

Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project

**FINAL INITIAL STUDY/
NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**State Clearinghouse Number
2021020105**

May 2021

Prepared for:



**California Department of Parks and Recreation
One Capitol Mall, Suite 410
Sacramento, California 95814**

Prepared by:



ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

**2525 Warren Drive
Rocklin, California 95677**

**Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project
Final Negative Declaration Approval**

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO:

Office of Planning and Research
1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
One Capitol Mall, Suite 410
Sacramento, California 95814

SUBJECT:

Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code

PROJECT TITLE:

Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project

State Clearinghouse Number

2021020105

Contact Person

Brad Michalk

Telephone Number

916-445-8783

Project Approval: California State Parks approved the Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project on May 2 , 2021.

Project Location: The Proposed Project is located at 19005 Coast Highway 1 in Jenner, CA 95450. The historic park is located along Highway 1, approximately eight miles north of Jenner and 23 miles south of Gualala in Sonoma County.

Project Description:

The Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail (Project) is a proposed Class I pedestrian interpretive trail route totaling approximately 1.66 miles. The project encompasses the integration of new trail construction (approximately 1.26 miles), and existing road and trail routes (approximately 0.4 mile). Together, the combined routes will link many existing park features with areas of interest previously unidentified to the general public.

Overall design will include interpretation at selected points to bring together stories from the indigenous Kashia Band of Pomo Indians; Alaska Natives; the Call Ranch Period; and others in the international community once associated with the Russian American Company's Ross Settlement. The project will create an interpretive multimedia experience encouraging park visitors to explore the deep and complex layered cultural landscape of the park.

Construction of the Proposed Project is anticipated to start in fall of 2022 and take approximately 5 months to construct.

California Department of Parks and Recreation, as the Lead Agency, has approved the above-described project and has made the following determinations:

1. There is no substantial evidence that the Proposed Project will have a significant effect on the environment;

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2. In accordance with CEQA, Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project was prepared. The Negative Declaration has been approved by DPR, which is the Lead Agency for the Proposed Project. The Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the California Department of Parks and Recreation;
3. Mitigation measures are not required as a condition of approval of the Proposed Project;
4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not required to be adopted for the Proposed Project; and

This is to certify that the Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration including comments and responses, the mitigation monitoring and reporting plan, and record of project approval is available to the general public at: One Capitol Mall, Suite 410, Sacramento, CA 95814.

DocuSigned by:

Brian Dewey

5/25/2021

Brian Dewey, Deputy Director
Northern Service Center
California Department of Parks and Recreation

Date

Date Received for Filing at OPR: May 2 , 2021

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APPROVAL OF THE HISTORIC PARK KASHIA LOOP TRAIL PROJECT

On behalf of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), I approve the proposed Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project (Proposed Project). DPR, as Lead Agency for the Proposed Project (State Clearinghouse Number #2021020105), hereby approves the Proposed Project based on the following findings:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail (Project) is a proposed Class I pedestrian interpretive trail route totaling approximately 1.66 miles. The project encompasses the integration of new trail construction (approximately 1.26 miles), and existing road and trail routes (approximately 0.4 mile). Together, the combined routes will link many existing park features with areas of interest previously unidentified to the general public.

Overall design will include interpretation at selected points to bring together stories from the indigenous Kashia Band of Pomo Indians; Alaska Natives; the Call Ranch Period; and others in the international community once associated with the Russian American Company's Ross Settlement. The project will create an interpretive multimedia experience encouraging park visitors to explore the deep and complex layered cultural landscape of the park.

Construction of the Proposed Project is anticipated to start in fall of 2022 and take approximately 5 months to construct.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

DPR has independently reviewed and considered the information contained in the whole record before it, including the Initial Study for the Proposed Project prior to approving the Proposed Project. The Initial Study, prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), assessed the Proposed Project's potential effects on the environment and the significance of these effects. Based on the whole record before it, DPR has determined that, with implementation of Project Requirements, there is no substantial evidence that the Proposed Project would result in significant effects on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, paleontological resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, utilities and service systems, and tribal cultural resources.

The Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was circulated to the public and to responsible public agencies for a public review period of 30 days from February 5, 2021 through March 7, 2021. One comment letter was received, and, together with the response, is included in the Final IS/MND. As a result of comments received on the Draft IS/MND, no revisions were required to the Draft IS/MND text that would require recirculation of the document. A substantial revision according to Section 15073.5 of the *2013 CEQA Statute Guidelines* shall mean:

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“(1) A new, avoidable significant effect is identified and mitigation measures or project revisions must be added in order to reduce the effect to insignificance, or

(2) The lead agency determines that the proposed mitigation measures or project revisions will not reduce potential effects to less than significance and new measures or revisions must be required.”

The Notice of Determination for this Proposed Project has been prepared in accordance with CEQA and is hereby approved. The record of approval documents for the Proposed Project will be retained and made available for public review at the DPR office, One Capitol Mall, Suite 410, Sacramento California 95814.

DPR has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Initial Study/Negative Declaration prepared for the Proposed Project. Upon consideration of this information, and in accordance with CEQA, I hereby approve the DPR Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project

DocuSigned by:

Steven B. Michalk

5/25/2021

0016D1A0D9984FF...
Brad Michalk

Date

California Department of Parks and
Recreation

Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project

Final

Initial Study/ Negative Declaration

State Clearinghouse Number #2021020105

May 2021

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**Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project
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**FINAL NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FORT ROSS STATE HISTORIC PARK KASHIA LOOP TRAIL PROJECT**

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation

Project Proponent: California Department of Parks and Recreation

Project Location: The Proposed Project is located at 19005 Coast Highway 1 in Jenner, CA 95450. The historic park is located along Highway 1, approximately eight miles north of Jenner and 23 miles south of Gualala in Sonoma County.

Project Description: The Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail (Project) is a proposed Class I pedestrian interpretive trail route totaling approximately 1.66 miles. The project encompasses the integration of new trail construction (approximately 1.26 miles), and existing road and trail routes (approximately 0.4 mile). Together, the combined routes will link many existing park features with areas of interest previously unidentified to the general public.

Overall design will include interpretation at selected points to bring together stories from the indigenous Kashia Band of Pomo Indians; Alaska Natives; the Call Ranch Period; and others in the international community once associated with the Russian American Company's Ross Settlement. The project will create an interpretive multimedia experience encouraging park visitors to explore the deep and complex layered cultural landscape of the park.

Construction of the Proposed Project is anticipated to start in fall of 2022 and take approximately 5 months to construct; however, due to statewide shutdowns due to COVID-19 it is possible that project construction could be delayed or take longer than anticipated.

Finding: Based on the information contained in the attached Initial Study, DPR finds that there would not be a significant effect to the environment because the Project Specific Requirements herein are incorporated as part of the Proposed Project.

Public Review Period: February 5, 2021 through March 7, 2021

Project Requirements Incorporated into the Project to Avoid Significant Effects

As part of its effort to avoid impacts, DPR maintains a list of Standard Project Requirements (SPR) that are included in the project design to reduce impacts to resources. From this list, SPRs are assigned, as appropriate to all projects. For example, projects that include ground-disturbing activities such as trenching would always include SPRs addressing the inadvertent discovery of archaeological artifacts. However, for a project that replaces a roof on an historic structure, ground disturbance would not be necessary; therefore, SPRs for ground disturbance would not be applicable and DPR would not assign it to the project.

DPR also makes use of Project-Specific Requirements (PSRs). DPR develops these project requirements to address project impacts for projects that have unique issues but do not typically standardize these for

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projects statewide. As part of the IS review process, DPR identified the following SPRs and PSRs that apply to the Project to ensure that impacts remain less than significant. The Project Requirements for Fort Ross SHP Kashia Loop Trail are provided in Table 2-2. Project Requirements (below).

Table 2-2. Project Requirements

Issue	Project Requirement
General	
SPR GEN -1	Prior to the start of onsite construction work, Construction Manager will consult with the Project Manager to identify all resources that must be protected.
Aesthetics	
SPR AES-1: Turnpike Construction	Materials used in turnpike construction will be native rock materials, with emphasis on aggregate material that blends with soils native to the respective turnpike locations.
Air Quality	
SPR AIR-1: Fugitive Dust and Ozone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the Lead Agency regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. The BAAQMD's phone number shall also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations. • All construction areas (dirt/gravel roads and surrounding dirt/gravel area) will be watered at least twice daily during dry, dusty conditions. • All trucks hauling soil, sand, or other loose materials on public roads will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet of freeboard. • All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 mph. • All construction-related equipment and engines will be maintained in proper tune (according to manufacturer's specifications), and in compliance with all State and federal requirements. • Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes (as required by the California airborne toxics control measure Title 13, Section 2485 of CCR). Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points. • Excavation and grading activities will be suspended if sustained winds exceed 25 miles mph, instantaneous gusts exceed 35 mph, or dust from construction might obscure driver visibility on public roads. • Earth or other material that has been transported onto paved roadways by trucks, construction equipment, erosion, or other project-related activity will be promptly removed.
SPR AIR-2: Fugitive Dust and Ozone	During dry, dusty conditions, all active construction areas will be lightly sprayed with water to reduce dust without causing runoff
SPR AIR-3: Fugitive Dust and Ozone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All trucks or light equipment hauling soil, sand, or other loose materials on public roads will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet of freeboard. • All gasoline-powered equipment will be maintained according to manufacturer's specifications, and in compliance with all State and federal requirements
SPR AIR-4: Fugitive Dust and Ozone	Paved streets adjacent to the Park shall either be swept or washed at the end of each day, or as required, to remove excessive accumulations of silt and/or mud that could have resulted from project-related activities.

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Issue	Project Requirement
SPR AIR-5: Fugitive Dust and Ozone	Excavation and grading activities will be suspended when sustained winds exceed 20 miles per hour (mph), instantaneous gusts exceed 30 mph, or when dust occurs from remediation related activities where visible emissions (dust) cannot be controlled by watering or conventional dust abatement controls.
Biological Resources	
SPR BIO-1: Special-Status Plant Species	<p>The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of project construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct pre-construction special-status plant surveys following agency protocols within the Project impact areas. • Establish and clearly demarcate avoidance zones for special-status plant occurrences prior to construction. Avoidance zones should be maintained until the completion of construction. • Clothing, vehicles, and equipment, including shoes and the undercarriage and tires/tracks, should be cleaned prior to entering the Project area to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive plant species. • Any materials used for the Project, such as fill dirt or erosion control materials, should be from weed-free locations or certified weed free. • Dust generation should be kept to a minimum near special-status plant occurrences
PSR BIO-2: Behren's Silverspot Butterfly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A DPR-approved biologist will conduct surveys for the larval host plants (western dog violet) in areas that will be impacted by the Project. Surveys will be conducted prior to Project implementation and when the plants were in a phenological stage favorable for positive identification (i.e., during the species blooming period). • Locations of larval host plants located within areas of potential construction impacts will be flagged by a DPR-approved biologist and an exclusion zone with a radius of 10 feet around the plant(s) will be established prior to the start of construction activities. If avoidance of host plant habitat is not possible, construction in those areas will not be allowed from April 1 through July 31 in order to protect pupae or larvae during the primary feeding season.
PSR BIO-3: California Giant Salamander Habitat	<p>The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of project construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPR-approved personnel will conduct preconstruction surveys immediately prior to ground-disturbing activities (including equipment staging, vegetation removal, and trail construction) within or near stream habitat onsite. If CGS are found during a survey, salamanders should be moved from the work area to the nearest CDFW-approved relocation site. Barrier fencing would be used to exclude CGS from work areas after the survey/relocation is complete. • During construction within or near stream habitat, only wildlife friendly erosion control materials would be used (no monofilament plastic mesh or line) for erosion control to reduce the risk of entrapment. An onsite biological monitor will inspect work areas daily for CGS.
PSR BIO-4: Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pre-construction training session conducted by a DPR-approved biologist will be provided for construction personnel. This training will discuss sensitive biological resources that could occur within or adjacent to project areas, including the potential presence of foothill yellow-legged frog (FYLF) within and near stream habitat onsite. It would include protection measures to insure that this species and other sensitive resources would not be impacted to a significant level by project activities. • Prior to the beginning of construction a DPR-approved biologist shall install barrier fencing to exclude FYLF habitat from work areas.

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Issue	Project Requirement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A DPR-approved biologist or biological monitor will conduct pre-construction surveys for FYLF. If FYLF is located within the project area, they will be relocated outside the work area by a CDFW or DPR-approved biologist. • Periodic surveys for sensitive biological resources would be conducted by a district environmental scientist or DPR-approved biological monitor, at their discretion. • Only wildlife friendly erosion control materials would be used (no monofilament plastic mesh or line) shall be used.
PSR BIO-5: California Red-Legged Frog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction personnel will be instructed and trained by a USFWS or DPR-approved biological monitor in the life history of the California red-legged frog (CRLF) and its habitat, and trained in the appropriate protocol to follow in the event that a CRLF is found onsite. • Prior to the beginning of construction, a DPR-approved biologist shall install barrier fencing to exclude CRLF habitat from work areas. A DPR-approved biological monitor will be onsite during all activities within 50 feet of onsite streams to ensure there are no impacts to individual CRLF that might potentially move through the project area during dispersal. • Immediately prior to the start of work each morning, a USFWS or DPR-approved biological monitor will conduct a visual inspection of the construction zone in those areas within 50 feet of onsite stream habitat. • If a CRLF is found, start of work at that project location will not begin until the species moves out of the site on its own accord or is relocated by a USFWS or DPR biologist authorized to handle CRLF. • Work will be confined to daylight hours to avoid activities during periods when CRLF are known to be active.
PSR BIO-6: Red-Bellied Newt	<p>The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of project construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPR-approved personnel would be retained to conduct preconstruction surveys immediately prior to ground-disturbing activities (including equipment staging, vegetation removal, and trail construction) within or near stream habitat onsite. If red-bellied newts are found near the construction site, newts would be moved from the work area to the nearest CDFW-approved relocation site as described in the Project's LSAA. Barrier fencing should be used to exclude red-bellied newt from work areas after the survey/relocation is complete. • Where habitat for red-bellied newt habitat is identified, only wildlife friendly erosion control materials would be used (no monofilament plastic mesh or line) for erosion control to reduce the risk of entrapment during construction. • A DPR-approved biological monitor would inspect work areas daily for red-bellied newt
PSR BIO-7: Northwestern Pond Turtle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pre-construction training session conducted by a DPR-approved biologist will be provided for construction personnel. This training will discuss sensitive biological resources that could occur within or adjacent to project areas, including the potential presence of northwestern pond turtle. It would include protection measures to insure that these species and other sensitive resources would not be impacted to a significant level by project activities. • Prior to the beginning of construction, a DPR-approved biologist or biological monitor will conduct pre-construction surveys for these aquatic species. If the species is located within the project areas they will be relocated outside the work area by the DPR-approved biologist or biological monitor. • Periodic surveys for sensitive biological resources would be conducted by a district environmental scientist or DPR-approved biological monitor, at their discretion.

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Issue	Project Requirement
PSR BIO-8: Nesting Bird	<p>The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of project construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys for active raptor nests would be conducted within a 500-foot radius of project areas. • The surveys would be conducted within 7 days prior to the beginning of construction at each work site. If nesting raptors are found, no construction would occur within a 500-foot radius of the nest tree between March 1 and August 31, or until the young have fledged and the young would no longer be impacted by project activities (as determined by a DPR-approved biologist). • Surveys for active migratory bird nests would be conducted within a 100-foot radius of the project area 7 days prior to commencement of construction at each work site. If active nests are located, all construction disturbance activities within a 100-foot radius of the nest tree would be postponed until the end of the breeding season (August 31) or until the young have fledged and the young are no longer impacted by project activities (as determined by a DPR-approved biologist).
PSR BIO-9: Bats	<p>The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of project construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For work activities conducted during the bat maternity season (i.e., February 1 through September 31), a bat specialist will conduct a survey for bats within 100 feet of the project area where trees are present. If bat roosts are observed, a buffer area with a 100-foot radius will be established around the roost in which no work activities would be allowed to occur until the breeding season is completed. • If work activities have to be conducted near known bat roosts, only those activities that the bat specialist determines could occur without significant impacts to bats will be conducted within 100 feet of the bat roost during the bat maternity season.
PSR BIO-10: Sonoma Tree Vole	<p>The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of project construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A DPR-approved biologist would conduct preconstruction surveys immediately prior to ground-disturbing activities (including equipment staging, vegetation removal, and trail construction) where suitable Douglas fir and bishop pine trees would be removed. . • If Sonoma tree vole or their nests are found during surveys, a no-disturbance buffer around nest trees should be established. If avoidance is not possible, additional measures should be determined in consultation with CDFW.
PSR BIO-11: American Badger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A DPR-approved biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys for American badger denning habitat in appropriate grassland locations. • If badger dens are located within 50 feet of the project area, then these sites will be mapped and fenced off prior to the start of construction activities, and completely avoided during the breeding season of June 1 through October 15.
PSR BIO-12: Wetlands and Waters of the U.S	<p>Jurisdictional Water and Wetlands Best Management Practices. The following BMPs shall be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To control sedimentation during construction and after project implementation, appropriate erosion control best management practices (i.e., installation of straw wattle, jute netting, etc.) shall be implemented to minimize adverse effects on jurisdictional areas in the vicinity of the Project. • Project activities within the jurisdictional areas shall occur during the dry season (typically between June 1 and November 1) in any given year, or as otherwise directed by the regulatory agencies. Deviations from this work window can be made with permission from the relevant regulatory agencies. • During construction, no litter or construction debris shall be placed within jurisdictional areas. All such debris and waste shall be picked up daily and

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Issue	Project Requirement
	<p>properly disposed of at an appropriate site. In addition, all Project-generated debris, building materials, and rubbish shall be removed from jurisdictional areas and from areas where such materials could be washed into them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any substances which could be hazardous to aquatic species resulting from Project-related activities, shall be prevented from contaminating the soil and/or entering jurisdictional areas. • All refueling, maintenance, and staging of equipment and vehicles shall occur at least 100 feet from bodies of water and in a location where a potential spill would not drain directly toward aquatic habitat (e.g., on a slope that drains away from the water source). Prior to the onset of work activities, a plan must be in place for prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should an accidental spill occur.
Cultural Resources	
PSR CUL-1: ESA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In coordination with TCR-1, the ESAs will be clearly delineated on construction plans and noted for avoidance. At least three weeks in advance of Project construction, the Construction Manager will notify State Parks Archaeologist and the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of Stewarts Point Rancheria (Kashia) of the beginning construction date. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prior to construction, a meeting will be held between the construction manager, project foremen, construction crews, representatives of the Kashia, representatives of any other interested Native American Groups, and a State Parks Archaeologist to discuss the ESAs and fence installation along certain portions of the trail alignment. – A State Parks Archaeologist, or a qualified professional archaeologist, will work with the contractor to install temporary fencing and/or flagging around the ESAs at least 7 calendar days prior to initiating any work in the area. The contractor will contact the Parks archaeologist no less than 14 calendar days prior to the installation date of ESA fencing. No less than one week prior to the installation date, the archaeologist will contact Kashia and offer the opportunity for a tribal member to participate in the ESA fence installation. – ESAs shall be established for each site as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A minimum of six feet (1.8 meters) around the site boundary of CA-SON-228/H where the trail is constrained by the park boundary on the north and Old Highway 1 on the northeast and east; – A minimum of 15 feet (4.6 meters) around the site boundaries of CA-SON-1453, CA-SON-1889, CA-SON 1454/H, and FR-13; – A minimum of four (1.2 meters) to 6 feet (1.8 meters) around selected features of F11, to be determined at the pre-construction meeting between the construction manager, project foremen, construction crews, and State Parks Archaeologist. – The Parks Archaeologist will be notified when construction begins and will inspect the construction area on a periodic basis to ensure that the ESAs have not been breached. The Parks Archaeologist will be present for removal of the ESA flagging and/or fencing post-construction. • The Kashia Pomo and any other interested Native American groups should be informed well before construction about proposed Project Activities that are planned near sites CA-SON-228/H, -1453, -1454/H, and -1889.
PSR CUL-2: Unanticipated Discovery.	In the event of a potential post-review discovery, inadvertent effect, or ESA violation (e.g., ground-disturbing work occurs outside of delineated areas), all work will stop within 100 feet

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Issue	Project Requirement
	<p>of the location of the discovery, effect, or violation. The Parks Archaeologist will notify the Kashia Pomo and other Native American groups (if not already onsite). Evaluation and treatment options would be determined in direct communication with each party, as applicable.</p> <p>If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction and the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, a qualified professional archaeologist, in coordination with the Parks Archaeologist, shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from further disturbance (Assembly Bill [AB] 2641).</p> <p>The archaeologist shall notify the Sonoma County Coroner (as per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American Most Likely Descendant (MLD) for the project (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, then the NAHC can mediate (§ 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinterment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work cannot resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.</p>
PSR CUL-3: Cultural Monitoring Plan	<p>A comprehensive Cultural Monitoring Plan will be implemented for the Project and will include both construction and long-term post-construction monitoring. Monitoring will be conducted by a California State Parks Archaeologist and a Native American representative affiliated with the area.</p> <p>Construction Monitoring will be implemented at the discretion of the California State Park archaeologist and will focus on those locations where trail construction is adjacent to archaeological sites (CA-SON-228/H, -1453, -1454/H, and 1889). The California State Parks Archaeologist with assistance from a Tribal Representative, will monitor other construction activities as deemed necessary.</p> <p>The long-term post-construction monitoring plan entails walking the Kashia Loop Trail at least two times per year, including a buffer on either side of the trail to assess potential impacts from increased use of the terrace on archaeological sites. This shall be done over a five-year period. If impacts are noted, DPR in collaboration with Kashia will take steps to minimize these impacts with the development of an action plan, which identifies treatments appropriate for the noted impacts.</p>
Geology and Soils	
SPR GEO-1: Erosion Control BMPs	<p>DPR will implement Best Management Practices to be used in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, surface water runoff, and pollutants during all excavation, grading, or trenching.</p> <p>BMPs must always be in place including, but not limited to, covering (tarping) any stockpiled materials or soils and constructing silt fences, straw bale barriers, wildlife-friendly fiber rolls, or other structures around stockpiles and disturbed areas.</p>
SPR GEO-2: Debris Slide/Flow Signage	<p>No track-mounted or heavy-wheeled vehicles will be driven through wet areas during the rainy season or when soils are saturated to avoid compaction and/or damage to soil structure.</p>
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	

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Issue	Project Requirement
SPR HAZ-1: Spill Prevention and Response	Prior to the start of onsite construction activities, the construction manager will inspect all equipment for leaks and regularly inspect thereafter until equipment is removed from the project site. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be contained and disposed of outside the boundaries of the site, at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.
SPR HAZ-2: Spill Prevention and Response	Prior to the start of onsite construction activities, the construction manager will prepare a Spill Prevention and Response Plan (SPRP) as part of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the construction approval to provide protection to onsite workers, the public, and the environment from accidental leaks or spills of vehicle fluids or other potential contaminants. This plan will include (but not be limited to); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a map that delineates construction staging areas, where refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment will occur; • a list of items required in a spill kit onsite that will be maintained throughout the life of the project; • procedures for the proper storage, use, and disposal of any solvents or other chemicals used in the restoration process; and identification of lawfully permitted or authorized disposal destinations outside of the project site.
SPR HAZ-3: Wildfire Avoidance and Response	Prior to the start of construction, the construction manager will develop a Fire Safety Plan for State Parks approval. The plan will include the emergency calling procedures for both the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and local fire department(s).
SPR HAZ-4: Wildfire Avoidance and Response	If construction activities extend into the rainy season or if an un-seasonal storm is anticipated, the contractor will properly winterize the site by covering (tarping) any stockpiled materials or soils and by constructing silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, or other structures around stockpiles and graded areas. All erosion control measures must be wildlife friendly and will not pose a threat for species to become entangled in netting.
SPR HAZ-5: Wildfire Avoidance and Response	DPR personnel will have a State Park radio at the Park, which allows direct contact with CDF and a centralized dispatch center, to facilitate the rapid dispatch of control crews and equipment in case of a fire.
SPR HAZ 6: Wildfire Avoidance and Response	Under dry conditions, a filled water truck and/or fire engine crew will be onsite during activities with the potential to start a fire.
Hydrology and Water Quality	
SPR HYD-1: Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention	Prior to the start of construction involving ground-disturbing activities, DPR will prepare and submit a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for NCRWQCB approval that identifies temporary Best Management Practices (BMPs) (e.g., tarping of any stockpiled materials or soil; use of silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, etc.) and permanent (e.g., structural containment, preserving or planting of vegetation) for use in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, surface water runoff, and pollutants during all excavation, grading, trenching, repaving, or other ground-disturbing activities. The SWPPP will include BMPs for hazardous waste and contaminated soils management and a Spill Prevention and Control Plan (SPCP), as appropriate.
SPR HYD-2: Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention	The project will comply with all applicable water quality standards as specified in the NCRWQCB Basin Plan.
SPR HYD-3: Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention	All construction activities will be suspended during heavy precipitation events (i.e., at least 1/2-inch of precipitation in a 24-hour period) or when heavy precipitation events are forecast.
SPR HYD-4: Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention	If construction activities extend into the rainy season or if an un-seasonal storm is anticipated, the contractor will properly winterize the site by covering (tarping) any stockpiled materials or soils and by constructing silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, or other

Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project Final Initial Study and Negative Declaration

Issue	Project Requirement
	structures around stockpiles and graded areas. All erosion control measures must be wildlife friendly and will not pose a threat for species to become entangled in netting.
Noise	
SPR NOI-1: Noise Exposure	Internal combustion engines used for project implementation will be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. Equipment and trucks used for Project-related activities will utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., engine enclosures, acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts) whenever necessary.
SPR NOI-2: Noise Exposure	The contractor will locate stationary noise sources and staging areas as far from potential sensitive noise receptors, as possible. If they must be located near potential sensitive noise receptors, stationary noise sources will be muffled or shielded, and/or enclosed within temporary sheds.
SPR NOI-3: Noise Exposure	Construction activities will generally be limited to the daylight hours, Monday – Friday. If work during weekends or holidays is required, no work will occur on those days before 7:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m. (check contract docs for time restrictions).
SPR NOI-4: Noise Exposure	Internal combustion engines used for any purpose at the job site will be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. Equipment and trucks used for construction will utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g. engine enclosures, acoustically-attenuating shields, or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts) whenever necessary.
Tribal Cultural Resources	
PSR TRC-1: Tribal Cultural Resources	The Kashia Pomo and any other interested Native American groups should be informed well before construction about proposed Project Activities that are planned within or near site CA-SON-1454/H.
PSR TCR-2:	<p>Avoidance of TCRs. In coordination with Project Requirement PSR CUL-1 through PSR CUL-3, at least three weeks in advance of Project construction, the Construction Manager will notify California State Parks Archaeologist, the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of Stewarts Point Rancheria (Kashia) of the beginning construction date. Kashia will be provided given an opportunity to monitor trail construction during earth moving work.</p> <p>Prior to construction, a meeting will be held between the construction manager, project foremen, construction crews, representatives of the Kashia, representatives of any other interested Native American Groups, and a State Parks Archaeologist to discuss the ESAs and fence installation along certain portions of the trail alignment.</p> <p>The following avoidance measures shall be implemented, in coordination with the implementation of avoidance measures for cultural resources under Project Requirement PSR CUL-1 through PSR CUL-3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ESA shall be established a minimum of six feet (1.8 meters) around the site boundary of CA-SON-228/H where the trail is constrained by the park boundary on the north and Old Highway 1 on the northeast and east; • An ESA shall be established a minimum of 15 feet (4.6 meters) around the site boundaries of SON-1453, SON-1889, SON-1454/H, and FR-13; • FR-22, FR-3, FR-5, and FR-12 will be avoided by all project activity. • A State Parks Archaeologist, or a qualified professional archaeologist, will work with the contractor to install temporary fencing and/or flagging around the ESAs at least 7 calendar days prior to initiating any work in the area. The contractor will contact the Parks archaeologist no less than 14 calendar days prior to the installation date of ESA fencing. No less than one week prior to the installation date, the archaeologist will contact Kashia and offer the opportunity for a tribal member to participate in the ESA fence installation. • Any potential TCRs or any discoveries including human remains that are observed in any location will be subject to the decision process in CUL-2 and subsequent

**Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project
Final Initial Study and Negative Declaration**

	Project Requirement
	consultation between the monitoring tribe(s) and DPR to evaluate and, if necessary, treat the discovery to the satisfaction of DPR.
PSR TCR-3: Interpretive Signage	DPR will develop the interpretive signage for the Kashia Loop Trail Project in consultation with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.

This Negative Declaration meets the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. I hereby recommend approval:

Brad Michalk
California Department of Parks and Recreation

Date

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, DPR has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project and finds that the Initial Study and Negative Declaration reflect the independent judgment of DPR. The lead agency further finds that the Project Requirements will be implemented as stated in the Negative Declaration.

I hereby approve this Negative Declaration:

DocuSigned by:

Brian Dewey

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Brian Dewey
Deputy Director, Northern Service Center
California Department of Parks and Recreation

5/25/2021

Date

Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

This document is the Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project (Proposed Project). It has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resource Code Section 21000 et. seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.) as amended. This Final IS/ND document supplements the Draft IS/ND released for public review on February 5, 2021.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is the Lead Agency for the Proposed Project. On February 5, 2021, DPR distributed the Draft IS/ND for the Proposed Project to public agencies and the general public for review and comment. In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, a 30-day review period, which ended on March 7, 2021, was completed. During the public review period, one written comment email on the Draft IS/ND were received from the California Coastal Commission. Both the email and response are included in Section 3 below. This Final IS/ND document is organized as follows:

- Section 1 provides a discussion of the purpose of the document and discusses the structure of the document.
- Section 2 contains a summary of the Project Description, a description of minor changes to the Project Description and a discussion regarding why these changes do not require recirculation of the Draft IS/ND.
- Section 3 includes the comment letters received and responses to these comments.
- Section 4 includes revisions to the Draft Initial Study/Negative Declaration.
- Section 5 includes the Notice of Intent, proof of publication, environmental filing receipt, and the Draft IS/ND.

This Final IS/ND document and the Draft IS/ND together constitute the environmental document for the Proposed Project.

One comment letter (email) was received on the Draft IS/ND; however, no substantial revisions were made to the Draft IS/ND text that would require recirculation of the document. A substantial revision according to Section 15073.5 of the *2013 CEQA Statute Guidelines* shall mean:

“(1) A new, avoidable significant effect is identified and mitigation measures or project revisions must be added in order to reduce the effect to insignificance, or

(2) The lead agency determines that the proposed mitigation measures or project revisions will not reduce potential effects to less than significance and new measures or revisions must be required.”

**Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project
Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration**

SECTION 2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

2.1 Project Location

The Proposed Project is located at 19005 Coast Highway 1 in Jenner, CA 95450. The historic park is located along Highway 1, approximately eight miles north of Jenner and 23 miles south of Gualala in Sonoma County.

2.2 Project Description

The Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail (Project) is a proposed Class I pedestrian interpretive trail route totaling approximately 1.66 miles. The project encompasses the integration of new trail construction (approximately 1.26 miles), and existing road and trail routes (approximately 0.4 mile). Together, the combined routes will link many existing park features with areas of interest previously unidentified to the general public.

Overall design will include interpretation at selected points to bring together stories from the indigenous Kashia Band of Pomo Indians; Alaska Natives; the Call Ranch Period; and others in the international community once associated with the Russian American Company's Ross Settlement. The project will create an interpretive multimedia experience encouraging park visitors to explore the deep and complex layered cultural landscape of the park.

Construction of the Proposed Project is anticipated to start in fall of 2022 and take approximately 5 months to construct.

**Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project
Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration**

SECTION 3. COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

This section of the document contains a copy of the comment letter received during the 30-day public review period, which began on February 5, 2021 and ended on March 7, 2021. In conformance with Section 15088(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines, DPR has considered comments on environmental issues from reviewers of the Draft IS/ND and has prepared written responses. One letter was received from the California Coastal Commission. This letter, and the response to the comments contained in the letter is provided in this section.

3.1 List of Comment Letters

A list of public agencies, organizations, and individuals that provided comments on the Draft IS/ND is presented below. The letters and the responses to the comments follow this page.

Letter Number	Sender	Date Received
1	California Coastal Commission	03/08/2021

**Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project
Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration**

Letter 1 – California Coastal Commission, email received March 8, 2021

From: Black, Abigail@Coastal

Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 5:49 PM

To: NSC, CEQA@Parks <CEQA.NSC@parks.ca.gov>

Subject: Comments on Initial Study and Negative Declaration Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Negative Declaration for the Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail project. The project proposes 1.26 miles of new trail construction and new interpretive signage at Fort Ross Historic Park in Jenner, Sonoma County.

Staff has reviewed the materials submitted and has determined that there are a few areas of potential concern. The areas of concern are as follows:

Sensitive species: The Environmental Check List and Discussion section of the Draft Initial Study states that seven of the 13 vegetation communities within the Study Area may be considered Sensitive Natural Communities and/or communities that are protected under the CCA because of the occurrence or potential for occurrence of wetlands; suitable habitat for two special-status invertebrates is present including the western bumble bee and Behren's silverspot butterfly; suitable habitat for four special-status amphibians is present including CGS, FYLF, California red-legged frog, and red-bellied newt; suitable nesting and/or wintering and foraging habitat for nine special-status birds is present including grasshopper sparrow, wrentit, olive-sided flycatcher, white-tailed kite, purple finch, osprey, Bryant's savannah sparrow, purple martin, and Allen's hummingbird; suitable habitat for four special status mammals is present including the pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, Sonoma tree vole, and American badger. Due to the fact that there are a great number of sensitive species present within the project area, please ensure that each of the individual species' appropriate best management practices are incorporated into the project.

Bluff Edge: According to the Initial Study and Negative Declaration document, the project site is situated on the coastal bluff terrace bound by State Highway 1 to the northeast and the bluff edge to the south and west. Please ensure that all development is sited and designed in accordance with the following Local Coastal Program Coastal Bluff recommendations (which can be found in section III-12 "ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS", page 31):

CCC -2

**Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project
Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration**

- 40. Require erosion and sediment control measures for excavation, grading, and construction operations in coastal permits for areas adjacent to coastal bluffs.

- 41. Prohibit the removal of sand or rock materials from any part of the bluffs except for road maintenance.

- 42. Minimize the removal of native plant species from the coastal bluff area.

- 43. Prohibit all off-road non-authorized motor vehicle traffic on bluff areas in order to limit compaction, erosion, and destruction of plants. Equestrian traffic should be directed to areas where the subsequent compaction and erosion do not adversely affect the stability of the bluffs.

- 44. Minimize recreational use of bluff sites known to be used by birds as nesting or roosting areas.

- 45. Design access points (stairways or trails) which pass through coastal bluff habitat to minimize erosion and disruption of bluff vegetation. Public access must be limited to the trailway corridor.

- 46. Develop surfaced paths along cliff tops, and paths or steps down cliff faces in bluff areas with heavy recreational use. In areas of moderate use, paths can be constructed of local material.

- 47. Prohibit development within 100 feet of a bluff edge except as described in Environmental Hazards Recommendation 2.**

CCC -2
Cont.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Negative Declaration for the Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail project. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Abigail M. Black | Coastal Planner | *she/her*
CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION
North Central Coast District
(415) 904-5290

Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration

Letter 1 Responses to Comments

Comment CCC-1: Thank you for your comment. DPR understands your concerns about listed species and offers the following project specific requirements tailored to cover each listed species:

- Western bumble bee – Impacts to the Western Bumble bee will be minimized or avoided by implementation of PSR BIO-1 and PSR BIO-2.
- Behren’s silverspot butterfly – Impacts to the Behren’s silverspot butterfly will be minimized or avoided by implementation of PSR BIO-1 and PSR BIO-2.
- California Giant Salamander, Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog, California red-legged frog, and red-bellied newt – Impacts to special -status amphibians will be minimized or avoided with implementation of PSR BIO-3 through PSR BIO-7.
- Special-status birds: grasshopper sparrow, wrentit, olive-sided flycatcher, white-tailed kite, purple finch, osprey, Bryant’s savannah sparrow, purple martin, and Allen’s hummingbird – Impacts to special-status birds will be minimized or avoided by implementation of PSR BIO-8.
- Special status mammals: pallid bat, Townsend’s big-eared bat, Sonoma tree vole, and American badger – Impacts to special-status mammals will be minimized or avoided with implementation of PSR BIO-9 through PSR BIO-11.

Below are the project requirements referred to above as stated within the publicly circulated Draft IS/ND.

Project Requirements

Issue	Project Requirement
General	
SPR GEN -1	Prior to the start of onsite construction work, Construction Manager will consult with the Project Manager to identify all resources that must be protected.
Biological Resources	
SPR BIO-1: Special-Status Plant Species	<p>The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of project construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct pre-construction special-status plant surveys following agency protocols within the Project impact areas. • Establish and clearly demarcate avoidance zones for special-status plant occurrences prior to construction. Avoidance zones should be maintained until the completion of construction. • Clothing, vehicles, and equipment, including shoes and the undercarriage and tires/tracks, should be cleaned prior to entering the Project area to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive plant species. • Any materials used for the Project, such as fill dirt or erosion control materials, should be from weed-free locations or certified weed free. • Dust generation should be kept to a minimum near special-status plant occurrences

**Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project
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Issue	Project Requirement
PSR BIO-2: Behren's Silverspot Butterfly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A DPR-approved biologist will conduct surveys for the larval host plants (western dog violet) in areas that will be impacted by the Project. Surveys will be conducted prior to Project implementation and when the plants were in a phenological stage favorable for positive identification (i.e., during the species blooming period). • Locations of larval host plants located within areas of potential construction impacts will be flagged by a DPR-approved biologist and an exclusion zone with a radius of 10 feet around the plant(s) will be established prior to the start of construction activities. If avoidance of host plant habitat is not possible, construction in those areas will not be allowed from April 1 through July 31 in order to protect pupae or larvae during the primary feeding season.
PSR BIO-3: California Giant Salamander Habitat	<p>The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of project construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPR-approved personnel will conduct preconstruction surveys immediately prior to ground-disturbing activities (including equipment staging, vegetation removal, and trail construction) within or near stream habitat onsite. If CGS are found during a survey, salamanders should be moved from the work area to the nearest CDFW-approved relocation site. Barrier fencing would be used to exclude CGS from work areas after the survey/relocation is complete. • During construction within or near stream habitat, only wildlife friendly erosion control materials would be used (no monofilament plastic mesh or line) for erosion control to reduce the risk of entrapment. An onsite biological monitor will inspect work areas daily for CGS.
PSR BIO-4: Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pre-construction training session conducted by a DPR-approved biologist will be provided for construction personnel. This training will discuss sensitive biological resources that could occur within or adjacent to project areas, including the potential presence of foothill yellow-legged frog (FYLF) within and near stream habitat onsite. It would include protection measures to insure that this species and other sensitive resources would not be impacted to a significant level by project activities. • Prior to the beginning of construction a DPR-approved biologist shall install barrier fencing to exclude FYLF habitat from work areas. • A DPR-approved biologist or biological monitor will conduct pre-construction surveys for FYLF. If FYLF is located within the project area, they will be relocated outside the work area by a CDFW or DPR-approved biologist. • Periodic surveys for sensitive biological resources would be conducted by a district environmental scientist or DPR-approved biological monitor, at their discretion. • Only wildlife friendly erosion control materials would be used (no monofilament plastic mesh or line) shall be used.
PSR BIO-5: California Red-Legged Frog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction personnel will be instructed and trained by a USFWS or DPR-approved biological monitor in the life history of the California red-legged frog (CRLF) and its habitat, and trained in the appropriate protocol to follow in the event that a CRLF is found onsite. • Prior to the beginning of construction, a DPR-approved biologist shall install barrier fencing to exclude CRLF habitat from work areas. A DPR-approved biological monitor will be onsite during all activities within 50 feet of onsite streams to ensure there are no impacts to individual CRLF that might potentially move through the project area during dispersal. • Immediately prior to the start of work each morning, a USFWS or DPR-approved biological monitor will conduct a visual inspection of the construction zone in those areas within 50 feet of onsite stream habitat.

**Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project
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	Project Requirement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a CRLF is found, start of work at that project location will not begin until the species moves out of the site on its own accord or is relocated by a USFWS or DPR biologist authorized to handle CRLF. • Work will be confined to daylight hours to avoid activities during periods when CRLF are known to be active.
PSR BIO-6: Red-Bellied Newt	<p>The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of project construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPR-approved personnel would be retained to conduct preconstruction surveys immediately prior to ground-disturbing activities (including equipment staging, vegetation removal, and trail construction) within or near stream habitat onsite. If red-bellied newts are found near the construction site, newts would be moved from the work area to the nearest CDFW-approved relocation site as described in the Project's LSAA. Barrier fencing should be used to exclude red-bellied newt from work areas after the survey/relocation is complete. • Where habitat for red-bellied newt habitat is identified, only wildlife friendly erosion control materials would be used (no monofilament plastic mesh or line) for erosion control to reduce the risk of entrapment during construction. • A DPR-approved biological monitor would inspect work areas daily for red-bellied newt
PSR BIO-7: Northwestern Pond Turtle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pre-construction training session conducted by a DPR-approved biologist will be provided for construction personnel. This training will discuss sensitive biological resources that could occur within or adjacent to project areas, including the potential presence of northwestern pond turtle. It would include protection measures to insure that these species and other sensitive resources would not be impacted to a significant level by project activities. • Prior to the beginning of construction, a DPR-approved biologist or biological monitor will conduct pre-construction surveys for these aquatic species. If the species is located within the project areas they will be relocated outside the work area by the DPR-approved biologist or biological monitor. • Periodic surveys for sensitive biological resources would be conducted by a district environmental scientist or DPR-approved biological monitor, at their discretion.
PSR BIO-8: Nesting Bird	<p>The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of project construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys for active raptor nests would be conducted within a 500-foot radius of project areas. • The surveys would be conducted within 7 days prior to the beginning of construction at each work site. If nesting raptors are found, no construction would occur within a 500-foot radius of the nest tree between March 1 and August 31, or until the young have fledged and the young would no longer be impacted by project activities (as determined by a DPR-approved biologist). • Surveys for active migratory bird nests would be conducted within a 100-foot radius of the project area 7 days prior to commencement of construction at each work site. If active nests are located, all construction disturbance activities within a 100-foot radius of the nest tree would be postponed until the end of the breeding season (August 31) or until the young have fledged and the young are no longer impacted by project activities (as determined by a DPR-approved biologist).
PSR BIO-9: Bats	<p>The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of project construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For work activities conducted during the bat maternity season (i.e., February 1 through September 31), a bat specialist will conduct a survey for bats within 100 feet of the project area where trees are present. If bat roosts are observed, a buffer area with a 100-foot radius will be established around the roost in which no work activities would be allowed to occur until the breeding season is completed.

**Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project
Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration**

Issue	Project Requirement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If work activities have to be conducted near known bat roosts, only those activities that the bat specialist determines could occur without significant impacts to bats will be conducted within 100 feet of the bat roost during the bat maternity season.
PSR BIO-10: Sonoma Tree Vole	<p>The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of project construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A DPR-approved biologist would conduct preconstruction surveys immediately prior to ground-disturbing activities (including equipment staging, vegetation removal, and trail construction) where suitable Douglas fir and bishop pine trees would be removed. . If Sonoma tree vole or their nests are found during surveys, a no-disturbance buffer around nest trees should be established. If avoidance is not possible, additional measures should be determined in consultation with CDFW.
PSR BIO-11: American Badger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A DPR-approved biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys for American badger denning habitat in appropriate grassland locations. If badger dens are located within 50 feet of the project area, then these sites will be mapped and fenced off prior to the start of construction activities, and completely avoided during the breeding season of June 1 through October 15.
PSR BIO-12: Wetlands and Waters of the U.S	<p>Jurisdictional Water and Wetlands Best Management Practices. The following BMPs shall be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To control sedimentation during construction and after project implementation, appropriate erosion control best management practices (i.e., installation of straw wattle, jute netting, etc.) shall be implemented to minimize adverse effects on jurisdictional areas in the vicinity of the Project. Project activities within the jurisdictional areas shall occur during the dry season (typically between June 1 and November 1) in any given year, or as otherwise directed by the regulatory agencies. Deviations from this work window can be made with permission from the relevant regulatory agencies. During construction, no litter or construction debris shall be placed within jurisdictional areas. All such debris and waste shall be picked up daily and properly disposed of at an appropriate site. In addition, all Project-generated debris, building materials, and rubbish shall be removed from jurisdictional areas and from areas where such materials could be washed into them. Any substances which could be hazardous to aquatic species resulting from Project-related activities, shall be prevented from contaminating the soil and/or entering jurisdictional areas. All refueling, maintenance, and staging of equipment and vehicles shall occur at least 100 feet from bodies of water and in a location where a potential spill would not drain directly toward aquatic habitat (e.g., on a slope that drains away from the water source). Prior to the onset of work activities, a plan must be in place for prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should an accidental spill occur.

Comment CCC-2: Thank you for your comment. The proposed project will follow the Local Coastal Program Coastal Bluff recommendations including numbers 40 through 47 (found in section III-12 "ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS"). It should be noted that the closest segment of the trail is approximately 60 feet from the bluff and the majority of the trail is at least 100 feet from the bluff.

SECTION 5. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Notice of Intent to Adopt an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

Attachment B – Proof of Publication

Attachment C – Environmental Filing Fee

ATTACHMENT A

Notice of Intent to Adopt an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

DATE: February 5, 2021

TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

SUBJECT: **Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project — SONOMA COUNTY**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the proposed Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project (Proposed Project). DPR has directed the preparation of an Initial Study (IS) in compliance with CEQA.

Project Location: The project is located within Fort Ross State Historic Park, at 19005 Coast Highway 1 Jenner, CA 95450. The Park is located along Highway 1, approximately eight miles north of Jenner and 23 miles south of Gualala, Sonoma County.

Project Description: The Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail (Project) is a proposed Class I pedestrian interpretive trail route totaling approximately 1.66 miles. The project encompasses the integration of new trail construction (approximately 1.26 miles), and existing road and trail routes (approximately 0.4 mile). Together, the combined routes will link many existing park features with areas of interest previously unidentified to the general public.

Overall design will include interpretation at selected points to bring together stories from the indigenous Kashia Band of Pomo Indians; Alaska Natives; the Call Ranch Period; and others in the international community once associated with the Russian American Company's Ross Settlement. The project will create an interpretive multimedia experience encouraging park visitors to explore the deep and complex layered cultural landscape of the park.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts: Potentially significant impacts to air quality, aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards, hydrology/water quality, noise, and tribal cultural resources identified in the Initial Study. All impacts are reduced to a less than significant level with the implementation of project specific requirements.

Hazardous Waste Sites: Pursuant to Section 15087(c)(6) of the Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act, State Parks acknowledges the non-existence of hazardous waste sites within the project area reviewed by this Negative Declaration (ND).

IS/ND Document Review and Availability: The public review and comment period for the IS/MND will extend for 30 days starting **February 5, 2021 and ending March 7, 2021**. The IS/MND can also be viewed and/or downloaded on the DPR website:

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=981

Comments/Questions: Comments and/or questions regarding the IS/ND may be directed to Brad Michalk, California Department of Parks and Recreation, One Capitol Mall (Suite 410), Sacramento, CA 95814 or email: ceqa.nsc@parks.ca.gov

ATTACHMENT B

Proof of Publication

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

(2015.5 C.C.P.)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of Sonoma

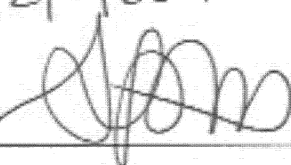
I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county aforesaid: I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of The Press Democrat, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published DAILY IN THE City of Santa Rosa, County of Sonoma; and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Sonoma, State of California, under the date of November 29, 1951, Case number 34831, that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates to wit:

The Press Democrat - Legal Notices

2/8 - 2/8/2021

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Santa Rosa, California, on

2/8/2021


This space for County clerk's Filing Stamp

Proof of Publication of

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

DATE: February 5, 2021
TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations
SUBJECT: Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project – SONOMA COUNTY

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the proposed Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail Project (Proposed Project). DPR has directed the preparation of an Initial Study (IS) in compliance with CEQA.

Project Location: The project is located within Fort Ross State Historic Park, at 19005 Coast Highway 1 Jenner, CA 95460. The Park is located along Highway 1, approximately eight miles north of Jenner and 23 miles south of Gustalia, Sonoma County.

Project Description: The Fort Ross State Historic Park Kashia Loop Trail (Project) is a proposed Class I pedestrian interpretive trail route totaling approximately 1.66 miles. The project encompasses the integration of new trail construction (approximately 1.28 miles), and existing road and trail routes (approximately 0.4 mile). Together, the combined routes will link many existing park features with areas of interest previously unidentified to the general public.

Overall design will include interpretation of selected points to bring together stories from the Indigenous Kashia Band of Pomo Indians; Alaska Natives; the Carl Ranch Period; and others in the international community once associated with the Russian American Company's Ross Settlement. The project will create an interpretive multimedia experience encouraging park visitors to explore the deep and complex layered cultural landscape of the park.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts: Potentially significant impacts to air quality, aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards, hydrology/water quality, noise, and tribal cultural resources identified in the Initial Study. All impacts are reduced to a less than significant level with the implementation of project specific requirements.

Hazardous Waste Sites: Pursuant to Section 15087(c)(1)(5) of the Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act, State Parks acknowledges the non-existence of hazardous waste sites within the project area reviewed by this Negative Declaration (ND).

IS/ND Document Review and Availability: The public review and comment period for the IS/ND will extend for 30 days starting February 5, 2021 and ending March 7, 2021. The IS/ND can also be viewed and/or downloaded on the DPR website: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=581

Comments/Questions: Comments and/or questions regarding the IS/ND may be directed to Brad Michak, California Department of Parks and Recreation, One Capitol Mall (Suite 410), Sacramento, CA 95814 or email: ceqa.nec@parks.ca.gov

77293 – Pub Feb 8, 2021. 16.

ATTACHMENT C

Environmental Filing Fee

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Document Pages: 32	Signatures: 3
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	5/25/2021 12:06:34 PM
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Required hardware and software

Operating Systems:	Windows2000? or WindowsXP?
Browsers (for SENDERS):	Internet Explorer 6.0? or above
Browsers (for SIGNERS):	Internet Explorer 6.0?, Mozilla FireFox 1.0, NetScape 7.2 (or above)
Email:	Access to a valid email account
Screen Resolution:	800 x 600 minimum
Enabled Security Settings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Allow per session cookies •Users accessing the internet behind a Proxy Server must enable HTTP 1.1 settings via proxy connection

** These minimum requirements are subject to change. If these requirements change, we will provide you with an email message at the email address we have on file for you at that time providing you with the revised hardware and software requirements, at which time you will have the right to withdraw your consent.

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