SCH # 2010092023

State of California
The Resources Agency
California Department of Parks and Recreation

REVISED NOTICE OF PREPARATION

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SEP 16 2010
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Date: September 16, 2010

PROJECT TITLE: **Road and Trail Change-in-Use Evaluation Process**
Program Environmental Impact Report
State Clearinghouse Number 2010092023

This Notice of Preparation (NOP) revises and supersedes the previously released NOP dated September 8, 2010 for the Road and Trail Change-in-Use Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The revisions are related to a changes in the name of the program, date of one scoping meeting, and due date for public comments about the scope of environmental issues in the Program EIR.

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES:
The California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) proposes to implement the Road and Trail Change-in-Use Evaluation Process (Program) to facilitate the review of proposals to add or change uses of existing recreational roads and trails in the State Park System. The Program is intended to facilitate consideration of changes in non-motorized uses of existing State Park roads and trails to best accommodate accessibility and recreational activities that are appropriate for each road or trail facility. The Program seeks to provide California State Parks with an objective process and evaluation tool to assess proposals to modify roads and trails to add or remove recreational uses.

A Program EIR is being prepared to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Program. The Program EIR is being prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines.

California State Parks is the Lead Agency for the Program, as defined by CEQA. The project description, location, and possible environmental effects are included with this notice. We are now seeking input from agencies, organizations and the public to further define the project, develop alternatives, and discuss potential environmental impacts and mitigations.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS CONTACT PERSON FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM:
Gary Waldron, Environmental Program Manager
California State Parks
Northern Service Center
One Capitol Mall, Suite 410
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SEND COMMENTS ON THE SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM EIR TO:
Heidi West, Environmental Coordinator
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Northern Service Center
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Sacramento, California 95814
Fax: (916) 445-8883
Email: ceqansc@parks.ca.gov (Subject Line: Change In Use)

Due to time limits mandated by State law, please submit comments to the Contact below **no later than November 30, 2010.** Include the full name, telephone number with area code, and email address of a contact person for your agency or organization with each submittal.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS:
Affected agencies, organizations, and the public are invited to scoping meetings to be held at the following dates, times, and places. These scoping meetings also meet the requirements in Section 15082(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Saturday, September 25, 2010
1:00 to 4:00 pm open house
Program presentation at 2:00 pm
Candlestick Point State Recreation Area
1150 Carroll Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94124

Saturday, November 13, 2010
1:00 to 4:00 pm open house
Program presentation at 2:00 pm
Lake Activities Building
Lake Perris State Recreation Area
17801 Lake Perris Drive
Perris, CA 92571

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
This Program applies to decisions that are made for the addition or removal of different types of non-motorized uses of a State Park System road or trail. These types of use may include: pedestrian, accessible pedestrian, wheelchair, equestrian, mountain bike, road bike, in-line skating, or other unidentified non-motorized uses not currently recognized as potential road and trail use types.

Potential project actions that may result from recommendations for a change-in-use type include: reconstruction or rehabilitation of an existing road or trail prism; installation of speed control or separation devices to protect different user types; minor rerouting of trail alignments to correct otherwise unsustainable road and trail grades, or to resolve an existing environmental problem; installation of hardened surfaces, such as, but not limited to, aggregate surfacing, rock armoring, wooden boardwalks or puncheons and bridging; closure, decommissioning, and restoration of existing roads and trails; conversion of roads to trails; and trailhead, point of access, and parking improvements related to changes in recreational road or trail use.

In general, project actions that are eligible for coverage by the program would involve modifications within the corridor of an existing road or trail. Construction would be limited to the existing disturbed area of the road or trail and adjacent lands.

Any proposed project actions that are taken with regard to trails and roads qualifying for change-in-use as a result of the application of the proposed Trail Use Change Process will be required to meet Standard Project Requirements (i.e., environmental protection features) established for trail projects with the objective of making them as "self-mitigating" as feasible. These Standard Project Requirements have been developed to protect resources and avoid impacts to cultural and natural values that may be affected by any of the trails project actions. The complete list of Standard Project Requirements for trails will be included in the Program EIR.

Standard Project Requirements include measures to avoid and minimize environmental effects that are incorporated into the design of a trail project. The requirements can be defined as a result of detailed testing, inventories, studies, and documentation that performed before any surface disturbing activity occur as part of the road or trail modifications approved through the change-in-use process. They also include project construction activities that must be used, such as vegetative removal strategies, dust and erosion abatement techniques, seasonal and soil moisture restrictions for construction, and appropriate resource avoidance methods. The Standard Project Requirements also set inspection and maintenance standards for construction activities on trails to avoid environmental problems associated with earthquake damage, flooding, spill prevention, and storm water pollution prevention.

PROJECT LOCATION:
The Road and Trail Change-in-Use Evaluation Process could be applied to roads and trails in all state parks, state recreation areas, and state beaches of the California State Park System that are owned and managed by the state. The analysis will be organized in the context of the 10 bioregions established by the California Biodiversity Council in order to characterize environmental effects of road and trail change-in-use proposals in the relevant context of different ecosystems.

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:
The Program EIR will identify and describe the potential environmental effects associated with implementing the Road and Trail Change-in-Use Evaluation Process. Mitigation measures will be identified that may reduce or eliminate potentially significant and significant effects. The following environmental topic areas may be affected by the proposed program, which will be addressed in the Program EIR:

Terrestrial Biological Resources
Aquatic Biological Resources
Geology, Soils and Minerals
Hydrology, Water Quality, and Erosion/Sedimentation
Cultural Resources
Hazards and Hazardous Materials
Aesthetics and Views
Transportation
Greenhouse Gas/Climate Change/Energy Resources
Air Quality
Noise
Public Services and Utilities

INTENDED USES OF THE PROGRAM EIR:
The Road and Trail Change-in-Use Evaluation Process EIR is a Program EIR under Section 15168 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Later activities that are consistent with the program evaluated in this EIR can

benefit from streamlining of the CEQA process. As new site-specific actions are proposed in park units under this program, California State Parks will use a checklist to document the evaluation of the site and the actions proposed to determine whether the environmental effects are covered in this Program EIR. If the evaluation process confirms that no new effects would occur and that no additional mitigation measures would be necessary, California State Parks can approve the actions as being within the scope of the Program EIR, and no new environmental document would be required. If additional significant impacts not addressed in this Program EIR are identified, they will be evaluated in later, project-specific CEQA documentation, in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines.