



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Sara L. Hensley

SUBJECT: GUADALUPE CREEK TRAIL
MASTER PLAN

DATE: 05-24-04

Approved

Date

Council District: 10
SNI Area: N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the Guadalupe Creek Trail Master Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Guadalupe Creek Trail Master Plan identifies a 3.9-mile trail route along the Guadalupe Creek, primarily within residential and open space areas, between Almaden Lake Park and Almaden Quicksilver County Park. The proposed trail would link the Almaden area of the City to an adjoining unincorporated area of Santa Clara County.

Much of the property traversed by the proposed 3.9-mile trail alignment belongs to the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Water District) and is managed for flood protection, water supply and watershed stewardship purposes. Other property owners include the City, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Santa Clara County, and the Guadalupe Rubbish Disposal Company, Inc. Smaller parcels adjacent to the creek corridor are privately-owned as single-family residences.

In development of the Master Plan, an outreach effort was conducted to solicit input and identify concerns that would need to be addressed before proceeding with design and construction of the project.

ANALYSIS

To address the concerns of all involved parties, numerous community and inter-agency meetings were held over the course of the Master Plan's development.

Community meetings were held to identify opportunities, constraints and concerns, to solicit input on recreational needs, to identify a preferred alignment and to obtain community buy-in for the final document.

A Technical Advisory Committee was formed with members from local and state agencies. Their technical input to the draft Master Plan was incorporated before the plans were presented to the community.

The Master Plan addresses issues raised through the community meeting process in the following manner:

Issue	Resolution
The trail may increase on-street parking demand.	Two parking facilities are proposed at Singletree Way and Camden Avenue for off-street parking.
Traffic may increase in the surrounding neighborhoods.	Parking facilities are proposed to direct traffic away from neighborhoods.
Noise issues may result from parking lot at Singletree Way.	A plant buffer is proposed to separate the parking lot from adjacent residential fencing.
Trail could create security issues.	Majority of trail alignment is visible to adjacent uses in order to discourage unlawful or disruptive behavior.
Access from the north side neighborhoods along the percolation pond levees is desired.	The Water District utilizes the ponds for flood control and water management. Fencing will prevent access in order to deter less safe conditions.

In securing environmental clearance for the project, the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement (PBCE) obtained similar comments as well as concerns about the placement of bridges, trail alignment, and parking lots. Solutions were identified that would allow retention of the proposed alignment and address the other project challenges. As a result, PBCE issued a mitigated negative declaration for the project.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

In conjunction with Vice Mayor Pat Dando's Office, three community meetings were held on April 30, September 24, and December 9, 2002.

A tentative alignment plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at the August 22, 2002 meeting for review and input. The Commission gave a positive response regarding the tentative plan.

The Parks and Recreation Commission recommended the final master plan for City Council approval on May 5, 2004.

COORDINATION

The Master Plan has been coordinated with the Departments of Public Works, Planning, Building and Code Enforcement, and Transportation; the Office of the City Attorney, and the City Manager’s Budget Office.

COST IMPLICATIONS

1. AMOUNT OF RECOMMENDATION: 0

2. COST OF PROJECT:
 Project Delivery (includes consultant fees and project management staff charges) \$486,986*

*A total of \$252,986 was expended/encumbered in 1998-1999 through 2002-3003 for this project.

3. SOURCE OF FUNDING: 001 – General Fund
 391 – C&C Tax Fund City-wide

4. FISCAL IMPACT:
 This project is consistent with the Council-approved Budget Strategy Economic Recovery section in that it will spur construction spending in our local economy.

This Master Plan provides necessary documentation for the development of an interim and permanent trail. At this time, the interim trail is scheduled for opening the second quarter of 2004-05. Maintenance of the interim improvements (fencing, signage and garbage collection) is anticipated to cost \$3,500 annually. The annual cost for maintenance and operation of the permanent trail improvements is not presented at this time, as funding for design and construction has yet to be identified.

BUDGET REFERENCE

Fund No.	Appn. No.	Appn. Name	RC	Total Appn.	Amount for Contract	Adopted Budget Page	Last Budget Action (Date, Ord. No.)
391	4228	Guadalupe Creek/Los Alamitos Creek Trail Connection Project	120963	\$234,000	N/A	Page 603	10/14/03 Ord. No. 26997
		Total		\$234,000			

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Mitigated Negative Declaration PP04-03-061, May 4, 2004.

SARA L. HENSLEY
Director of Parks, Recreation and
Neighborhood Services