
Stevens Creek Corridor Park Master Plan and Restoration Plan Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration



April 2006

City of Cupertino

Stevens Creek Corridor Park
Master Plan and Restoration Plan
Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

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Prepared for:
City of Cupertino

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Mitigated Negative Declaration

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SUBJECT: Mitigated Negative Declaration

Pursuant to the California State Public Resources Code and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, as amended to date, the City of Cupertino (City) submits a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Stevens Creek Corridor Park Project (Project).

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The City of Cupertino (City) has developed a Park Master Plan and Conceptual Restoration Plan for a proposed 60-acre Stevens Creek Corridor Park. The Stevens Creek Corridor Park would be 5,900 feet in length bordered by Stevens Creek Boulevard to the north, McClellan Road to the south and residential neighborhoods to the east and west. Plans include converting the City-owned Blackberry Farm picnic grounds into a community park, realigning the creek and restoring in-stream and riparian habitat along sections of Stevens Creek within the 100-year floodplain, enhancing adjacent upland oak woodland habitat, constructing a 5,900-foot all weather trail, developing new park and golf maintenance facilities at Blackberry Farm and an environmental education center at McClellan Ranch.

This Initial Study has been prepared for the City of Cupertino to review the environmental impacts associated with the proposed Stevens Creek Corridor Park project and to make an informed decision regarding approval of the project and the environmental review.

FINDINGS

The City, having reviewed the Initial Study for the proposed project finds that:

1. The proposed project will provide recreational opportunities in the 60-acre Stevens Creek Corridor Park. All significant impacts can be either avoided or reduced through the implementation of mitigation measures as listed in this document.
2. The Project will not affect the following environmental effects as identified in the Initial Study Checklist as exceeding significance thresholds. All significant effects can either be avoided or reduced through the implementation of mitigation measures found in this document and in the Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) attached as Appendix I of this document.
3. In addition to the mitigation measures described in the Initial Study, the design features of the project which include mitigation measures and Best Management Practices (BMPs) directly incorporated into the project description either avoid, minimize, or reduce environmental effects to a point of less-than-significance; and
4. A Mitigated Negative Declaration will be filed as the appropriate CEQA document of the Project.

BASIS OF FINDINGS

Based on the environmental evaluation presented herein, the Project will not cause significant adverse effects related to aesthetics, agricultural resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, hazards and hazardous materials, land use/planning, mineral resources, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities/service systems. In addition, substantial adverse effects on humans, either direct or indirect, will not occur. The Project does not affect any important examples of the major periods of California prehistory or history. Nor will the Project cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal.

Along with the designs of the trail components, BMPs incorporated into the project descriptions for the Project avoid, minimize, and reduce impacts to air quality, biological resources, including fisheries, hydrology/water quality, and noise to less-than-significant levels.

Based on the Initial Study, the project designs and incorporated BMPs avoid, minimize, and reduce impacts to listed environmental effects to a less than significant level.

Attached is the Initial Study prepared for the Project. The public can review documents used in preparation of the Initial Study at the City of Cupertino, Department of Parks and Recreation, 10300 Torre Avenue, Cupertino, California 95014.