State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, Tin House Road Improvements Project Environmental Impact Report

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is the Lead Agency for the Tin House Road Improvements project at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and is preparing a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified above. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and environmental requirements, relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities, in connection with the proposed project. The project description, location, and possible environmental effects are included with this notice.

Your response must be sent to the address below no later than thirty (30) days after this notice is filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research/State Clearinghouse (June 15, 2007). Please provide us with the name, phone number, and email address of a contact person for your agency as well.

Department Of Parks And Recreation - Contact Person

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Project Description

The project site is located in Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, in the Big Sur area of Monterey County, California. The Tin House Road is located north of the Park's main entrance on Highway 1 at Post Mile 36.9. The proposed site covers approximately 2.2 miles of Tin House Road.

This project proposes to remove the road shoulder adjacent to the creek and remove fill from the native creek channel. Installation of a crib wall would allow for the road to remain while the fill in the channel is removed. When the proposed project is completed the creek channel will occupy the native channel and the Tin House Road will continue be on DPR property in its present location adjacent to the creek. To accomplish this goal, DPR proposes to reconfigure the grade across the Tin House Road to improve drainage and minimize erosion on the road and adjacent lands. Work will:

- Remove fill from channel and relocate to area upslope and away from the creek. The excess material will be used to re-grade the road bed upslope from the creek area. This section of road is currently graded to the inside edge of the road and has many signs of erosion. The excess fill material will be used to bank the road bed to the outside edge and reduce transportation of runoff along the road.
- Install a wood with metal hardware crib wall to retain the Tin House Road and restore the natural creek channel. Visible exterior components will be primarily

wood. Crib wall will be backfilled with free draining angular rock and will include a geo-textile fabric barrier to prevent soil from migrating through the wall while allowing for good drainage.

- Stabilize the road bed adjacent to the creek to prevent rutting and erosion Stabilizing the road bed will consist of compacting the base layers in 6 inch thick lifts to 95 % relative compaction and spreading and compacting aggregate base material on the top surface along with out slope grading and drivable road dips.
- Temporarily reroute creek water to allow work within the normal high-water zone of the creek. Work required within the limits of the normal high water zone will be completed in conjunction with a California Department of Fish and Game approved dewatering plan.
- Replace damaged, undersized culverts with large-diameter culverts made of plastic storm drain pipe with double wall construction or corrugated metal pipe. Final pipe selection will be determined when pipe is sized for rainfall runoff. Depending on runoff quantities the material will be selected that is most economical and best suited for installation in the remote location.
- Improve natural drainage patterns across Tin House Road to reduce erosion potential and encourage water flows, across rather than down the road
    - Grade the road bed to an out-sloped condition and eliminate inboard ditches by packing with fill material
    - Construct swales and dips to direct overland flow across the road and into natural drainage.
- Stabilize all project-disturbed areas. Compact areas of fill to approximately 90% relative compaction in 6 inch thick lifts. Top surface of cut and fill areas will be mulched with woody mulch to prevent raveling from rainfall. Seed will be applied with mulch to reestablish native plant cover.
- Surface drainage will avoid concentrated runoff coursing over newly graded slopes. Where concentrated runoff is expected the drainage course will be armored with a layer of 6 inch size or smaller rock.
- Re-vegetate appropriate areas with native plants grown from seeds collected in the project area.

Possible Effects and Mitigations

Construction activities would temporarily impact site aesthetics, air quality, and noise levels in the area of the project site. These impacts would be reduced with the use of operational Best Management Practices (BMPs), including dust and emission controls, seasonal noise restrictions, and mufflers and noise damping equipment, consistent with local, state, and federal standards and regulations. In addition, work would generally be restricted to 8-5, Monday through Friday, except as necessary to address emergencies or unexpected work conditions, such as extreme weather.

Coast buckwheat, habitat for the federally listed Smith's Blue Butterfly (*Euphilotes enoptes simthi*), is known to occur in the project area. Additionally, spreading dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa ssp. pumila*) a potential habitat plant for Doudorf's Elfin butterfly (Incisalia mossi doudoroffi), a species of special concern, also occurs in the project area as well as Lewis' clarkia (Clarkia lewisii), a CNPS list 4 species.

California condor, California spotted owl, nesting raptors, and migratory bird species forage in the general vicinity of the project area and may nest within one-half mile of the proposed project site. Surveys of the area for nesting sites or habitat trees would occur prior to the start of construction and buffer zones established to protect nests or habitat as appropriate. Red-legged frog, a federally listed threatened species, also potentially occurs in the project area.

Grading and excavation activities proposed as part of this project could result in increased erosion and/or sedimentation into Redwood Creek. DPR approved BMPs would be used in all areas to control soil and surface water runoff during all ground-disturbing activities and would continue until all disturbed soil has been stabilized (recompacted, re-vegetated, etc.). Work to re-establish the original drainage patterns in the watershed would result in short-term soil disturbance. Best Management Practices would be consistent with those found in the Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook, Construction (CSQA, 2003), to prevent soil loss and siltation.

Staging and material storage areas would be identified in advance and construction debris would be promptly removed. Temporary DPR-approved BMPs would be implemented to reduce overall construction impacts. Permanent BMPs, including compacting of disturbed areas, and revegetation of disturbed soil areas, would also be implemented as needed.

All potential impacts are expected to be reduced to a less than significant level.