALLEY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

LLAGAS CREEK BRIDGE AND DAY USE AREA PROJECT

Date: January 24, 2023

To: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Interested Persons

RE: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Llagas Creek Bridge and Day Use Area Project

The Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (Authority) is the Lead Agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for the Llagas Creek Bridge and Day Use Area Project (project) Initial Study (IS) and Proposed Mitigated Declaration. An IS has been prepared to assess the project's potential effects on the environment and the significance of those effects. Based on the IS, it has been determined that the project would clearly not have any significant effects on the environment with the implementation of mitigation measures.

Agencies and interested parties are invited to provide the Authority with written and/or email comments on the IS during the 30-day public review period that begins on January 24, 2023, and ends on February 24, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located within the Authority's 5,428-acre Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve (Preserve) in south Santa Clara County, northwest of the City of Morgan Hill, and within the City of San José incorporated limits. Direct access to the project area is provided by Casa Loma Road.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Authority proposes to expand upon existing public access and recreation facilities at the Preserve. In addition, the project would allow for year-round operational access to portions of the preserve seasonally inaccessible due to high waters at Llagas Creek. The proposed project would include the implementation of several new features in the project area to support public access and low intensity recreation and the Authority's maintenance and patrol operations at the Preserve. The primary project features would include the development of a bridge over Llagas Creek; seating areas with benches; and an Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) accessible pedestrian loop trail. Additional

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project features would include interpretive and wayfinding signage, cattle fencing, and revegetation of disturbed areas with native stockpiled soils onsite or an appropriate native seed mix.

No hazardous materials sites listed on the State Water Resource Control Board's GeoTracker database or the Department of Toxic Substances Control's EnviroStor database are present within the project area or within 1,000 feet of the project area.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The Initial Study and supporting documents are available for review online at: <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/our-work/current-projects/rancho-ca%C3%B1ada-del-oro-open-space-preserve.html> as well as at the Authority's Administrative offices at 33 Las Colinas Lane in San José, CA 95119.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

Agencies and interested parties may provide the Authority with written and/or email comments on the Initial Study. Comments on the Initial Study should be made in writing during the 30-day public review period that begins on January 24, 2023, and ends on February 24, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Written comments via email and mail can be provided no later than **February 24, 2023**.

Please send all comments by mail or email to:

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
33 Las Colinas Lane
San José, CA 95119

Attn: Lucas Shellhammer
Phone: (408) 224-7476
E-mail: lshellhammer@openspaceauthority.org

Comments provided by email should include "Llagas Creek Bridge IS Comment" in the subject line.