

**Final
Negative Declaration**

for

Annual Bike Monkey Annadel XC Mountain Bike Race

in

Annadel State Park



prepared for:

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prepared by:

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NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project: Annual Bike Monkey Annadel XC Mountain Bike Race

Location: Annadel State Park

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

Availability of documents:

The Initial Study for this Negative Declaration was made available throughout the 30-day public review period at the reference desk of the Sonoma County Library. It was also available on the DPR CEQA webpage, at the public information desks of DPR's Northern Service Center and at the Bay Area District Headquarters offices. The Final Negative Declaration and all supporting materials will be available, by request, at DPR's Bay Area District Headquarters office.

Project Description

Bike Monkey, a bicycle event production and management company based in Santa Rosa, proposes to produce the Annual Bike Monkey Annadel XC Mountain Bike Race (Project), to be held annually, on a Saturday or Sunday in August or September, from approximately 9:00am to 3:00pm depending on weather and availability of the event calendar with adjacent Spring Lake Regional Park where the event finishes. The event organizers would seek an amendment to this Special Event Permit from State Parks if the format or timing of the proposed event deviates substantially from the approved Project. This event is a fundraiser for the Park through the supporting organization Sonoma County Trails Council, with all funds going to support Annadel-specific improvements, primarily trail work.

The maximum number of participants is 700 mountain bikers divided between two courses, either the long or short courses as shown on course map (See **Chapter 2, Figure 6**, Annual Bike Monkey Annadel XC Mountain Bike Race Course Map). Based on race participation from 2010-2014, bike racers would enter the race divided between two courses, with approximately 35% of bike racers on the short course and 65% of bike racers on the long course. State Parks and Bike Monkey have, in previous years, agreed to limit the number of racers to 700 participants in order to retain control over emergency response and limit race day impacts to other park users. It is expected that this would be the limit to rider participation in the foreseeable future.

The start of the event and associated race parking is located outside of the Park as is the terminus of the race and could vary from year to year. The start of the event takes place either in downtown Santa Rosa near 3rd and D streets or in the neighboring Spring Lake Regional Park. When starting in downtown Santa Rosa, the racers would naturally self-sort during the approximately 3 miles of travel to the State Park, as the racers are of varying fitness and skill levels. The fastest riders would lead with a faster speed while the slowest would trail off of the back of the group. When starting in Spring Lake Regional Park, rider starts would be staggered by manual means, with the start of the race approximately 1,200 yards from Annadel. Manual staggering is performed by releasing racers in small groups of approximately 30 racers in approximately 5-minute intervals. This ensures that by the time riders reach Annadel State Park that they have spread out and do not clog the trails.

The first riders reach the Park at approximately 9:30am with the majority finishing the long course by approximately 1:00pm. The course consists of the following trails within the Park (**Figure 6, below**), in order: **Cobblestone** (after entering the park via Violetti Rd), **Channel Drive** to ranger station, **Channel Trail** (adjacent to Channel Drive), **Warren Richardson**, **North Burma**, **Live Oak**, **Rough Go**, **Lake Trail** (connecting Rough Go to Canyon), **Canyon Trail**, **Warren Richardson**, **South Burma**, **Marsh**, **Lawndale**, **Schultz**, **Pig Flat**, **Ridge**, **Marsh**, **Canyon**. The short course eliminates

Lawndale, Schultz and Pig Flat by remaining on Marsh where it then re-joins the long course at the top of Pig Flat.

The estimated spectator, volunteer, and support staff attendance would range from 20 to 60 people. Spectators and race personnel would be located at existing picnic tables and at wide points to avoid off-trail activity (see **Figure 6, below**); first aid stations and personnel would be located at existing picnic tables and at wide points to minimize off-trail activity. Historically, there are few to no spectators on course for a cross-country mountain bike event, as this sort of event is not conducive to spectating.

The finish for the event is in neighboring Spring Lake Regional Park; the event organizers file a separate permit with Sonoma County for use of Spring Lake. This is also where any spectators would gather, outside the boundaries of Annadel State Park (ASP or Park).

Prior to and after the race, Race Coordinators would coordinate with Sonoma County Trails Council to ensure that trails utilized for the race course are properly maintained to minimize dust and erosion.

Project requirements have been incorporated into the Project and are detailed in Section 2.6. They include: pre-Project educational outreach to the Project participants, pre-Project inspections, potential sensitive species relocation, flagging sensitive resources to exclude bike or foot traffic, monitoring during the Project, post-Project inspections to identify any need for adaptive management, and post-Project Reports to State Parks. Additionally, the Project has been designed to avoid impacts.

Findings

An Initial Study (IS) has been prepared to assess the proposed project's potential impacts on the environment and the significance of those impacts; the Initial Study is incorporated in the Draft ND. Based on this IS, it has been determined that the proposed project would not have any significant impacts on the environment. Further, the integration of all project requirements ensures that potential impacts remain at a less than significant level. This conclusion is supported by the following findings:

- There was no potential for adverse impacts on Aesthetics, Agricultural Resources, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services and Utilities and Service Systems associated with the proposed project.
- Potential adverse impacts resulting from the proposed project were found to be less than significant in the following areas: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Recreation, Transportation/Traffic

Project Requirements

The following project requirements (see Chapter 2, Project Description of the IS for full description of project requirements) have been incorporated into the scope of work for the Annual Bike Monkey Annadel XC Mountain Bike Race Project and will be fully implemented by race proponents and DPR staff to avoid or minimize potential environmental impacts identified in this ND. These requirements will be included in contract specifications and instructions to race proponents, volunteers, and DPR personnel involved in implementing the project. Initial Study sections not included in this table have no project requirements.

Table 1. Project Requirements

Issue	Requirement
General	
Specific Requirements 1: General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to the start of the Race, the Race Organizer will consult with the State Parks representative to identify all resources that must be protected. • Prior to the start of the Race, a DPR-qualified Biological and Cultural Resources Specialist will train Event Staff in Natural and Cultural Resource identification and protection procedures. • Prior to the start of the Race, and at the discretion of a State Parks environmental scientist, a qualified biologist will flag protected species; a cultural specialist will flag and/or cordon off cultural resources identified for protection, with buffers of ten feet for avoidance during the Race activities. The Race Organizer will remove the flagging and/or cordon tape after project completion. • Race Coordinators will participate in a post-race walk-through at specific locations, as determined by a DPR Environmental Scientist, to assess resource impacts. Any areas determined to have experienced resource damage will be restored to the pre-race condition. • The Race is scheduled during the dry season of the year and is routed to avoid wet areas, with the wettest location – the Ledson Marsh area – being upwards of 30 meters from the closest point of the course. In coordination with a DPR-Environmental Scientist, the Race coordinators will establish photo points along race trails to record pre- and post- race resource conditions. The DPR Environmental Scientist may specify certain locations and types of photos, for example, to document pre- and post-race dust conditions on vegetation along trail edges.
Specific Requirement 2 Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizers will provide race monitors and first aid personnel to direct cyclists, forewarn them of challenging trail sections, inform the public of the event in progress so they know which trails are in use, keep cyclists on designated trails and provide basic medical aid. • If a serious medical emergency arises, the event monitors will request DPR staff and 9-1-1 services. Event organizers provide funds to support additional emergency response personnel from DPR staff. • Due to limited cell service in some areas of the park, HAM radio operators are assigned to assist with radio communication throughout the event to keep the organizer and associated medical and volunteer personnel informed of the event's progress. • The park and trails will be open to all users during the event; it is not a closed course. Volunteers assigned by the organizer will be stationed at entry points to the park as well as at intersections adjacent to the course within the park to inform the public of the event in progress and offer recommended alternate routes should visitors wish to avoid the event route. • Project staff will post signage indicating times during which other park users may encounter race traffic as well. These signs are very specific to their locations and confine the time windows for race traffic such

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Issue	Requirement
	that other users' experience is minimally impacted
Aesthetics	
Specific Aesthetics 1: Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early morning activities could necessitate artificial lighting. These activities will be primarily at the Spring Lake parking lot (Finish line) and early-course Aid Stations (Rest Stops) (see Chapter 2, Figure 6) as the first Marshals set up prior to the race. Lighting shall be limited to head-mounted lamps to reduce light impacts on neighboring properties and wildlife. • Head-mounted lamps will have a light output of approximately 40 lumens or less.
Air Quality	
Standard Air Quality 1: Dust Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately following the Race, vegetation identified by the qualified biologist in the pre-Project plant survey that may have accumulated a concentration of dust due to the race will be brushed lightly to return the dust to the ground.
Biological Resources	
Specific Biological Resources 1: General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to the start of Race activities, the Race Organizer will determine the minimum area required to conduct the Race and define the boundaries of the Race Course on the Race Map and with flagging or cordoning on the ground, as appropriate. • Race Organizer will train support staff and volunteers operating within the Park to keep impacts to a less than significant level and to keep activity entirely within the designated race course; • No living trailside/roadside vegetation will be removed. • No signs or other race materials will be attached to trees, shrubs or other vegetation with nails, or any material that substantially penetrates or damages the plant in any way. No paint will be used on trees, shrubs, or other vegetation. Following the conclusion of the race, Race Coordinators will promptly remove all temporary fencing, signs, race markers, etc
Standard Biological Resources 2: Invasive Plant Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pre-project plant survey along the racecourse will be conducted with a focus on invasive species with a Cal-IPC Rank: High, and with the potential to pose a serious threat to the native flora and vegetation of the Park; • Although invasive species are present within the Park, it is anticipated that most will have gone to seed at the time of the Race; • Where dense populations of invasive species are located within five feet of the race course, temporary, high visibility flagging will be installed to alert race participants of the presence such species; • Only those species that are in a phenological state capable of spreading (i.e., seed set) will be flagged; • Only those populations that are of substantial size (e.g., hundred square feet) will be flagged; • Only those populations within ten feet of the Park's trails will be flagged;

Table 1. Project Requirements

Issue	Requirement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race organizers will inform all race participants of the locations of invasive species and that to cross or pass through the high visibility flagging, typically for the purpose of passing other riders, is forbidden in these locations; • Likewise support staff and volunteers operating within the Park will be informed of the locations of invasive species and will likewise not cross or pass through the high visibility flagging; • No living trailside/roadside vegetation shall be removed.
<p>Standard Biological Resources 3: Natural Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All race participants shall be briefed by Project staff, either by pre-event email communiqués or handouts, of the Park’s sensitive natural communities and wetlands, and shall at all times be required to limit their travel to the race course, which, within ASP, occurs exclusively on Park-designated trails and roads; • A qualified biologist with a focus on wetlands and other sensitive natural communities within 10 feet of the race course will conduct a pre-project plant survey along the racecourse • If wetlands within 10 feet of the above-referenced trailside/roadside are saturated and/or contain vegetation susceptible to direct or indirect impacts from the Project, race organizers will install temporary high visibility flagging to alert race participants of the presence of such habitats and the need to follow an alternate route; • If sensitive natural communities within 10 feet of the trailside/roadside contain herbaceous vegetation particularly susceptible to direct or indirect impacts from the Project, race organizers will install temporary high visibility flagging to alert race participants of the presence of habitat; • Race organizers will inform all race participants of the locations of wetlands and sensitive natural communities, not to cross or pass through the high visibility flagging, and that passing other riders is forbidden in these locations.
<p>Standard Biological Resources 4: Plants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A qualified biologist will conduct a pre- and post-project inspection of documented special-status plant locations to document direct and indirect impacts to special-status plants. Race organizers will video the course one week before the race, the day before the race and the afternoon after the race has been completed; • If direct impacts occur (e.g., broken branches, trampling), the affected plants will be treated under the direction of a qualified biologist to ensure the continued survival of the special-status plant populations; anticipated treatments include: pruning broken branches and restoring soil cover over exposed roots ; • If indirect impacts occur (e.g. dust), the affected plants will be treated under the direction of a qualified biologist to ensure the continued survival of the special-status plant populations; anticipated treatments include: shaking dust out/off of the special-status plants at the time of the post-project inspection.
<p>Specific Biological</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A qualified biologist with a focus on those species with the potential to

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Resources 5: Plants	<p>occur within 10 feet of the race course will conduct a pre-project plant survey along the racecourse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To capture all of the potentially occurring species on the race course trailside/roadside, the survey will be performed when the plants are in a phenological stage conducive to positive identification (i.e., usually during the blooming period for the species); • Race organizers will install temporary high visibility flagging where special-status plant species are located within 10 feet of the race course, to alert race participants of the presence of such species and that these areas are to be avoided; • At the discretion of a qualified biologist, race staff will monitor race activities to ensure that impacts to special-status plant species are avoided. • Project staff will brief all race participants either by pre-event email communiqués or handouts, of the locations of special-status plants and that racers will not cross or pass through the high visibility flagging, and that passing other riders is forbidden in these locations; • Likewise support Project staff will brief volunteers operating within the Park, either by pre-event email communiqués or handouts, of the locations of special-status plants and that they likewise will not cross or pass through the high visibility flagging; • Best Management Practices (BMPs) to avoid creation of dust will be employed during all Race activities within ten feet of sensitive-status plants. BMPs for avoiding creation of dust include removing and scattering outside berm material that collects at the outside edge of the trail, and removing the slough (soil, rock and debris that has moved downhill to the inside of trail tread, narrowing the tread) from the tread surface. Trails will be restored to pre-race conditions. • No plant species will be pruned, cut, pulled back, removed, or damaged in any way.
Specific Biological Resources 6: Northern Spotted Owl (NSO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project will occur after the Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) breeding season, typically February 1st – July 31st.
Specific Biological Resources 7: California Red Legged Frog (CRLF) and Western Pond Turtle (WPT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project will occur after the breeding and dispersal season for California Red Legged Frog (CRLF) and Western Pond Turtle (WPT), typically winter and spring, with WPT females migrating near-daily in June; • The Project will begin at least one hour after sunrise and will end at least one hour before sunset to avoid potential impacts to dispersing CRLF and WPT; • A qualified biologist will provide information to all Project staff on the life-cycle and general identification of CRLF and WPT, which will, in turn be provided to volunteers and race participants as part of their pre-race briefing; • In-depth information will be provided to all Project staff and volunteers; • Special attention will be given to Ledson Marsh to inform Project

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	<p>participants of this wetland and the habitat it provides;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 24 hours prior to the start of the Project, a qualified biologist will conduct a survey for CRLF and WPT in any wet areas within 10 feet of the race course,; • If individuals of CRLF and/or WPT are observed within 10 feet of the trailside/roadside, Project participants will be delayed until the species moves out of the site on its own accord. • Immediately prior to the start of the Project, a qualified biologist will conduct a visual inspection of the race course. • If CRLF is found on the race course, racers in the vicinity of the animal will be delayed until the species moves safely off course of its own accord. • Race Coordinators will implement wildlife-friendly (i.e. no trapping of wildlife) Best Management Practices, as necessary, to minimize soil erosion, dust and sedimentation. • All temporary barriers and/or fencing (if used) will incorporate a wildlife friendly design that consists of openings that allow an animal to pass through and will be inspected by a DPR-approved biologist. Any trapped animals will be removed by a DPR-approved biologist according to state and/or federal protocols.
Cultural Resources	
<p>Specific Cultural Resources 1: General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 50 volunteers trained on exclusion areas as well as State Park Rangers will monitor trail intersections, aid stations, etc, to keep people on the route and address any issues that could arise. • Training of volunteers and participant awareness will be accomplished through website content, a series of email newsletters, and/or onsite briefings that incorporate a statement on the protection of resources (both cultural and natural) and the importance of staying on the designated race course.
<p>Standard Cultural Resources 2: Standard Discovery Clause</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If anyone discovers previously undocumented cultural resources during the Race, race participants within 10' of the find will be temporarily halted, or routed away from the resource, until the archaeologist designs and implements appropriate treatments in accordance with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards and Guidelines for archaeological resource protection. • In the event that human remains are discovered, the race will cease immediately in the area of the find and the project manager/site supervisor will notify the appropriate DPR personnel. Any human remains and/or funerary objects will be left in place or returned to the point of discovery and covered with soil. The DPR Sector Superintendent (or authorized representative) will notify the County Coroner, in accordance with §7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, and the Native American Heritage Commission (or Tribal Representative). If a Native American monitor is on-site at the time of the discovery, the monitor will be responsible for notifying the appropriate Native American authorities. The local County Coroner will

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	make the determination of whether the human bone is of Native American origin.
Standard Cultural Resources 3: Archaeologist's Standard Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event staff and volunteers will monitor sensitive areas and confine race participants to the race course. Observed impacts will be documented with mapping, photography and written notes. A DPR-approved archaeologist will use the documentation to prepare a post-race report with solutions and recommendations for future events. .
Geology and Soils	
Specific Soils 1: Prohibit Off-Trail Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In areas where the potential for a trail deviation for passing or other advantageous travel exists, Event Staff will place flagging in order to keep participants on the "true trail." (See Figure 1, Chapter 2.3) Passing a fellow racer by deviating from "true trail" will be strictly prohibited. Trail impediments that cause people to seek off-trail travel will be removed (downed trees, etc). Prior to the Race, Race Coordinators will inform participants about prohibited off-trail travel and passing outside of the "true trail." Information dissemination methods will include website, email, and/or handouts given to participants.
Specific Soils 2: Water Crossings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The race course has been designed to avoid water crossings to the greatest extent feasible and is scheduled during the dry season.
Specific Soils 3: Slough, Tread & Berm Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to and after the race, Race Coordinators shall coordinate with the Sonoma County Trails Council to ensure that trails utilized for the race course are properly maintained to minimize dust and erosion.
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	
Standard Hazards 1: Fire Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPR personnel will have a State Park radio at the Park, which allows direct contact with CalFire and a centralized dispatch center, to facilitate the rapid dispatch of control crews and equipment in case of a fire.
Hydrology/Water Quality	
Standard Hydrology 1: Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will comply with all applicable water quality standards as specified in the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan. All Race activities will be suspended during heavy precipitation events (i.e., at least 1-inch of precipitation in a 24-hour period) or when heavy precipitation events are forecast.
Transportation/Traffic	
Standard Traffic 1: Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking will be dispersed, within Spring Lake Regional Park and on adjacent surface roads.

The only comment(s) received during the 30-day public review period for this project was from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), indicating "Depending on the chosen starting point and route, the race may intersect the State Highway System at State Route 12 in Santa Rosa. Projects that encroach onto state right of way require an encroachment permit that is issued by CalTrans." No response was required.

No significant corrections, additions, and deletions have been made to the Annual Bike Monkey Annadel XC Mountain Bike Race Draft ND. Minor punctuation, spelling, and grammatical corrections that contribute to ease of understanding, but have no significant impact on the content, have not been noted.

This document, along with the Draft Initial Study/Negative Declaration (SCH# **2015072010**), corrected as noted above; Comments and Response to Comments and the Notice of Determination, constitute the Final Negative Declaration for the Annual Bike Monkey Annadel XC Mountain Bike Race Project at Annadel State Park.

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the proposed project and finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of DPR. DPR, as lead agency, also confirms that the project mitigation measures detailed in these documents are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the Negative Declaration.



Patricia DuMont
Environmental Coordinator
California Department of Parks & Recreation
Northern Service Center

8.7.15

Date



for Danita Rodriguez,
District Superintendent
Bay Area District

August 7, 2015

Date

