

SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS



## COYOTE CANYON

### NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN & INTERIM ACCESS PLAN

DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

2019



SANTA CLARA  
COUNTY PARKS

**DRAFT  
INITIAL STUDY/  
MITIGATED  
NEGATIVE  
DECLARATION**

## MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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**PROJECT NAME:** Coyote Canyon Natural Resources Management Plan & Interim Access Plan

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Project site is located in unincorporated Santa Clara County, California Accessor Parcel Numbers (APNs): 865-06-010, -014, -051; 865-07-006, -013, -014, -015, -056; 817-23-006, -009, -012; -018; 817-24-003. The Project site includes 2,741 acres of property adjacent to Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park that are owned and operated by the County of Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Department.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The purpose of the Proposed Project is to assure that immediate development decisions support the protection of natural resources and ensure the natural beauty of the Property remains intact. Under the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Plan, the Department would manage the 2,741-acre Property in accordance with applicable guidelines and policies including, but not limited to, the *Santa Clara County General Plan*, *Santa Clara County Parks 2018 Strategic Plan*, and the *Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan*. The Department would deploy strategies including managed grazing, reconnaissance surveys, and invasive plant control to monitor, maintain and enhance conditions for natural resources on the Property. Natural resources management goals, objectives and recommendations are provided in Section Four of the Interim Access (IA) Plan and within the NRM Plan in Appendix C.

The IA Plan proposes the conversion of existing ranch roads to recreational trails, construction of new trails, and the long-term maintenance of the trails, totaling 10.4 miles of trail within the Project Site (See Figure 3). The IA Plan also identifies existing double-track ranch roads to serve as service roads to be used by Department staff and emergency vehicles only (see Figure 5). These service roads would be closed to the public.

The Department would complete the Proposed Project in accordance with the *Santa Clara County General Plan*, the *Santa Clara County Countywide Trails Master Plan*, the *Santa Clara County Uniform Interjurisdictional Trail Design Use and Management Guidelines*, and the *Santa Clara County Parks Trail Maintenance Manual and Best Management Practices*. Trail improvements would include drainage improvements, installation of signage and benches, and trail resurfacing. Existing ranch roads that are in poor condition or are unsuitable for conversion to trails would be regraded and reseeded with a native plant mix appropriate to the area.

**FINDINGS:** It is hereby determined that based on the information contained in the attached Initial Study, there is no substantial evidence that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment. Mitigation measures are incorporated into the Project design to avoid potentially significant effects on the environment and are included in the attached Initial Study, which is hereby incorporated and fully made part of this Mitigated Negative Declaration.

  
Cherise Orange, Associate Planner

  
Date

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## ABBREVIATIONS

Department	County of Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Department
Plan	Coyote Canyon Natural Resources Management Plan & Interim Access Plan
Project	Coyote Canyon Natural Resources Management Plan & Interim Access Plan

## ACRONYMS

AB	Assembly Bill
ALUC	Airport Land Use Commission
AOP	Annual Operating Plan
APN	Assessor's Parcel Number (No.)
AR	Agricultural Ranchlands
ASA	Architectural and Site Approval
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District



CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CAP	Clean Air Plan
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CMA	Congestion Management Agency
CMP	Congestion Management Program
CO <sub>2</sub> e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IA	Interim Access
IS	Initial Study
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
KV	Kilovolt

LRA	Local Responsibility Area
MHUSD	Morgan Hill Unified School District
MLD	Most Likely Descendant
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
mph	Mile per Hour
MT	Megaton
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NOD	Notice of Determination
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRM	Natural Resources Management
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Fine Particulate Matter
PM <sub>10</sub>	Coarse Particulate Matter
RCA	Resource Conservation Area
RDM	Residual Dry Matter
SCCFD	Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department
SCH	State Clearinghouse
SCU	Santa Clara Unit
SCVHP	Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan

SCVWD	Santa Clara Valley Water District
SR	State Route
SRA	State Responsibility Area
SSCCFD	South Santa Clara County Fire District
TAC	Toxic Air Contaminant
TPZ	Traffic Pattern Zone
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UTV	Utility Task Vehicle
VTA	Valley Transportation Authority

# INTRODUCTION

## **Purpose of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration**

The purpose of this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is to identify any potential environmental impacts from implementation of the Coyote Canyon Natural Resources Management Plan & Interim Access Plan ("Proposed Project") as well as to outline mitigation measures. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15367, the County of Santa Clara (County) is the Lead Agency in the preparation of this IS/MND.

The IS/MND provides information to interested members of the public, permitting agencies, public agencies, and other organizations regarding the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Project. This document has been prepared in accordance with CEQA, Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.; the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, §15000 et seq.; and the regulations and policies of the County of Santa Clara, California.

## **Decision to Prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration**

An Initial Study (IS) is conducted by a Lead Agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment (CEQA Guidelines §15063(a)). If there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15064(a). However, if the Lead Agency determines that impacts are less than significant or can be mitigated to a less than significant level, a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration may be prepared instead of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines §15070(b)).

The IS completed for the Proposed Project identified potentially significant impacts to biological and cultural resources. The IS conforms to the content requirements under CEQA Guidelines §15063(d). A MND for this Proposed Project is consistent with CEQA Guidelines §15070(b), which indicates a MND is appropriate when *"the initial study identified potentially significant effects, but (1) revisions in the project plans or proposals made by, or agreed to, by the applicant before a mitigated negative declaration and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and (2) there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment."*

This MND provides an assessment of the potential environmental impacts of implementing the Proposed Project. Under the Proposed Project, the Department would continue its implementation of various natural resource management strategies within the 2,741-acre Coyote Canyon Property ("Property"). As outlined in the Coyote Canyon Natural Resources Management (NRM) Plan, the Property provides highly suitable habitat for sensitive plant and wildlife species and no major changes to the Department's existing management regime were recommended. Minor changes to resource management practices on the Property would occur through an adaptive management and monitoring program designed to respond to potential impacts from public use or grazing.

The Proposed Project would additionally include conversion of existing ranch roads to recreational trails, construction of new trails, and the long-term maintenance of those trails, totaling 10.4 miles within the Project area. The extent of this proposed trail network would be constructed within includes a limited corridor of the Property and connections into the existing trail network of Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park.



## **Proposed Findings**

The County of Santa Clara has determined that with the implementation of mitigation measures identified in this MND, the Proposed Project will not have a significant effect on the environment. If this Mitigated Negative Declaration is adopted by the County of Santa Clara, the requirements of CEQA will be considered to have been met by the preparation of the MND and the Project will not require the preparation of an EIR. This decision is supported by the following findings:

- a) The Proposed Project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels or threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community. It does not reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. It does not eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory, since there is no identified area at the Project site which is habitat for rare or endangered species, or which represents unique example of California history or prehistory. In addition, the Project does not have any significant, unavoidable adverse impacts. Implementation of specified mitigation measure will avoid or reduce the effects of the Project on the environment and thereby avoid any significant impacts.
- b) The Proposed Project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly, because any adverse effects of the Project will be mitigated to a less than significant level.
- c) The 2,741-acre Property is surrounded by an existing and fully constructed residential development, privately-owned lands, and parkland. The Coyote Canyon NRM Plan covers the entire Property and evaluates existing conditions under the current management regime, establishes an adaptive management and monitoring program, and establishes a grazing plan. The Coyote Canyon Interim Access (IA) Plan is site specific and focuses on a limited corridor within the Property, and a segment of the existing Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park which is adjacent to the Property. The newly constructed trail network would connect to the existing trail network within Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park. Access to the new Coyote Canyon trail network would be from the Coyote Dam Staging Area and trailhead located in Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park. Development of the Proposed Project will not have environmental effects that will result in a cumulative impact on the environment.

## **Public Review Process**

This IS/MND will be circulated to the State Clearinghouse, local agencies, interested organizations and individuals who may wish to review and provide comments on the Project description, the evaluation of potential environmental impacts, the proposed mitigation measures, or any other aspect of this document. The date of recording with the Office of the Clerk-Recorder for the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration will commence the 30-day public review period required under CEQA Guidelines § 15073(a).

**Written comments regarding the correctness, completeness, or adequacy of the IS/MND should be submitted to the name and address indicated below. Such comments should be based on specific environmental concerns and must be received on or before the**

**close of the comment period. Submission of written comments via e-mail is encouraged as it greatly facilitates the response process.**

Submittal of written comments during the 30-day public review period should be sent to:

**Cherise Orange**

County of Santa Clara, Parks & Recreation Department  
298 Garden Hill Drive  
Los Gatos, CA 95032-7669  
408-355-2228  
Email: Cherise.Orange@prk.sccgov.org

A hard copy version of the IS/MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) are available for review at:

County of Santa Clara  
Parks & Recreation Department  
298 Garden Hill Drive  
Los Gatos, CA 95032-7669

Anderson Lake County Park  
Visitor Center  
19245 Malaguerra Avenue  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Coyote Lake–Harvey Bear Ranch County Park  
Park Ranger Office  
10840 Coyote Lake Road  
Gilroy, CA 95020

The IS/MND is available in electronic format on the County of Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Department's website: <http://www.parkhere.org/coyotecanyoncega>.

**Consideration of the Initial Study and Project**

Following the conclusion of the public review period, the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors will consider the adoption of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project at a regularly scheduled meeting. The Board of Supervisors will consider the IS/MND and associated MMRP together with any comments received during the public review process. Upon adoption of the MND, the Board of Supervisors may proceed with Project approval actions.

**Notice of Determination**

If this IS/MND document is adopted and the Project is approved, the County of Santa Clara will file a Notice of Determination (NOD) at the County Clerk Recorder's Office within five working days after Project approval. The NOD will be posted by the County Clerk Recorder's Office within 24 hours of receipt for a period of at least 30 days. The filing of the NOD starts a 30-day statute of limitations on court challenges to the approval under CEQA (CEQA Guidelines § 15075(g)).

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# **INITIAL STUDY**

## **Environmental Evaluation Checklist for Santa Clara County**

**Project Title:** Coyote Canyon Natural Resources Management Plan & Interim Access Plan

**Date:** April 29, 2019

**File Number:** **APN(s):** 865-06-010, -014, -051; 865-07-006, -013, -014, -015, -056; 817-23-006, -009, -012; -018; 817-24-003

**500" Map #:** N/A **Zoning:** Agricultural Ranchlands (AR)

**General Plan Designation:** Ranchlands

**Project Type:** Management Plan **USA (if any):** N/A

**Lead Agency Name & Address:** County of Santa Clara  
298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032-7669

**Applicant Name & Address:** County of Santa Clara, Parks & Recreation Department  
298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032-7669

**Owner Name & Address:** County of Santa Clara, Parks & Recreation Department  
298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032-7669

**Telephone:** 408-355-2200

### **Project Location**

The Coyote Canyon Property ("Property") is located in unincorporated Santa Clara County, east of the City of Morgan Hill, in the foothills of the Diablo Range (see Figure 1). The Property is owned by the County of Santa Clara and operated by the County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department ("Department"). The Property connects to Anderson Lake County Park to the north, Henry W. Coe State Park to the east, and Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park to the south. Coyote Creek bisects the Property, linking Anderson and Coyote Reservoirs. Single-family residences and agricultural uses are located to the west of the Property in Morgan Hill.

The Project proposes development of a small recreational trail network within a limited corridor of the Property and a portion of existing Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park (see Figures 2 -4). The proposed trail network would be located west of Coyote Creek and northeast of Nesbit Ridge.

## **Existing Conditions**

The 2,741-acre Property currently includes 32 miles of natural surface ranch roads used for service and access. Existing ranch roads on the Property generally run in a north-south alignment following Coyote Creek, connecting Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park and a ranch complex site off East Dunne Avenue. Other ranch roads access key grazing infrastructure throughout the Property.

The Property contains oak woodland and grassland habitats, as well as ponds, wetlands, and creeks. Existing structures on the site include a cabin, three Quonset huts, and several barns, but no buildings are currently inhabited. Property elevations range from 423 feet along Carey Avenue to 2,389 feet on Nesbit Ridge, with an overall elevation change of 1,966 feet.

Most of the western area of the Property is currently used for grazing operations and includes infrastructure such as equipment storage areas and cattle loading features. Trail alignments through grazing areas would minimize conflicts between land uses by incorporating trail surface improvements, fencing, and self-closing gates.

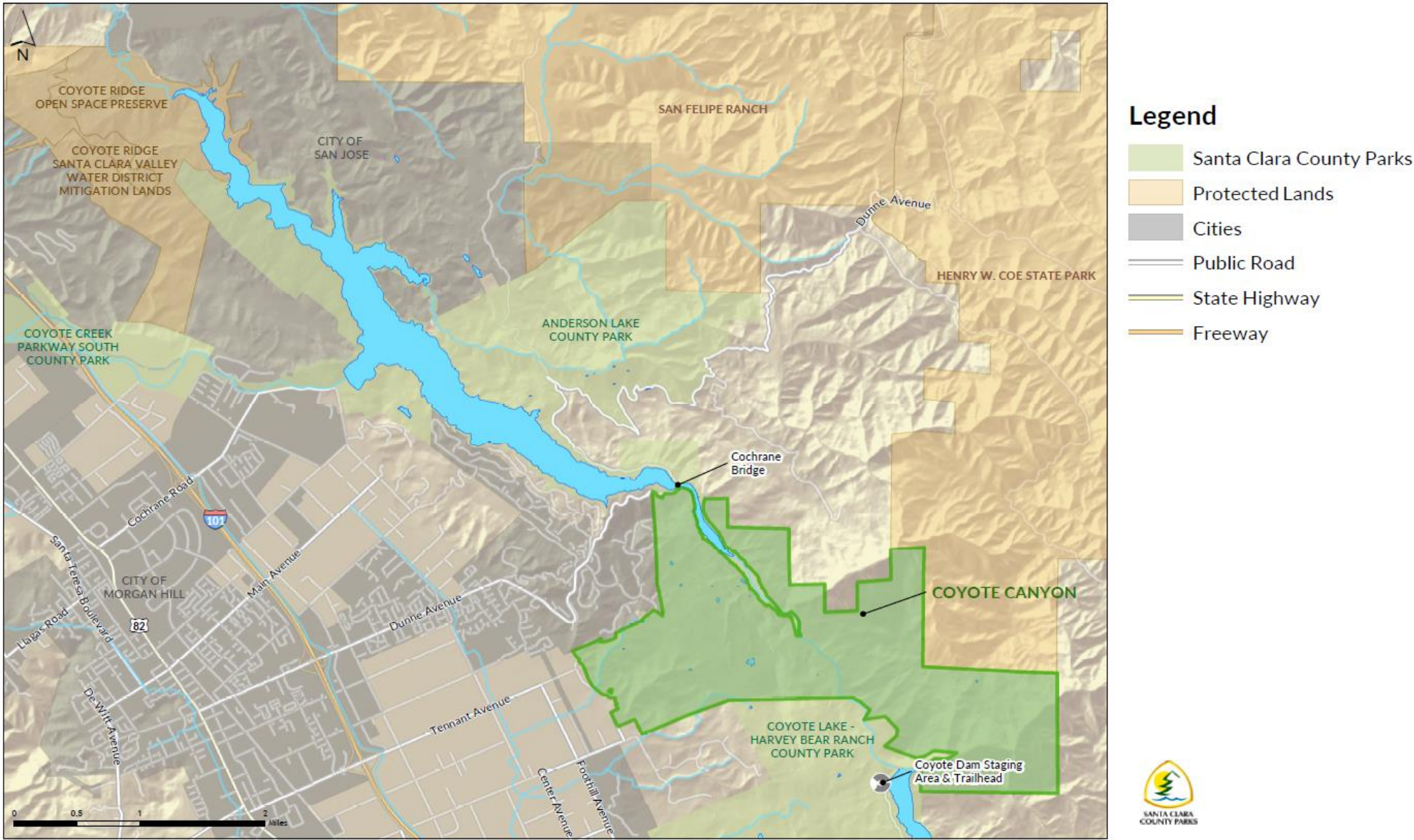
## **Coyote Canyon NRM Plan & IA Plan Overview**

In 2016, the County purchased the Property to be part of the Department's parkland system with the intent of protecting and managing its existing natural resources and also providing public access. To meet these goals, the Department undertook a planning process which resulted in a Natural Resource Management (NRM) Plan covering the entire Property and an Interim Access (IA) Plan which focuses on opening a limited portion of the Property to the public. The two documents assure that development decisions to provide public access will be consistent with recommendations for long-term preservation and restoration of natural resources within the Property.

The goals of the Plan include:

- Assess the existing condition of the Property.
- Evaluate the feasibility of providing interim access to the Property via trails for hiking, equestrian, bicycling, and dogs-on-leash uses.
- Recommend ways to manage recreation, development, and land use impacts through monitoring and adaptive management strategies.
- Pursue efforts that balance the preservation, conservation, and enhancement of existing natural resources and ecological processes on the Property within staffing and budget constraints.

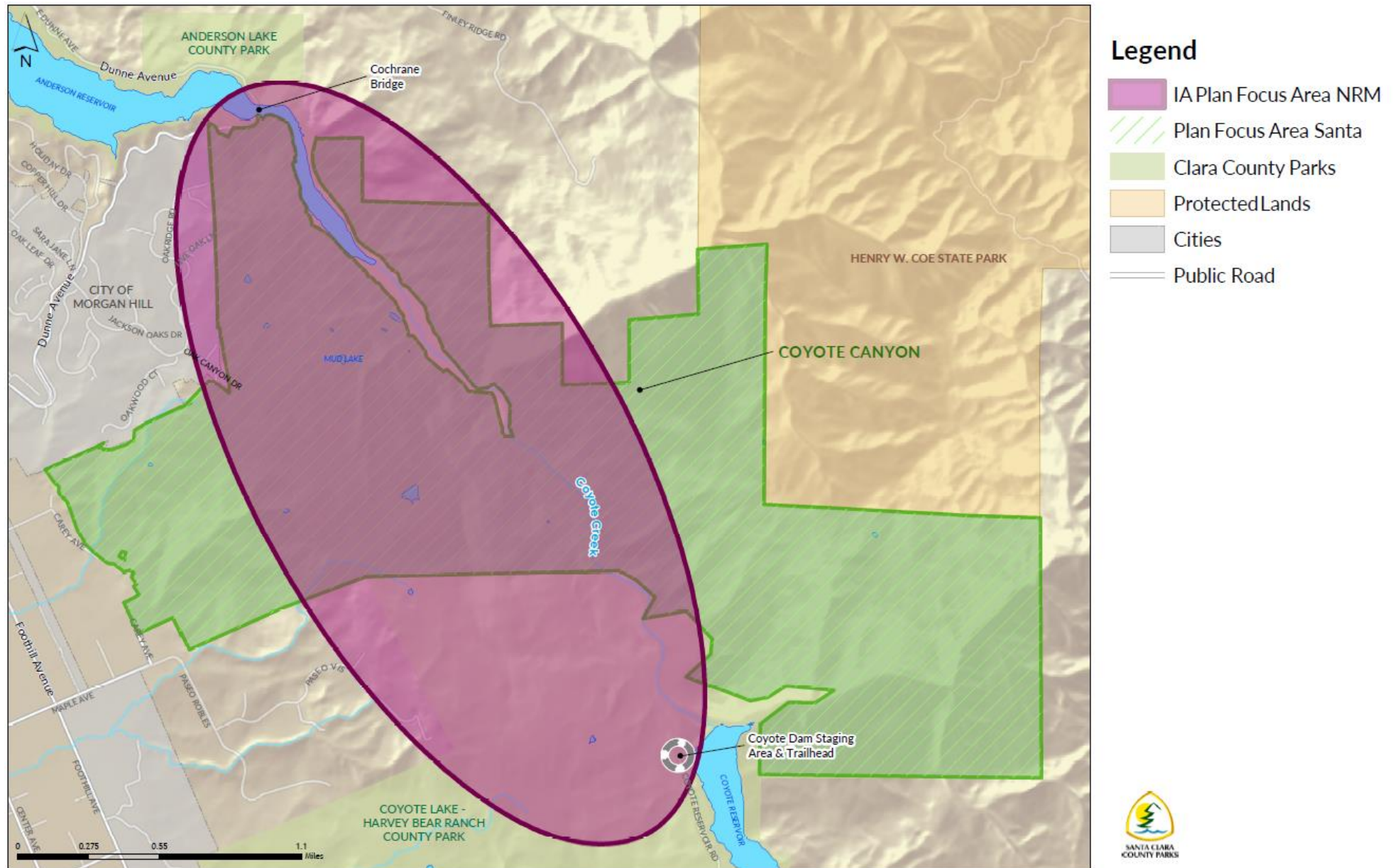
Figure 1. Property Vicinity Map



This map was generated by the County of Santa Clara Department of Parks & Recreation with H.T. Harvey & Associates. The GIS files were compiled from various sources. While deemed reliable, the Department assumes no liability.



**Figure 2. Focus Area Map**



This map was generated by the County of Santa Clara Department of Parks & Recreation with H.T. Harvey & Associates. The GIS files were compiled from various sources. While deemed reliable, the Department assumes no liability.



## Project Description

The Proposed Project includes the implementation of the Coyote Canyon NRM Plan & IA Plan. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to manage and protect natural resources and to provide public access into a new trail network within the Property. Under the NRM Plan, the Department would manage the 2,741-acre Property in accordance with applicable guidelines and policies including, but not limited to, the *Santa Clara County General Plan*, *Santa Clara County Parks 2018 Strategic Plan*, and the *Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan*. During evaluation of the Property for the NRM Plan, it was determined that the Property provides highly suitable habitat for sensitive plant and wildlife species and no major changes to the existing management regime were recommended. The Department would continue to implement strategies, including managed grazing, reconnaissance surveys, and invasive plant control, to maintain and enhance conditions for natural resources on the Property. Natural resources management goals, objectives and recommendations are provided in Section Four of the IA Plan and within the NRM Plan in Appendix C.

The IA Plan proposes the conversion of existing ranch roads to recreational trails, construction of new trails, and the long-term maintenance of the trails, totaling 10.4 miles of trail within the Project area (See Figure 3). The IA Plan also identifies existing double-track ranch roads to serve as service roads to be used by Department staff and emergency vehicles only (see Figure 5). These service roads would be closed to the public.

The Department would complete the Proposed Project in accordance with the *Santa Clara County General Plan*, the *Santa Clara County Countywide Trails Master Plan*, the *Santa Clara County Uniform Interjurisdictional Trail Design Use and Management Guidelines*, and the *Santa Clara County Parks Trail Maintenance Manual and Best Management Practices*. Trail improvements would include drainage improvements, installation of signage and benches, and trail resurfacing. Existing ranch roads that are in poor condition or are unsuitable for conversion to trails would be regraded and reseeded with a native plant mix appropriate to the area.

## The Proposed Trail Network

Trail locations were selected based upon analysis and evaluations performed by the Department's Project team, Department guidelines, and input from stakeholders and community members. To provide a seamless trail experience for users, the proposed trail network is split into four trails that are built to single-track and double-track guidelines. Segments identified as single-track would typically be three to five feet wide. This type of narrow trail is designed to accommodate multiple public uses such as hiking, biking, equestrian, and dogs on-leash (multi-use) and tends to wind around obstacles such as trees, large rocks, and bushes, and has short segments of steep slopes. Single-track trails may be designed to accommodate Department staff and emergency service-owned All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and Utility Task Vehicles (UTVs) for maintenance, patrol, and emergency access. Segments identified as double-track would typically be eight to 10 feet wide. This type of trail is designed, constructed, and maintained to accommodate multiple public uses such as hiking, biking, equestrian, and dogs on-leash in addition to staff and emergency vehicles. Segments identified as service roads would be vehicle-accessible roads closed to the public.

Within the IA Plan, the trails are described as looped trails as shown in Figure 4.

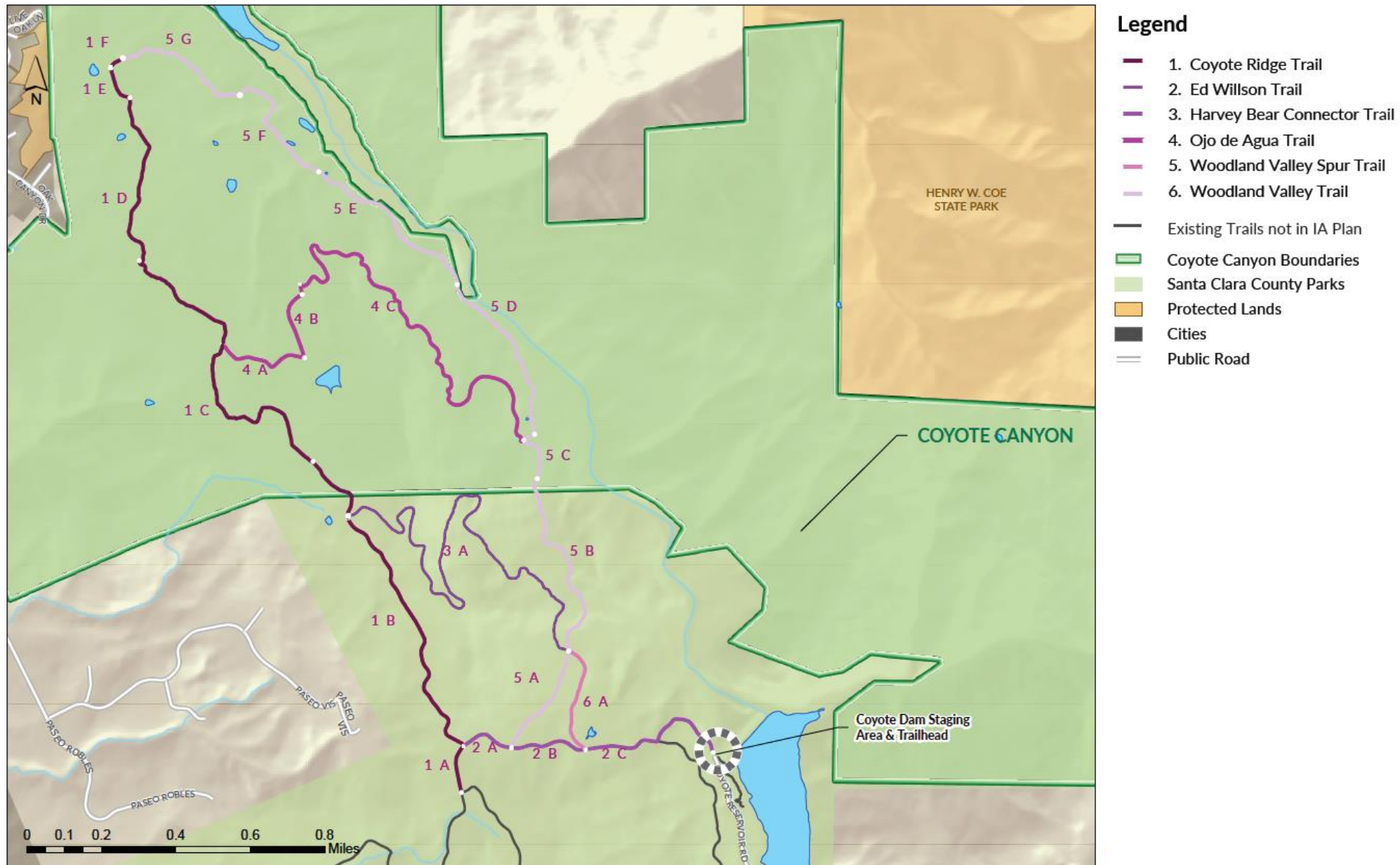
- **Loop One** is an existing 1.5 mile trail located within Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park and consists of both single-track and double-track segments. The Woodland Valley Trail (Segment 5A), Harvey Bear Connector Trail (Segment 2B), and Woodland Valley Spur Trail (Segment 6A) are combined to form Loop One. This loop trail provides views of the Coyote Canyon Property from Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park.

- **Loop Two** is a 5.0 mile trail that follows a converted ranch road along Coyote Creek (Woodland Valley Trail, Segments 5A-5C) for approximately 1.5 miles, then rises 600 feet to the upland area of the Property along the Ojo de Agua Trail (Segments 4A-4C), and continues back south along the Coyote Ridge Trail to terminate at the trail junction of the Harvey Bear Connector and Coyote Ridge Trails.
- **Loop Three** is a 6.5 mile trail that utilizes a converted ranch road (Woodland Valley Trail, Segments 5A-5G), then gradually rises 500 feet along the Coyote Ridge Trail (Segments 1A-1F) to expansive views of the City of Morgan Hill and the Santa Clara Valley. The alignment then continues south to connect with the Harvey Bear Connector Trail.

The proposed trail network would be accessible to the public from the existing Coyote Dam Staging Area and Trailhead, at the northern terminus of Coyote Reservoir Road in Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park and would be used for interim access to the proposed trails. Two key service road access points to the Property are the Ranch Complex Area at East Dunne Avenue to the north and on Oak Canyon Drive to the northwest. Due to poor ranch road conditions, the third service road access point off Carey Avenue will not be used as part of trail construction activities. Construction vehicle entrances and construction staging areas would be located at East Dunne Avenue and the Coyote Dam Staging Area and Trailhead parking lot. Construction materials would be stockpiled at trailhead junctions in previously disturbed areas.

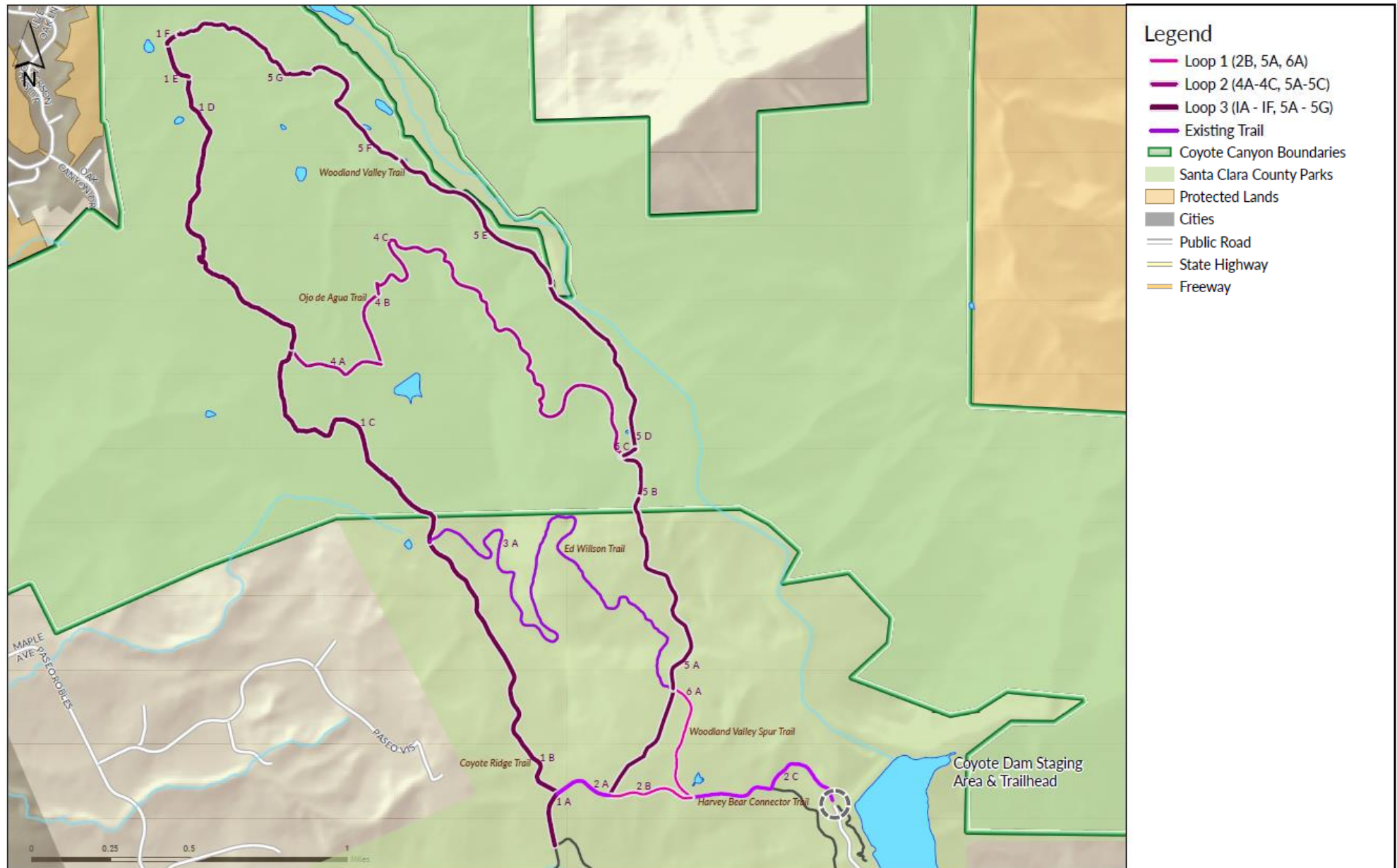
A future master plan will be completed by the Department for the Property to address areas that were not included in the Interim Access Plan. A subsequent CEQA document will also be prepared for those portions in accordance with the Department's 2018 Strategic Plan.

**Figure 3. Recommended Public Access Alignment**



This map was generated by the County of Santa Clara Department of Parks & Recreation with BFS Landscape Architects. The GIS files were compiled from various sources. While deemed reliable, the Department assumes no liability.

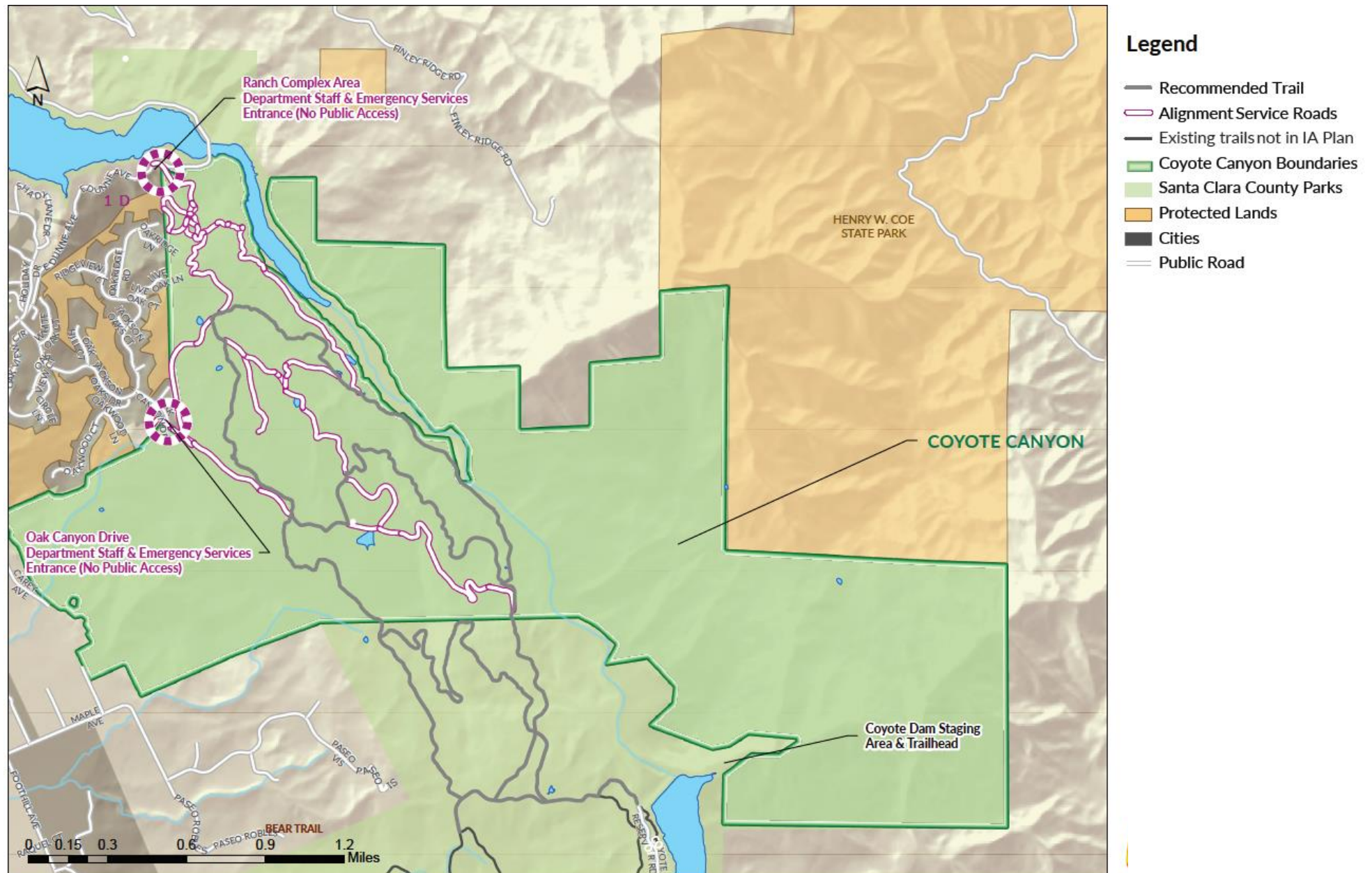
**Figure 4. Recommended Public Access Alignment Loops**



This map was generated by the County of Santa Clara Department of Parks & Recreation. The GIS files were compiled from various sources. While deemed reliable, the Department assumes no liability.



**Figure 5. Service Access Network**



This map was generated by the County of Santa Clara Department of Parks & Recreation. The GIS files were compiled from various sources. While deemed reliable, the Department assumes no liability.

**Implementation Practices Incorporated into the Project**

Implementation practices are incorporated into the design of the Project to ensure that Project-related effects are minimized or avoided and are described in Appendix D of the Plan.

Successful implementation of these practices would ensure the minimization of air quality, biological, noise and cultural resource impacts. These will include implementation of the Department's practices for the prevention of plant pathogen introductions on County parkland; wildfire prevention; construction site practices during construction activities to reduce pollutants in storm water discharges; standard County dust-reduction practices; standard County noise reduction practices; and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) Basic Construction practices to prevent stormwater pollution and minimize potential sedimentation.

**Project-Related Approvals, Agreements and Permits**

The CEQA review process is intended to inform the public, decision-makers, government agencies and responsible agencies about the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Project and provide them with an opportunity to comment. In addition, the IS/MND is intended to assist Federal, State, and Local agencies in carrying out their responsibility for permit review or approval authority over aspects of the Project. Under CEQA, a responsible agency is a public agency other than the lead agency that has legal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project (Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21069).

The Proposed Project may require approvals, actions, and permits from various public agencies some of which are considered responsible agencies under CEQA.

- California Department of Fish & Wildlife: Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (Responsible Agency).
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board: General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity (Responsible Agency).
- Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency: Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan (Responsible Agency)

# ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural/ Historical/ Archaeological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use & Planning                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance                        |   |



A. AESTHETICS						
	IMPACT					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT:	NO	YES				
	<u>No Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>	
1. If subject to ASA, be generally in non-compliance with the Guidelines for Architecture and Site Approval?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3
2. Create an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3
3. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 4, 9
4. Obstruct scenic views from existing residential areas, public lands, public water body or roads?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 4, 6
5. Be located on or near a ridgeline visible from the valley floor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
6. Adversely affect the architectural appearance of an established neighborhood?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
7. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2

## DISCUSSION:

The Proposed Project would include conversion of existing ranch roads to recreational trails, construction of new trails, and the long-term maintenance of the trail, totaling 10.4 miles of trail throughout the western area of the Property.

The conversion, construction, and maintenance of up to 10.4 miles of single-track and double-track dirt trails would occur on the Coyote Canyon Property west of Coyote Creek and Anderson Reservoir and northeast of Nesbit Ridge. Existing service roads that are in poor condition or are unsuitable would be abandoned and restored as part of the Project. Improvements along the proposed and existing alignments would include drainage improvements, installation of signage and benches, and trail resurfacing.

## IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to aesthetics.

1. Projects subject to Architectural and Site Approval (ASA) include commercial, institutional, office, industrial, and multi-family residential uses. The Project proposes a plan for natural resources management and public access on the property and is not subject to ASA. **(No Impact)**

2. The Proposed Project includes the conversion, construction, and maintenance of up to 10.4 miles of trails in Coyote Canyon. The Project would be aesthetically consistent with the current grazing use of the Property and would not create an aesthetically offensive site. **(No Impact)**
3. There are no State-designated scenic highways in the vicinity of the Property. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not cause damage to scenic resources within a State scenic highway. **(No Impact)**
4. The Proposed Project includes up to 10.4 miles of trails within the Project Site. The Proposed Project would not include structures that could obstruct scenic views. **(No Impact)**
5. The existing network of ranch roads includes dirt roads from the valley floor up to and over the ridgeline. Portions of the proposed trails would be constructed along ridgelines; however, construction of the Proposed Project would be consistent with the existing views of the ridgelines from the valley floor. **(Less than Significant Impact)**
6. The Proposed Project would be constructed within the Property and would not affect the architectural appearance of an established neighborhood. **(No Impact)**
7. The Proposed Project does not include any new source of substantial light or glare that would affect views in the area. **(No Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.

## B. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the State's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project, and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

	IMPACT					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT:	NO	YES				
	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Impact	Cumulative	
1. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 10
2. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 5, 11
3. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 5
4. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526) or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as definite by Government Code section 51104(g)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 5
5. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 5

### DISCUSSION:

The Property is identified on the Santa Clara County Important Farmland 2014 map as *Grazing Land*. *Grazing Land* is defined as land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock.

Portions of the Property southwest of Anderson Reservoir and Coyote Creek are used for cattle grazing. Currently, this area is seasonally grazed by approximately 120 cow-calf pairs and a small number of bulls. Cattle are kept on the site each year between early November and late May or early June. Current infrastructure for grazing includes seven fenced pastures equipped with water troughs and stock ponds.

The NRM Plan concludes that the current approach to livestock grazing management on the Property does not require significant alteration. The NRM Plan recommends construction of new fencing and additional water sources in pasture areas to improve grazing efficiency. Pursuant to the Proposed Project, the Department would coordinate with licensed grazers each year to develop an Annual Operating Plan (AOP).

#### **IMPACT ANALYSIS:**

The Project, as proposed, would have no impacts related to agriculture or forest resources.

1. The Proposed Project would not convert farmland to non-agricultural use. Areas of the Project site are currently designated and operated as grazing land. Under the Proposed Project, grazing on the site would continue, and new fences and water sources would be constructed to improve grazing efficiency. **(No Impact)**
- 2–3. Areas of Coyote Canyon are currently utilized for cattle grazing. The Proposed Project would not conflict with existing grazing operations. The Proposed Project would allow for the construction of trails and other improvements such as new fencing and water sources throughout the site while retaining existing grazing uses. **(No Impact)**
- 4–6. The Property is zoned *Agricultural Ranchlands (AR)*. The Proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, timberland. The Proposed Project would not convert forest land to non-forest use. **(No Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.

### C. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

		IMPACT					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT:	NO	YES					
	<u>No Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>		
1.	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 3, 12
2.	Violate any ambient air quality standard, contribute substantially to an existing or Projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 3, 12
3.	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard, including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 3, 12
4.	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 3, 12
5.	Create objectionable dust or odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
6.	Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 3, 12

### DISCUSSION:

Sources of air pollution in the San Francisco Bay Area are regulated by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). BAAQMD's *Bay Area 2017 Clean Air Plan* (CAP), adopted in April 2017, provides a strategy to reduce air pollutants and establishes emission control practices to be adopted or implemented in the 2017-2020 timeframe.

Major criteria pollutants, listed in "criteria" documents by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB), can have health effects such as respiratory impairment and heart/lung disease symptoms. The Bay Area, as a whole, does not meet State or Federal ambient air quality standards for ground level ozone and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and State standards for coarse particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>). The area is considered in attainment or unclassified for all other pollutants.

Besides criteria air pollutants, there is another group of substances found in ambient air referred to as toxic air contaminants (TACs). TACs tend to be localized and are found in relatively low concentrations in ambient air. Exposure to low concentrations over long periods, however, can result in adverse chronic health effects. Diesel exhaust is the predominant TAC in urban air and is estimated to represent about three-quarters of the cancer risk from TACs (based on the Bay Area average).

The Proposed Project would generate emissions during construction from dust and operation of construction equipment. Construction would occur over a period of approximately six months.

## IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to air quality.

1. The Proposed Project would not result in significant local or regional air quality impacts. Construction of the proposed trails and associated improvements would not generate a significant number of additional vehicle trips within the Project area.

The Proposed Project would comply with applicable control practices in Tables 5-2 and 5-6 of the *Bay Area 2017 Clean Air Plan*. BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines identify projects likely to result in a significant air quality impact, for which an air quality impact analysis must be prepared. These projects are those that generate more than 2,000 vehicle trips per day. The Proposed Project does not exceed this criterion, and therefore does not require such an analysis. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

2. Construction activities such as grading operations, construction vehicle traffic, and wind blowing over exposed earth would generate exhaust emissions and fugitive particulate matter emissions, temporarily affecting local air quality. The following practices will be implemented during all phases of construction of the Proposed Project to control dust and exhaust at the Project site:
  - All exposed surfaces (e.g., parking areas, staging areas, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved access roads) shall be watered two times per day.
  - All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material off-site shall be covered.
  - All visible mud or dirt track-out onto adjacent public roads shall be swept when visible.
  - All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 miles per hour (mph).
  - 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 CCR Title 13, Section 2485). Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points.
  - All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment shall be checked by a certified mechanic and determined to be running in proper condition prior to operation.

With the implementation of the above practices, the Proposed Project would not violate any air quality standard or contribute to an air quality violation. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

3. The Bay Area is considered a non-attainment area for ground-level ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> under both the Federal Clean Air Act and the California Clean Air Act. The area is also considered non-attainment for PM<sub>10</sub> under the California Clean Air Act. The area has attained both State and Federal ambient air quality standards for carbon monoxide.

Construction of the Proposed Project would occur over a period of approximately six months. Construction of the proposed trails and associated site improvements would be relatively minor and would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Property region is considered non-attainment. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4. Sensitive receptors include residential neighborhoods located west of the Property. Construction activities for the Proposed Project could result in short-term air quality impacts by generating PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. With implementation of the practices above to control dust and exhaust, fugitive dust impacts would be less than significant. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

Construction equipment and associated heavy-duty truck traffic generates diesel exhaust, which is a known TAC. As discussed above, these exhaust air pollutant emissions would not contribute substantially to existing or projected air quality violations. Construction would be intermittent and temporary, and inclusion of the practices above to control dust and exhaust would ensure that the Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

5. Land uses that have the potential to be sources of odors that generate complaints include, but are not limited to, wastewater treatment plants, landfills, composting operations, and food manufacturing facilities. The Proposed Project would not be expected to generate objectionable odors.

As discussed above, construction activities could result in short-term generation of particulates (i.e., dust). With implementation of the practices above to control dust and exhaust, and considering that construction would be intermittent and temporary, dust generation would be minimized. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

6. The Proposed Project would not alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate. **(No Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.



D. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES						
	IMPACT					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT:	NO		YES			
	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Impact	Cumulative	
1. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 4, 6, 13
2. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 13
3. Have a substantial adverse effect on Federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) or tributary to an already impaired water body, as defined by section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
4. Have a substantial adverse effect on oak woodland habitat as defined by Oak Woodlands Conservation Law (conversion/loss of oak woodlands) – Public Resource Code 21083.4?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 13
5. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 13
6. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or State habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 13
7. Impact a local natural community, such as a fresh water marsh, oak forest or salt water tide land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 13
8. Impact a watercourse, aquatic, wetland, or riparian area or habitat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
9. Adversely impact unique or heritage trees or a large number of trees over 12" in diameter?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 5

10. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources:

i) Tree Preservation Ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 5
ii) Wetland Habitat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 13
iii) Riparian Habitat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 13

## DISCUSSION:

The Property includes 14 distinct biotic habitats and land cover types, including:

- Mixed oak woodland
- California annual grassland
- Northern coastal scrub/Diablan sage scrub
- Northern mixed chaparral/chamise chaparral
- Reservoir
- Mixed riparian woodland and forest
- Mixed serpentine chaparral/serpentine rock outcrop
- Pond
- Seasonal wetland
- Serpentine bunchgrass
- Rural residential
- Ornamental woodland
- Serpentine rock outcrop
- Stream

The Property is within the boundaries of the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan (SCVHP). The SCVHP identifies and preserves land that provides important habitat for endangered and threatened species. The Project site is designated under the SCVHP as *Ranchlands and Natural Lands*. Trail construction through natural lands is a covered activity under the SCVHP.

## Sensitive Plants

In preparing the Proposed Project, focused botanical surveys were completed in and around areas planned for Project construction. Surveys were completed during the 2018 blooming periods for all potentially occurring special-status plants except smooth lessingia and Loma Prieta hoita. During the field surveys, five sensitive plant species were observed on the Property: Santa Clara Valley dudleya, most beautiful jewelflower, big-scale balsamroot, woodland woollythreads, and smooth lessingia. Trail alignment locations were selected to avoid these species.

Loma Prieta hoita has the potential to occur in the area. Smooth lessingia was incidentally observed on the Property in July 2018, but its extent within the area proposed for construction is unknown. These species were not flowering at the time the focused botanical surveys were conducted and therefore could not be identified for presence or absence along the proposed trail alignment.

## Sensitive Animals

Sensitive animals that are known to occur or could occur on the Property include the California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, western pond turtle, and burrowing owl. The above species are covered by the SCVHP. Based on the presence of suitable habitat and documented occurrences nearby, additional sensitive species that could occur on the Property include the golden eagle, bald eagle, white-tailed kite, yellow warbler, grasshopper sparrow, San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat, pallid bat, American badger, ringtail, and mountain lion.

## IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The Project, as proposed, would have a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated related to biological resources.

1. The Proposed Project would convert, construct, and maintain up to 10.4 miles of trails throughout Coyote Canyon. Trail construction would be consistent with conditions of the SCVHP and any regulatory permitting requirements would be completed prior to construction.

Trail alignments were selected based upon 2018 vegetation and wildlife surveys and avoid areas where sensitive species are known to occur. Construction and operation of the proposed Project, however, could impact special-status species covered by the SCVHP where surveys have not been completed.

**Mitigation Measures:** The Proposed Project would implement the following mitigation measures to reduce or avoid impacts to special-status species to a less than significant level.

**MM BIO-1:** To avoid impacts to special-status plants, focused botanical surveys shall be completed for smooth lessingia and Loma Prieta hoita where new trails would be constructed. Surveys shall be completed prior to construction by a qualified biologist or qualified staff from the Department's Natural Resource Program. The surveys will be consistent with applicable requirements of the SCVHP and will include surveys during the appropriate blooming periods for each target species. Optimal survey times vary from year to year depending on temperature, rainfall, etc., and will be confirmed by the monitoring of known reference populations for the target species.

**MM BIO-2:** If construction activities (including any tree trimming or generation of loud, sustained noises) will occur during the nesting season, a qualified biologist or qualified staff from the Department's Natural Resource Program shall complete a pre-construction survey for nesting birds to ensure that no active nests would be disturbed during construction. This survey will be completed no more than seven days prior to the initiation of disturbance activities.

Buffers around active nests of any protected birds will be clearly delineated or fenced by the qualified biologist or qualified staff from the Department's Natural Resource Program until the juvenile bird(s) have fledged (left the nest), unless a determination is made that proposed activities would not impact nesting success or fledgling/juvenile rearing. Limited monitoring of active nests located within the buffer distances above is

recommended in order to monitor nesting activities and to prevent nest failure or abandonment.

If an active nest is detected during the survey, then an appropriate protective buffer zone will be established around each active nest by a qualified biologist or qualified Department Natural Resource Program staff. No construction activities shall occur within a viewshed buffer zone within 0.5 mile of any eagle nest during the nesting season (January 15 through August 1), or as determined by a qualified biologist or qualified Department Natural Resource Program staff. The viewshed buffer, defined as all work areas that are within 0.5 mile of the nest and that can be seen by an eagle on the nest, shall be mapped prior to construction. No construction activities shall occur within 0.25 mile of the nest during the breeding season, regardless of whether those activities can be seen from the nest.

Implementation of MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-2 and adherence to the conditions of the SCVHP would reduce impacts to special-status species to a less than significant level. **(Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated in the Project)**

2. Coyote Creek, which connects Coyote Reservoir to Anderson Reservoir, bisects the Property. Trail alignments would be constructed west of Coyote Creek and would avoid work within the associated riparian habitat. There are several smaller perennial and intermittent streams and drainages throughout the Property. The trail alignment identified under the Proposed Project could pass through streams and riparian habitat under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The trail alignment was designed to avoid streams to the maximum extent practicable to preserve natural resources and reduce future maintenance requirements. Stream crossings would consist primarily of rock fords but could include culverts or bridges depending on the steepness of stream banks or persistent stream flow.

For riparian areas, a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement would be obtained prior to construction. Potential permanent and temporary impacts to riparian habitat would be addressed through the SCVHP. Compliance with conditions of the Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement and SCVHP would result in less than significant impacts to riparian areas. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

3. As described above, a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement would be obtained prior to construction for any perennial or intermittent streams or drainages along the proposed trail alignments. The proposed trail alignments and associated improvements, however, avoid federally protected wetlands. Where feasible, a 50-foot construction buffer would be provided around ponds, lakes, and wetlands. In addition, there are no tributaries to impaired waters on the Property. Since there would be no construction in federally protected wetlands, the Proposed Project would not remove, fill, or hydrologically interrupt federally protected wetlands. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
- 4, 7. Portions of the Property east of Coyote Creek are designated Blue Oak Woodland and Valley Oak Woodland in the SCVHP. No construction is proposed east of Coyote Creek.

Approximately 70 acres of land located in the northwest corner of the Property is designated as Valley Oak Woodland in the SCVHP. Part of the proposed trail alignment would be constructed within this area; however, field verification of land cover types determined that the area is characteristic of the SCVHP's mixed oak woodland habitat type.

The Proposed Project would avoid tree removal to the maximum extent possible and does not propose conversion of oak woodland habitat. Construction of the proposed trails would be consistent with conditions of the SCVHP for any temporary or permanent impacts to oak woodlands. Public access onto the Property would not impact oak woodlands, and management of oak woodlands would remain consistent with existing conditions. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on oak woodland habitat **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

5. The Proposed Project would convert, construct, and maintain up to 10.4 miles of trails for recreational use. The proposed trail alignments would not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. **(No Impact)**
6. Coyote Canyon is located within the SCVHP permit area, and plant and wildlife species, as well as sensitive habitats and natural communities, protected under the SCVHP have the potential to occur within the site. Implementation of MM BIO-1 above would ensure Project compliance with the SCVHP. **(Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated in the Project)**
8. As discussed above, there are several smaller perennial and intermittent streams and drainages throughout the Property. The trail alignment identified under the Proposed Project could pass through streams and riparian habitat under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The trail alignment was designed to avoid streams to the maximum extent practicable to preserve natural resources and reduce future maintenance requirements. Stream crossings would consist primarily of rock fords but could include culverts or bridges depending on the steepness of stream banks or persistent stream flow.  
  
For riparian areas, a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement would be obtained prior to construction. Potential permanent and temporary impacts to riparian habitat would be addressed through the SCVHP. Compliance with conditions of the Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement and SCVHP would result in less than significant impacts to riparian areas. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
9. The Proposed Project would not adversely impact any unique or heritage trees and would avoid tree removal to the maximum extent possible to preserve habitat and prevent erosion. Any tree removal or disturbance on the site would be consistent with the Santa Clara County Tree Preservation Ordinance. Therefore, the Project would not adversely impact unique or heritage trees. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
10. The Proposed Project would be consistent with all local policies and regulations that protect biological resources. As discussed above, the proposed trail alignment was designed to avoid impacts to natural resources, including any unique, historical, or mature trees, to the maximum extent practicable. Any tree removal or disturbance on the site would be consistent with the Santa Clara County Tree Preservation Ordinance. The proposed trail alignments and associated improvements avoid federally protected wetlands. Where feasible, a 50-foot construction buffer would be provided around ponds, lakes, and wetlands. Finally, the Proposed Project could pass through streams and riparian habitat but was designed to avoid streams to the maximum extent practicable. For riparian areas, a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement would be obtained prior to construction. Potential permanent and temporary impacts to riparian habitat would be addressed through the SCVHP. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** Mitigation is addressed through MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-2 above.

E. CULTURAL/ HISTORICAL/ ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES						
WOULD THE PROJECT	IMPACT					SOURCE
	NO	YES				
		No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Impact	
1. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, or the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance (i.e. relocation, alterations or demolition of historic resources)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 4, 9
2. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in §15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 4
3. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 4
4. Be located in a Historic District (e.g., New Almaden Historic District)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 3, 9
5. Disturb a historic resource or cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values or restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 4
6. Disturb potential archaeological resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 4
7. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 4

## DISCUSSION:

*Please see Section R. Tribal Resources for more information on requests to the Native American Heritage Commission and conformance to Assembly Bill (AB) 52.*

## Archaeological Resources

A Cultural Resource Evaluation conducted for the Coyote Lake – Harvey Bear Ranch Master Plan Project found no known archaeological resources located in the northern area of the park or adjacent to the northern boundary which is the location of the Project site. A major waterway, Coyote Creek, runs from south to north through the Project site. Based upon the proximity to Coyote Creek, there is a high potential for prehistoric archaeological deposits and unknown tribal cultural materials within the Project area.

## Historic Resources

Coyote Canyon consists of 2,741 acres of largely undeveloped land. Structures existing on the Project site include barns and residential buildings. None of the structures on the site are currently inhabited. These structures will be monitored for structural integrity and safety concerns and may be removed if necessary.

A portion of the Property is located within two former Mexican Ranchos, *San Francisco de las Llagas* and *Ojo de Agua de la Coche*. The Mexican governor of Alta California, José Figueroa, granted the *San Francisco de las Llagas Rancho* to Carlos Castro in 1834 and the *Rancho Ojo de Agua de la Coche* to Juan María Jorge Hernandez in 1835.

Martin Murphy Sr., one of the first European settlers to reach Santa Clara County via wagon train, purchased the *Rancho Ojo de Agua de la Coche* from Juan Hernandez in 1845. After a series of inheritances, Diana Murphy, who had inherited a 4,500-acre portion of the rancho, sold her portion in 1892 to real estate developer Chauncey Hatch Phillips for development which eventually became the City of Morgan Hill. The remaining portion of the rancho is held in public and private ownership.

In 1848, two of Murphy's sons, Daniel Sr., and James, purchased *Rancho San Francisco de las Llagas* from the Castro family. In 1913, Charles Kellogg, an internally renowned vaudeville performer and naturalist, purchased 88 acres of the Catherine Dunne Ranch. Kellogg developed the former Dunne Property for his own use, including engineering a system for drawing water out of the foothills using trenches and rocks. This system provided water to his residence, gardens, and orchards. The ruins of the original water system remain on the Property and are part of the historic resources.

The two-story Achille's barn located off Carey Avenue on the far western portion of the Property, was built in 1927 and is in a state of advanced deterioration. However, it does maintain a high level of historic integrity and retains its underlying early 20<sup>th</sup> century residential scale and feeling. Since its construction, the structure has not been significantly altered.

In 2015, the Ranch Complex included a non-permitted single-family residence built in 2003, a Quonset hut with a non-permitted attached apartment, wood horse barn and associated corral, metal garage, greenhouse, chicken coop, and orchard. Most of the complex was built in the 1950s. The non-permitted residence and apartment attached to the Quonset were removed in 2017, along with the chicken coop and greenhouse. The four buildings that remain include the Quonset hut, horse barn, metal garage, and small barn. The Ranch Complex Area was evaluated as part of the Interim Access Plan as a potential staging area, event area, or trailhead. It was determined that further evaluation was needed, and no changes to the Ranch Complex Area are proposed under the Project.

These structures will be monitored for structural integrity and safety concerns and may be removed if necessary.

## **Paleontological Resources**

The eastern half of the Project site (east of Coyote Creek) is underlain by oceanic sedimentary rock from the Cretaceous Period that is 145 to 66 million years old. West of Coyote Creek, the Project site is underlain by volcanic and sedimentary rock from the Pliocene Epoch (5.3 to 2.6 million years ago).<sup>1</sup>

## **IMPACT ANALYSIS:**

The Project, as proposed, would have a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated related to cultural/historical/archaeological/paleontological resources.

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<sup>1</sup> United States Geological Survey. *Geologic Map of the San Francisco Bay Region*. 2006. Available at: [https://pubs.usgs.gov/sim/2006/2918/sim2918\\_geolposter-stdres.pdf](https://pubs.usgs.gov/sim/2006/2918/sim2918_geolposter-stdres.pdf).



1. The structures on the Project site are not on any local, State, or Federal lists of historically or architecturally significant structures and/or sites, landmarks, or points of interest. Several structures on the Project site, including the Achille's barn, and Ranch Complex buildings, are over 50 years old. Without further analysis, it is unknown whether these structures could be eligible for listing on a local historic inventory. No removal of the existing structures will occur, until a full analysis of the structures is conducted. **(No Impact)**
2. Although there are no known archaeological resources located within the site, Coyote Creek bisects the site. The potential for accidental discovery of previously unknown archaeological materials is considered high due to the proximity of a major waterway. The Project would require ground-disturbing activity for the proposed trail and associated improvements and therefore may uncover previously unknown archaeological resources. Any ground-disturbing activities have the potential to affect subsurface prehistoric archaeological resources that may be present. Mitigation Measures would be required to reduce impacts to unknown archaeological deposits.

**Mitigation Measures:** The project would implement the following mitigation measure to reduce and/or avoid impacts to unknown buried archaeological or tribal resources to a less than significant level.

**MM CUL-1:** In the event that prehistoric or historic-period cultural materials are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 100-foot radius of the find shall halt and the Park Ranger immediately notified. The Ranger will secure the site and notify Parks project manager. The Department will consult with a qualified archaeologist to evaluate the find and to determine its significance and the Department will notify the Native American representative of the find. Prehistoric material might include obsidian and chert flaked-stone tools (e.g., Projectile points, knives, scrapers) or tool-making debris; cultural darkened soil ("midden") containing heat-affected rocks and artifacts; stone-milling equipment (e.g., mortars, pestles, handstones, milling slabs); and battered-stone tools such as hammerstones and pitted stones. If, in consultation with a qualified archaeologist and Native American representative, the find is determined to be potentially significant, the Department will comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, and Department policies, to develop a treatment plan and take any additional necessary measures.

Implementation of MM CUL-1 would reduce and/or avoid impacts to unknown buried archaeological or cultural resources to a less than significant level. **(Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated in the Project)**

3. The Proposed Project would not disturb any known human remains and is not located on or near a cemetery. If during ground-disturbing activities associated with the Coyote Canyon Interim Access Plan human remains encountered mitigation measure MM CUL-2 would be implemented and the Department would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, and Department policies.

**Mitigation Measures:** Implementation measure MM CUL-2 would be implemented and would reduce and/or avoid impacts to unknown human remains to a less than significant level.

**MM CUL-2:** If human remains are encountered at the Project site during construction, there shall be no further excavation

or disturbance of the site within a 200-foot radius of the location of such discovery, and any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains.

The Park Ranger and Office of the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner (Coroner) shall be notified immediately and the site shall be secured. The Coroner shall determine whether the remains are Native American or that no investigation of the cause of death is required and procedures outlined in the County Ordinance Relating to Indian Burial Grounds (County of Santa Clara, 1987) and State Public Resources Code (Section 5097.98) can be implemented.

If the Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours (pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The Native American Heritage Commission shall immediately notify those persons it believes to be the most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD may, with permission of the land owner or his or her authorized representative, inspect the site and make recommendations to the landowner (County Parks) regarding means for treatment or disposition. The MLD shall complete inspection and make recommendations within 48 hours of being granted access to the site.

The Department will comply with provisions of Public Resources Code 5097.98 and all other applicable laws.

Implementation of MM CUL-2 would reduce and/or avoid impacts to unknown human remains to a less than significant level. **(Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated in the Project)**

4. No area of Coyote Canyon is located in a Historic District. **(No Impact)**

5–6. Ground-disturbing activities are associated with the Proposed Project and may disturb an unknown historical or archaeological resource. On November 20, 2018, a request was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission to 1) identify any areas of concern within the Property that may be listed in their Sacred Lands Files and 2) provide a list of Native American representatives who may have additional information regarding potential tribal cultural resources on the Project site. On November 27, 2018, a response was received from NAHC indicating that no sacred sites were identified on the Coyote Canyon Property.

**Mitigation Measures:** Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce and/or avoid impacts to unknown historical or archaeological resources to a less than significant level.

**MM CUL-3**

Prior to construction of new trails, a search and review of the archival records of the State historical resources records (Northwest Information Center) will be conducted to determine if there are any recorded or potential archaeological, cultural, or historical resources located within or adjacent to the Project site including along the proposed trail alignment. Should potential archaeological, cultural or historical resources be identified within the Project site or along the trail alignment, the Department will consult with a qualified archaeologist and may conduct a reconnaissance level/pedestrian survey.

Implementation of MM CUL-1 and MM CUL-3 would reduce and/or avoid impacts to unknown historical or archaeological resources to a less than significant level. **(Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated in the Project)**

7. There are no unique paleontological resources, site, or unique geologic features identified on the Project site. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), overlying and basement complex rocks at the site include oceanic sedimentary rock from the Cretaceous Period and volcanic and sedimentary rock from the Pliocene Epoch. The Cretaceous and Pliocene sedimentary rock could contain paleontological resources.

The Proposed Project includes the construction of trails and related improvements throughout the Property along the trail alignments. Excavation and grading would be required to complete the Proposed Project. In the event that a fossil is discovered during construction activities, implementation of MM CUL-1 would reduce potential impacts to unknown paleontological resources or geologic features to a less than significant level.

**(Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated into the Project)**

**MITIGATION:** Mitigation is addressed through MM CUL-1 through MM CUL-3 above.

F. ENERGY						
	IMPACT					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT	NO	YES				
	No Impact	<u>Less Than Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>	
1. Use non-renewable resources in large quantities or in a wasteful manner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3
2. Involve the removal of vegetation capable of providing summer shade to a building or significantly affect solar access to adjacent property?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3

### DISCUSSION:

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to energy.

### IMPACT ANALYSIS:

1. Construction of the proposed trails and associated improvements would be completed over a period of approximately six months. During that time, energy would be required to operate construction equipment and transport construction workers and materials to the site. Construction of the Proposed Project would be temporary and would not use resources in large quantities or in a wasteful manner.-State and Federal regulations regarding standards for vehicles are designed to reduce wasteful, unnecessary, and inefficient use of energy for transportation, and compliance with air quality best practices would reduce fuel consumption by reducing idle times of vehicles and equipment. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
2. The Proposed Project would not remove vegetation providing summer shade to a building or affect solar access to adjacent properties. **(No Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.

G. GEOLOGY AND SOILS						
	IMPACT					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT:	NO	YES				
	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Impact	Cumulative	
1. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:						
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 14, 15, 16
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14, 15, 16
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14, 15, 16
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14, 15, 16
2. Result in substantial soil erosion or siltation or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3
3. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, collapse, shrink/ swell potential, soil creep or serve erosion?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 14, 15, 16
4. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in the report, <i>Soils of Santa Clara County</i> or California Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 17
5. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2,
6. Cause substantial compaction or over-covering of soil either on-site or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
7. Cause substantial change in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3
8. Be located in an area designated as having a potential for major geological hazard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4, 14, 15, 16
9. Be located on, or adjacent to a known earthquake fault?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4, 14, 15, 16
10. Be located in a Geologic Study Zone?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14, 15, 16
11. Involve construction of a building, road or septic system on a slope of:						
a. 30% or greater?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
b. 20% to 30%?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2

**DISCUSSION:**

N/A

**IMPACT ANALYSIS:**

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to geology and soils.

- 1, 8–10. The Project site is located in a seismically active area and will likely be subjected to seismic ground shaking during the lifetime of the Proposed Project. According to the California Geological Survey, areas of the site are located within Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones, Liquefaction Zones, and Earthquake-Induced Landslide Zones.

It is expected that the Project area would be subject to significant seismic events over the life of the Proposed Project. Trail users would be exposed to hazards associated with severe ground shaking during a major earthquake. This hazard is not unique to the Project because it applies throughout the Bay Area. The Proposed Project involves trail construction and improvements and would not increase the existing level of risk in the event of an earthquake. The Plan does not propose construction of buildings or use of existing buildings on the site.

**(Less Than Significant Impact)**

- 2,3. The elevation of the Property ranges from 423 feet to 2,389 feet, with slopes in some areas of 30 to 40 percent. Under the Plan, trails would be installed and maintained throughout the western areas of Coyote Canyon. Trail alignment locations were selected to avoid steep and unstable slopes. The Proposed Project would not alter existing drainage patterns, reducing the likelihood of creating unstable areas.

The trails would be designed to avoid erosion and loss of top soils by following existing slope contours, outsliping to encourage sheet flow runoff, installing frequent rolling dips to avoid runoff flowing down the trail, and adding rock or other soil amendments to frequently wet areas. Grading and drainage improvements on the existing service roads, where necessary, would decrease the number of areas currently susceptible to erosion impacts. By reducing runoff on the trail, maintaining low to moderate trail grades, and avoid unstable areas, the Proposed Project would have less than significant impacts. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

4. According to the *Soils of Santa Clara County* report, the northwestern and southwestern areas of the Property are located within areas of high shrink-swell potential; however, the Project does not propose construction or use of any buildings or structures on expansive soil. Construction and use of the proposed trail alignments would not create substantial risks to life or property as a result of expansive soil. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
5. The Proposed Project does not include any septic tanks or wastewater disposal systems. **(No Impact)**
6. Construction of the Proposed Project would require compacting trail surfaces; however, the trail would be curvilinear, following existing contours, and designed to promote sheet flow. Compaction would not occur outside of trail alignments, which have a maximum width of 10 feet. Construction of the proposed trail alignments and improvements would not cause substantial compaction or over-covering of soil. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

8. The proposed alignments were selected with consideration for the site's topography and avoid steep and unstable slopes. The trail alignment would be curvilinear, following existing contours, and designed to promote sheet flow. The Project would require minor grading along the conversion of service roads to trail, but these improvements would improve drainage and reduce erosion impacts over the long-term. By design, grading would not substantially affect the site's topography or cause unstable soil conditions. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
11. The Proposed Project does not include construction of a building or septic system. The Project would construct up to 3.4 miles of unpaved double-track trails, which would be accessible to service vehicles.

New trails to be constructed and existing roads to be maintained under the Proposed Project may be built on side slopes between 20-30%, but trail alignments were selected to avoid steep and unstable slopes. The Department's goal for slope of double-track trail alignments would be 15 percent or less, with an average slope of five to nine percent. Trail slopes of 15 to 20 percent could be used over short distances but would be located to minimize natural resources impacts and surfaced to minimize erosion. The trail alignment would be curvilinear, following existing contours, and designed to promote sheet flow. Drainage and erosion control practices, including culverts and surface improvements, would be constructed as necessary along the trail alignments. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.

H. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS						
	IMPACT					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT	NO	YES				
	No Impact	<u>Less Than Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>	
1. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 4
2. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 12
3. Would the Project increase greenhouse gas emissions that hinder or delay the State's ability to meet the reduction target (25% reduction by 2020) contained in CA Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 12

## DISCUSSION:

The Project site is located within Santa Clara County, which is regulated by BAAQMD. BAAQMD has not established a significance threshold for construction greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. BAAQMD's significance threshold for operational GHG emissions is 1,100 megatons (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) per year.

The Property is currently not open to the public for recreational uses. Portions of the Property west of Coyote Creek are used for grazing operations. Current GHG emissions resulting from human activities are minimal and primarily associated with vehicle trips to and from the site.

## IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to greenhouse gases.

1. The Proposed Project would convert, construct, and maintain up to 10.4 miles of trails within the Project site, opening the Property to low intensity recreational uses. Existing cattle grazing on the site would not be affected. The Proposed Project would generate emissions during construction activities. Short-term GHG emissions generated during the six-month construction period would consist primarily of heavy equipment exhaust, worker travel, and materials delivery. Construction on the site would be intermittent and temporary. Implementation of the practices for dust and exhaust control listed above in *Section C, Air Quality* would reduce construction-related GHG emissions to a less than significant level.

The Proposed Project is located adjacent to existing parks on the north, east, and south. Anderson Lake County Park and Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park provide similar recreational opportunities to those proposed under the current Project, and existing parking lots would be shared by Coyote Canyon visitors. Operational GHG emissions for the Project would be generated primarily by visitor and maintenance vehicle trips to the site. Many of these trips already exist in conjunction with the ongoing operation of existing parks in the area. The minor increase in vehicle trips generated by the Project would not generate a significant increase in GHG emissions. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**



2. As described above, the Proposed Project would not exceed established BAAQMD significance thresholds for GHG emissions. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. **(No Impact)**
3. The Proposed Project would not increase GHG emissions that hinder or delay the State's ability to meet the reduction target contained in AB 32. Emissions during construction from dust and operation of construction equipment would be intermittent and temporary, and operational GHG emissions would be well below BAAQMD significance thresholds. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.

I. HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS						
	IMPACT					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT	NO	YES				
	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Impact	Cumulative	
1. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 4
2. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 4
3. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 27
4. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 18
5. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 4
6. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 20, 21
7. Involve risk of explosion or release of hazardous substances (including pesticides, herbicides, toxic substances, oil, chemicals or radioactive materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 4
8. Provide breeding grounds for vectors?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
9. Proposed site plan result in a safety hazard (i.e., parking layout, access, closed community, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
10. Involve construction of a building, road or septic system on a slope of 30% or greater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
11. Involve construction of a roadway greater than 20% slope for a distance of 300' or more?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
12. Be located within 200' of a 230KV or above electrical transmission line?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
13. Create any health hazard?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 4

14. Expose people to existing sources of potential health hazards?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 4
15. Be located in an Airport Land Use Commission Safety Zone?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 19
16. Increase fire hazard in an area already involving extreme fire hazard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 20, 21
17. Be located on a cul-de-sacs over 800 ft. in length and require secondary access which will be difficult to obtain?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
18. Employ technology which could adversely affect safety in case of a breakdown?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2

## DISCUSSION:

The Plan proposes the conversion, construction, and maintenance of single-track and double-track trails for hiking, bicycling, equestrian, and dogs on-leash use. The trails are planned in accordance with Santa Clara County General Plan GC-PR 12, *"Parks and trails in remote areas, fire hazardous areas, and areas with inadequate access should be planned to provide the services or improvements necessary to provide for the safety and support of the public using the parks and to avoid negative impacts on the surrounding areas."* In addition to trails, the Property will also have service roads which are closed to the public, for Department staff and emergency vehicles to have access throughout the Property.

The Project site and adjacent properties are not located on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. There are several structures on the Property, including the 1927 Achilles' barn, and Ranch Complex and are further described in *Section E, Cultural/ Historical/ Archaeological Resources*. Structures onsite will be monitored for structural integrity and safety concerns and may be removed if necessary.

According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) the Property is located within the State Responsibility Area (SRA) high fire hazard severity zone and falls under such SRA standards. The Department standards and policies for wildfire prevention are listed below and will be implemented during all phases of construction of the Proposed Project as well as implementation of the Proposed Project to control potential fire hazards.

- All Department properties are required to comply with the Santa Clara County Parks Rangeland Management Policy.
- Smoking is prohibited in all Santa Clara County Parks.
- Fires are only allowed in designated picnic areas or fire rings (none are proposed for the Coyote Canyon IA Plan) and those areas have fuel treatment plans that include shaded-fuel breaks, mowing, bare soil scraping around barbeques.
- Shoreline fires are not allowed at Anderson Lake County Park.
- Operations staff routinely enforce all Park regulations.
- The Department is an active participant in the Santa Clara County Fire Department's Community Wildfire Protection Plan program.
- The Department implements a series of fire protection practices in its day-to-day operations such as the establishment of shaded fuel breaks along roads and trails and fuel management around developed sites and public use areas.
- Department Operations, Maintenance, and Natural Resource Management staff are trained in wildland fire suppression techniques.
- Temporarily closing trails when conditions become unsafe or environment resources are severely impacted. Such conditions include soil erosion, flooding, fire hazard and

environmental damage in accordance with the Santa Clara County General Plan C-PR 30.

The Department also operates under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CAL FIRE that requires Department staff to implement fire prevention practices (i.e., checking fire forecast conditions, monitoring weather, and having fire suppression equipment on-hand) to reduce the chance of accidental ignition during vegetation maintenance operations. Under high fire danger conditions, all activities with a risk of wildfire initiation are halted.

## **IMPACT ANALYSIS:**

The implementation of the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to hazards and hazardous materials.

- 1, 2. During construction of the proposed trail alignments, small amounts of hazardous materials such as gasoline, diesel fuel, lubricants, and other materials associated with operation of heavy machinery would be used on the site.

The small amount of hazardous materials used for mechanical hand tools, vehicles, and heavy machinery would not result in health or safety impacts to the public or the environment. The use, disposal, and transportation of hazardous materials would only occur during Project construction. Hazardous materials may be stored on the site in limited quantities necessary to complete the Proposed Project. All refueling would be completed in staging areas that are at least 200 feet from any water body, or in field locations at least 200 feet from any water body when working remotely from staging areas, and maintenance of equipment and machinery would be completed off-site in designated service areas to the maximum extent possible.

Any hazardous materials used on the site in the future would be associated with minor trail maintenance and repair activities and would be used and stored on the site in accordance with all pertinent Local, State, and Federal regulations. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

3. The nearest school to the Project site, Jackson Academy of Math and Music, is located approximately 0.6 mile west of the Project site. Construction and maintenance of trails on the site, however, would not use or emit significant quantities of hazardous materials. **(No Impact)**
4. Neither the Project site nor adjacent properties are located on the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) Cortese List, compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. **(No Impact)**
5. Construction of the Proposed Project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. **(No Impact)**
6. The Property is located within an area with high wildfire hazard potential. Most of Santa Clara County Parks lands are located within the SRA and the Department implements SRA standards for defensible space vegetation clearance around structures. The Department operates under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CAL FIRE that requires Department staff to implement fire prevention practices (i.e., checking fire forecast conditions, monitoring weather, and having fire suppression equipment on-hand) to reduce the chance of accidental ignition during vegetation maintenance operations. Under high fire danger conditions, all activities with a risk of wildfire initiation are halted.

The Proposed Project is designed to reduce fire risk by managing and surveying grassland vegetation, including grasslands adjacent to residential areas. The Coyote Canyon NRM Plan would continue grazing efforts on the Property and provide adaptive management strategies to reduce the risk of wildland fire based on levels of residual dry matter (RDM).<sup>2</sup> The Department typically does not practice activities such as mowing or disking the perimeter of its properties as a fire prevention measure, as this would be contrary to the Department's natural resource preservation and protection mission. Strategies and performance standards for grazing management are further described in the NRM Plan.

The Department is an active participant in the Santa Clara County Fire Department's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) program (<http://www.sccfd.org/santa-clara-county-community-wildfire-protection-plan>). The Department will continue to implement CWPP practices, as applicable, under the Project. The County is authorized to evacuate and close Coyote Canyon in the event of threat or occurrence of wildfire. The Project would comply with Department standards and policies for wildfire prevention, as listed above.

Compliance with State and Local regulations, including the California Fire Code and implementation of the County's own fire risk reduction standards and best practices would minimize wildfire risks at the site. The IA Plan proposes the conversion, construction, and maintenance of single-track and double-track trails for hiking, equestrian, bicycling, and dogs-on-leash uses. Although the Proposed Project would increase the number of visitors to the site, it does not include any campsites, picnic areas, barbeque areas, or construction of new structures. Smoking is prohibited in all County Parks and no open flames would be permitted on the Property. Existing structures will be monitored for structural integrity and safety concerns and may be removed if necessary.

With implementation of the strategies identified in the NRM Plan, and adherence to Department standards and policies, the Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands, including the Jackson Oaks and Holiday Lake Estates residential developments. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

7. The Proposed Project would not involve risk of explosion or release of hazardous substances. All refueling would be completed in staging areas that are at least 200 feet from any water body, or in field locations at least 200 feet from any water body when working remotely from staging areas, and maintenance of equipment and machinery would be completed off-site in designated service areas to the maximum extent possible. **(Less than Significant Impact)**
8. The Proposed Project would convert, construct, and maintain up to 10.4 miles of trail on the Property. The Proposed Project would not provide breeding grounds for vectors. **(No Impact)**
9. The Proposed Project evaluated public safety concerns associated with the proposed trail alignment. The Proposed Project would include the construction of three looped alignments linking to the Harvey Bear Connector Trail in Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park.

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<sup>2</sup> RDM measurement is used by land management agencies in California for assessing the level of grazing use on annual rangelands. RDM refers to the old plant material remaining at the beginning of a new growing season. The performance standard for grazing is to reduce RDM to 600 to 1,000 pounds per acre (equivalent to average stubble heights of approximately four to six inches) to reduce the risk of fire and protect rangeland health.

Access would be provided via an existing parking lot at the Coyote Dam Staging Area and Trailhead, at the northern terminus of Coyote Reservoir Road.

The trail alignment was selected in consideration of user needs, safety, and current Department practices and direction. After opening the Property to public use, Park rangers would monitor site conditions, patrol the area, and provide search and rescue response and medical aid where necessary. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

- 10,11. The Proposed Project does not include construction of a building or septic system. The Proposed Project would include the construction of up to 3.4 miles of unpaved double-track trails, which would be accessible to service vehicles. Trail alignments were selected to avoid steep and unstable slopes. New double-track trails to be constructed and existing double-track trails to be maintained under the Proposed Project would not exceed a maximum slope of 20 percent, with average slopes of five to nine percent. Drainage and erosion control practices, including culverts and surface improvements, would be constructed as necessary along the alignments. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
12. The Proposed Project is not located within 200 feet of a 230-kilovolt (KV) or above electrical transmission line. **(No Impact)**
- 13,14. The Proposed Project would not create any health hazard or expose people to existing sources of potential health hazards. **(No Impact)**
15. The Project site is located approximately three miles from the San Martin Airport and 17 miles from the Watsonville Municipal Airport and Hollister Airport. The site is not within an Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) Safety Zone. **(No Impact)**
16. The Project site is located within a high fire hazard severity zone; however, the completion of the proposed trail alignments would not increase fire risk as trails may be used as fire breaks during emergencies. Existing and proposed double-track trails and service roads would be accessible to emergency vehicles. The Proposed Project would reduce, manage, and survey vegetation adjacent to residential areas to reduce fire risk. As discussed above, the Proposed Project would implement the strategies identified in the Plan and adhere to Department standards and policies to reduce wildland fire risk. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
17. The Project site is not located on a cul-de-sac. **(No Impact)**
18. The Proposed Project would not employ technology which could adversely affect safety in the case of a breakdown. **(No Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.

J. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY						
	IMPACT					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT:	NO	YES				
	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Impact	Cumulative	
1. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 4, 22
2. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
3. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 4
4. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 4
5. Create or contribute increased impervious surfaces and associated runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
6. Degrade surface or ground water quality or public water supply? (Including marine, fresh and wetland waters.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 4
7. Place a structure within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 24
8. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 24
9. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 24, 25, 26
10. Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 25
11. Result in an increase in pollutant discharges to receiving waters?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 22, 23



12. Be located in an area of special water quality concern (e.g., Los Gatos or Guadalupe Watershed)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 22, 23
13. Result in use of well water previously contaminated by nitrates, mercury, asbestos, etc. existing in the groundwater supply?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
14. Result in a septic field being constructed on soil with severe septic drain field limitations or where a high water table extends close to the natural land surface?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
15. Result in a septic field being located within 50 feet of a drainage swale; 100 feet of any well, water course or water body or 200 feet of a reservoir at capacity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
16. Conflict with Water Resources Protection Collaborative Guidelines and Standards for Land Uses near Streams?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 23
17. Result in extensions of a sewer trunk line with capacity to serve new development?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
18. Require a NPDES permit for construction [Does it disturb one (1) acre or more]?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
19. Result in significant changes to receiving waters quality during or following construction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 22, 23
20. Is the Project a tributary to an already impaired water body? If so will the Project result in an increase in any existing pollutants?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 22
21. Substantially change the direction, rate of flow, or quantity, or quality of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
22. Interfere substantially with ground water recharge or reduce the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
23. Involve a surface water body, natural drainage channel, streambed, or water course such as to alter the amount, location, course, or flow of its waters?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2

## DISCUSSION:

The Property is located adjacent to Coyote Reservoir to the south and Anderson Reservoir to the north. Coyote Creek runs south to north through the center of the site. Most of the Project site is in the Coyote Watershed, a 320-square mile area that drains into the San Francisco Bay, 29 miles northwest of the site. The western area of the site is in the Llagas Watershed, a 104-square mile area that drains into Monterey Bay, 23 miles southwest of the site.

Existing development on the Project site includes a barn along Carey Avenue; and three Quonset huts, horse barn, metal garage, and small barn at the north end of the site. The buildings are not currently in use or proposed for use under the Proposed Project. Aside from the building footprints, the site is covered with pervious surfaces.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), a small area of Coyote Canyon, along Coyote Creek near Anderson Reservoir, is located within a 100-year floodplain. This area is designated as Zone A, which is defined as “areas subject to inundation by the one-percent-annual-chance flood event generally determined using appropriate methodologies.” The remainder of the site is located within Zone D, which is defined as “areas with possible but undetermined flood hazards.”

## IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to hydrology and water quality.

1. Construction activities, including trail grading, on the site may result in temporary impacts to surface water quality. When soil disturbance occurs, the surface runoff that flows across the site may contain sediments that are ultimately discharged into creeks. Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would disturb soils along 2.5-miles of single-track trail alignments (typically three to five feet in width) and 7.9-miles of double-track alignments (eight to 10 feet in width). The Project also proposes drainage improvements and installation of signage and benches along the alignments.

The Proposed Project would not increase the site’s impervious area. Stormwater runoff from the site would continue to flow into local creeks, including Coyote Creek.

The Proposed Project would disturb approximately 3.3 acres of soil during construction. Because more than one acre of soil would be disturbed, the Project would be required to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Construction Activities. The following practices will be implemented during all phases of construction of the Proposed Project to prevent stormwater pollution and minimize potential sedimentation:

- Earthmoving or other dust-producing activities shall be suspended during periods of high winds.
- All exposed or disturbed soil surfaces shall be watered at least twice daily to control dust as necessary.
- Stockpiles of soil or other materials that can be blown by the wind shall be watered or covered.
- All trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials shall be covered and all trucks shall maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- All paved access roads, parking areas, staging areas and residential streets adjacent to the construction sites shall be inspected daily and swept when sediment is visible.
- Vegetation in disturbed areas shall be replanted as quickly as possible.
- All unpaved entrances to the site shall be filled with rock to remove mud from tires prior to entering County streets.

Construction of the Proposed Project, with implementation of the practices above to prevent stormwater pollution and minimize potential sedimentation, would not result in significant water quality impacts. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

2. During construction, the Proposed Project would require minimal water for dust control and trail compaction. After construction, the Project would not generate water demand. The Project would not introduce a net deficit in aquifer volume. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

- 3,4. The Property does include watercourses such as tertiary streams and Coyote Creek; however, the Proposed Project would not substantially alter the existing drainage of the site. The Proposed Project would include construction of minor drainage and erosion control improvements, including culverts and surface improvements, as necessary, along the trail alignments.

There are several smaller perennial and intermittent streams and drainages throughout the Property. The trail alignment identified under the Proposed Project could pass through streams and riparian habitat under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The trail alignment was designed to avoid streams to the maximum extent practicable to preserve natural resources and reduce future maintenance requirements. Stream crossings would consist primarily of rock fords but could include culverts or bridges depending on the steepness of stream banks or persistent stream flow.

For watercourses, a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement would be obtained prior to construction. Potential permanent and temporary impacts to watercourses would be addressed through the SCVHP. Compliance with conditions of the Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement and SCVHP would result in less than significant impacts to riparian areas. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

5. The Proposed Project would not increase the impervious area of the site. **(No Impact)**
6. With implementation of the practices above to prevent stormwater pollution and minimize potential sedimentation, the Project would not degrade surface or groundwater quality or the public water supply. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
- 7, 8. A small area of Coyote Canyon, along Coyote Creek near Anderson Reservoir, is located within a 100-year floodplain. The Proposed Project would construct and improve trail alignments; no structures capable of impeding or redirecting flood flows would be constructed. Proposed trail alignments would be located outside of the 100-year floodplain. **(No Impact)**
9. While portions of the Project site, along Coyote Creek, are located within the inundation area for Coyote Reservoir in the event of a complete dam failure, the Santa Clara Valley Water District's (SCVWD's) comprehensive dam safety program and emergency action plan would ensure public safety. For this reason, the Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to significant risk involving inundation from a dam failure. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
10. The Project site is not located within a tsunami or seiche inundation zone. **(No Impact)**
11. With implementation of the practices above to prevent stormwater pollution and minimize potential sedimentation, the Proposed Project would not increase pollutant discharges to receiving waters. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
12. The Project site is not located within an area of special water quality concern. **(No Impact)**
13. The Proposed Project would not result in the use of previously contaminated well water. **(No Impact)**
- 14,15. The Proposed Project does not propose construction or use of a septic field. **(No Impact)**

16. The Proposed Project would conform to the Guidelines & Standards for Land Use near Streams. The proposed grading, culvert, and trail surfacing improvements would improve slope stability along Coyote Creek and minimize erosion. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
17. The Proposed Project would not result in extension of a sewer trunk line. **(No Impact)**
18. The Proposed Project would disturb more than one acre of land and, therefore, would require a NPDES permit. The General Permit for Construction Activities requires the installation and preservation of practices to protect water quality until the site is stabilized. As described above, the Proposed Project includes construction practices to prevent stormwater pollution and minimize sedimentation. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
19. With implementation of the construction practices above to prevent stormwater pollution and minimize potential sedimentation, the Proposed Project would not result in significant changes to receiving waters quality. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
20. The Proposed Project would not increase existing pollutants in an impaired water body. **(No Impact)**
21. The Proposed Project would not change the direction, rate of flow, or quantity or quality of groundwater. **(No Impact)**
22. The Proposed Project would not interfere with groundwater recharge or public groundwater supplies. **(No Impact)**
23. The Proposed Project would not alter the amount, location, course, or flow of a surface water body. **(No Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.

K. LAND USE & PLANNING						
	IMPACT					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT:	NO	YES				
	<u>No Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>	
1. Physically divide an established community?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3
2. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the Project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 5
3. Conflict with general plan designation or zoning?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 5
4. Conflict with special policies?						
a. San Martin and/or South County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3
b. Los Gatos Specific Plan or Lexington Watershed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3
c. East Foothills Policy Area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3
d. New Almaden Historic Area/Guadalupe Watershed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3
e. Stanford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3
f. San Jose	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3
5. Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 5

## DISCUSSION:

The Project site is located in unincorporated Santa Clara County, east of the city of Morgan Hill. The site is zoned *Agricultural Ranchlands (AR)*. The site is designated *Ranchlands* in the Santa Clara County General Plan. *Ranchlands* are considered Resource Conservation Areas (RCAs), which are lands outside urban service zones not clearly established in Rural Residential use.

The Project site connects to Anderson Lake County Park to the north, Henry W. Coe State Park to the east, and Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park to the south. Single-family residences and agricultural uses are located west of the Project site in Morgan Hill.

The General Plan includes policies for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating impacts resulting from planned development projects in the County. The Proposed Project would be subject to the land use policies of the County's General Plan, including the following:

R-LU 3: The general intent of each 'Resource Conservation Area' designation is to encourage land uses and densities appropriate to the rural unincorporated areas that also:

- a. Help reserve rural character;
- b. Conserve natural, scenic, and cultural resources;

- c. Protect public health and safety from natural and man-made hazards;
- d. Preserve agricultural and prime agricultural soils;
- e. Protect watersheds and water quality;
- f. Enhance air quality; and
- g. Minimize the demand for and cost of public services and facilities.

R-LU 36: The general intent of the Ranchlands designation is to maintain the existing conditions of very low intensity uses, rural lifestyle, and limited public access. Development policies shall protect and enhance the continued use of the land for ranching.

R-LU 37: Population shall be held to a minimum, and land uses shall be of a nature and intensity which do not require higher levels of public services than those presently provided.

R-LU 39: The primary use shall be ranching. Other allowable uses shall be:

- a. Agriculture;
- b. Low intensity recreational uses;
- c. Mineral extraction;
- d. Land in its natural State;
- e. Hunting;
- f. Wildlife refuges;
- g. Very low-density residential development; and
- h. Very low intensity commercial, industrial, or institutional uses, provided that they primarily support ranching activities or the enhancement, protection, study or appreciation of the natural resources of the area.

R-LU 44: Ranch roads serving the internal needs of the ranches may be of gravel or hard dirt surface, and of widths suitable for ranching uses. Such roads shall not be considered acceptable for the purposes of subdivision approval unless they meet all applicable County standards regarding access for the Ranchlands areas. Routine maintenance of ranch roads shall not require grading permits provided that road alignments are not changed.

## IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The Proposed Project would have no impacts related to land use.

1. Examples of Projects that have the potential to physically divide an established community include new freeways and highways, major arterial streets, and railroad lines. The Proposed Project, which proposes to convert, construct, and maintain up to 10.4 miles of single-track and double-track trails, would not construct dividing infrastructure. **(No Impact)**
- 2, 3. The Project site has a land use designation of *Ranchlands* in the Santa Clara County General Plan and is zoned *Agricultural Ranchlands (AR)*. Under the Proposed Project, the existing cattle grazing uses would continue. The Proposed Project would open a portion of the Property to low intensity recreational use, consistent with the General Plan and Zoning Code. The Project would not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation. **(No Impact)**
4. Coyote Canyon is not located in an area with special policies or designations. **(No Impact)**

5. The Project site is surrounded by parkland to the north, east, and south, and single-family residential and agricultural uses to the west. The proposed conversion, construction, and maintenance of up to 10.4 miles of trail alignments would not conflict with any existing land use in the vicinity of the Property. **(No Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.



L. MINERAL RESOURCES						
	IMPACTS					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT:	NO	YES				
	No Impact	<u>Less Than Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>	
1. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region or the residents of the State?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3
2. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 4
3. Result in substantial depletion of any non-renewable natural resource?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3

#### DISCUSSION:

N/A

#### IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The Proposed Project would have no impacts related to mineral resources.

1–3. The Proposed Project is not located in an area with known mineral resources. Therefore, it would not result in the loss of availability or substantial depletion of a known mineral resource or non-renewable natural resource. **(No Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.

M. NOISE						
	IMPACTS					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT:	NO	YES				
	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Impact	Cumulative	
1. Result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2. Result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3
3. Result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
4. Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5. Increase substantially the ambient noise levels for adjoining areas during and/or after construction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

#### DISCUSSION:

The Project site is located in unincorporated Santa Clara County east of the city of Morgan Hill. The Property is surrounded single-family residences and agricultural uses to the west and parkland to the north, east, and south. The existing noise environment at the site results primarily from vehicular traffic on local roads, including East Dunne Avenue and Tennant Avenue, and U.S. 101 two miles west of the Property.

#### IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to noise and vibration.

1, 3–5. Construction of the proposed trail alignments and associated improvements would generate noise over the six-month construction period. Noise-generating construction activities would include grading along trail alignments, trail surfacing, installation of benches and signs, and culvert and erosion improvements. Construction noise would be temporary and intermittent. The following practices will be implemented during all phases of construction of the Proposed Project to reduce short-term construction noise:

- Unnecessary idling of internal combustion engines shall be strictly prohibited.
- Locate stationary noise-generating equipment, such as air compressors or portable power generators, as far from sensitive receptors as feasible. If they must be located near sensitive receptors, adequate muffling (with enclosures where feasible and appropriate) shall be used to reduce noise levels at the adjacent sensitive receptors. Any enclosure openings or venting shall face away from sensitive receptors.

- Utilize “quiet” air compressors and other stationary noise sources where technology exists.
- Construction staging areas shall be established at locations that will create the greatest distance between the construction-related noise sources and noise-sensitive receptors nearest the Project site during all Project construction.
- Locate material stockpiles, as well as maintenance/equipment staging and parking areas, as far as feasible from residential receptors.
- Control noise from construction workers’ radios to a point where they are not audible at existing residences bordering the Project site.

The primary sources of operational noise would be generated by vehicle traffic and visitors using the proposed trail. Vehicle parking would be provided at the existing Coyote Dam Staging Area and Trailhead parking lot, 0.9 mile from the nearest sensitive receptor. Trails would not be constructed within 0.2 mile of sensitive receptors.

Given the low intensity use proposed, and distance from sensitive receptors, the Project would not result in exposure of persons to excessive noise levels or substantially increase ambient noise levels. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

2. Construction of the proposed trail alignments and associated improvements may generate perceptible vibration when heavy equipment or impact tools are used. Construction activities would include grading along trail alignments, trail surfacing, installation of benches and signs, and culvert and erosion improvements. Pile driving, which can cause excessive vibration, is not proposed.

Construction associated with the Proposed Project would be temporary and intermittent. Although the residential developments west of the Project site are considered sensitive receptors, the proposed alignments would be constructed in the interior of the site, over 0.2 mile from the nearest residences.

The Proposed Project would not introduce any permanent course of groundborne noise or vibration. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not expose persons to excessive groundborne noise or vibration levels. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.

N. POPULATION AND HOUSING						
	IMPACT					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT:	NO	YES				
	<u>No Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>	
1. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
2. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
3. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2

#### DISCUSSION:

N/A

#### IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The Project, as proposed, would have no impacts related to population and housing.

1. The Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth. **(No Impact)**

2–3. The Proposed Project would not displace housing or people. **(No Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.

N. PUBLIC SERVICES						
	IMPACT					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT:	NO	YES				
	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Impact	Cumulative	
1. Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:						
i) Fire Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 28, 29
ii) Police Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 27
iii) School facilities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 30
iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 31
v) Other public facilities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 32
2. Induce substantial growth or concentration of population? (Growth inducing?)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
3. Employ equipment which could interfere with existing communications or broadcast systems?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
4. Increase the need for new systems or supplies, or cause substantial alterations to the following utilities:						
a. Electricity or Natural gas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
b. Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
c. Local or regional water supplies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
d. Sewage disposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
e. Storm water drainage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
f. Solid waste or litter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2

## DISCUSSION:

### Fire Protection Services

The Project site is located within a State Responsibility Area (SRA) for wildfires. Fire protection services for the Project site are provided by the CAL FIRE's Santa Clara Unit (SCU). The nearest SCU fire station is the Dunne Hill Fire Station, located at 2100 East Dunne Avenue, 1.7 miles west of the site.

Although the site is not within a Local Responsibility Area (LRA), the SCU and South Santa Clara County Fire District (SSCCFD) mutually assist each other in fire and medical emergencies. SSCCFD Station 1 is located at 15670 Monterey Street in Morgan Hill, 3.0 miles west of the Project site.

## Police Protection Services

Police protection services for the Property are provided by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department (SCCSD) which is headquartered at 55 West Younger Avenue in the City of San José. The nearest SCCSD station to the site is the South County Sub-Station located at 80 West Highland Avenue in San Martin, approximately 4.5 miles southwest of the Project site.

## Schools

The Santa Clara County Office of Education is responsible for educational services throughout the County. The Project site is located in the Morgan Hill Unified School District (MHUSD). The school district operates ten elementary schools, three middle schools, and three high schools serving over 8,800 students. The Project site is within the Jackson Academy, Britton Middle School, and Live Oak High School attendance boundaries assigned by the MHUSD.

## Parks

The County of Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Department operates 28 regional parks encompassing over 52,000 acres of land. The Department is responsible for operation and maintenance of all County Park facilities. The Proposed Project, which would open the recently acquired 2,741-acre Coyote Canyon Property to low intensity recreational uses, is located adjacent to Anderson Lake and Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Parks and Henry W. Coe State Park.

## Libraries

The Santa Clara County Library District includes eight libraries and two mobile libraries. The Santa Clara County Library District serves unincorporated Santa Clara County, as well as the communities of Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, and Saratoga. The closest library to the Project site is the Morgan Hill Library, located at 660 West Main Avenue, 4.7 miles west of the site.

## IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The Project, as proposed, would have a less than significant impact related to public services.

1. The Proposed Project would open a portion of the Property, which is currently used for cattle grazing, to public recreational uses. The Project would incrementally increase the demand for fire and police protection services compared to existing conditions; however, the Proposed Project would not preclude the SCU or SCCSD from meeting their service goals or require the construction of new or expanded fire or police facilities. The Proposed Project would be constructed and maintained in accordance with applicable County policies to promote public safety. For these reasons, the Proposed Project would not result in a significant impact on fire and police protection services. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

The Proposed Project does not include development of residential uses and, therefore, would not increase the population or use of existing schools or libraries in the County. The Proposed Project would not impact schools or libraries. **(No Impact)**

Under the Proposed Project, the Department would operate the Property and convert, construct, and maintain up to 10.4 miles of trails throughout the Property, but would not result in adverse impacts to other facilities or neglect of other responsibilities for upkeep of

the County Parks system. The Proposed Project would increase the amount of recreational open space available to Santa Clara County residents. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

2. The Proposed Project would not induce substantial growth or concentration of population. **(No Impact)**
3. The Proposed Project would not employ equipment which could interfere with existing communications systems. **(No Impact)**
4. The Proposed Project would not increase the need for new systems or supplies. The Project would not cause substantial alterations to electricity or natural gas, water treatment or distribution, water supplies, sewage disposal, stormwater drainage, or solid waste or litter. **(No Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.



P. RECREATION						
	IMPACT					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT:	NO	YES				
	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Impact	Cumulative	
1. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 31
2. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 31
3. Be on, within or near a public or private park, wildlife reserve, or trail (includes those proposed for the future) or affect existing or future recreational opportunities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 31
4. Result in loss of open space rated as high priority for acquisition in the "Preservation 20/20" report?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3

#### DISCUSSION:

As discussed in *Section N, Public Services* of this Initial Study, the County of Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Department operates 28 parks encompassing over 52,000 acres of land throughout the County. The Department acquired the Property in 2016. Under the Proposed Project, a portion of the Property would be opened to recreational uses, including hiking, horseback riding, dog walking, and bicycling.

#### IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to recreation.

- 1, 2. The Proposed Project would open the newly acquired Coyote Canyon Property to low intensity recreational uses. Up to 10.4 miles of trails would be converted, constructed, and maintained throughout the Property. Trail alignments were selected to avoid steep and unstable slopes. Grading and drainage improvements, where necessary, would minimize erosion impacts. The Department would maintain the proposed alignments and surrounding areas to prevent physical deterioration. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
3. The Proposed Project would open a portion of the Property to low intensity recreational uses. Under the Proposed Project, up to 10.4 miles of trails would be converted, constructed, and maintained, increasing the recreational opportunities in the area. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
4. The Project would not result in the loss of open space rated as high priority for acquisition. **(No Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.

Q. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC						
	IMPACT					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT:	NO	YES				
	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Impact	Cumulative	
1. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including, but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeway, pedestrian and bicycle paths and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 4, 33
2. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 33
3. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 19
4. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
5. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
6. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 33
7. Not provide safe access, obstruct access to nearby uses or fail to provide for future street right of way?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
8. Increase traffic hazards to pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3
9. Cause increases in demand for existing on or off-street parking because of inadequate Project parking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2

## DISCUSSION:

The Project site is entirely located within the boundaries of the existing Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park in unincorporated Santa Clara County. During construction, Department staff would access the Project site from designated service access points, East Dunne Avenue, Oak Canyon Drive, and Carey Avenue. Any increases in traffic, as a result of construction activities will be temporary and short-term. To limit traffic, construction and material stages would take place within the Project site. Permanent operations of the Property as parkland would include vehicle trips associated with Park ranger patrols, maintenance of the existing and proposed trails and service roads and grazing operations.

The Proposed Project is an extension of the existing trail system within Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park. After construction of the Proposed Project, Visitors would have multi-use access to the Property through the proposed trail alignment and parking would be available at the existing Coyote Dam Staging Area and Trailhead in Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park. There is no public vehicle access directly to the Project site. Key access roads to the existing staging area are Coyote Reservoir Road, Leavesley Road, New Avenue, Roop Road, and U.S. 101.

### County Congestion Management Program (CMP)

As the Congestion Management Agency (CMA) for Santa Clara County, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is responsible for establishing, implementing, and monitoring the County's Congestion Management Program (CMP). The VTA develops strategies to reduce congestion, promote integrated transportation and land use planning, and encourages a balanced transportation system. Through its implementation of the CMP, the VTA works to ensure that roadways operate at an acceptable level of service, and reviews development proposals to ensure that transportation impacts are minimized, and transportation alternatives are utilized.

The nearest CMP roadways to the Project site are U.S. 101, two miles west of the site, and State Route (SR) 152 / Leavesley Road, eight miles south of the site. The nearest CMP intersection to the site is SR 152 / Leavesley Road and Monterey Road in Gilroy, eight miles southwest of the site.

### Roadways

Public regional access to the Project site is provided by Coyote Reservoir Road, Leavesley Road, New Avenue, Roop Road and U.S. 101. Department staff and emergency vehicle access to the Project site is provided by East Dunne Avenue, Jackson Oaks Drive, Oak Canyon Drive, and Tennant Avenue. The following provides a description of the roadways:

- **Coyote Reservoir Road** is a paved, north-south rural road along the western bank of Coyote Reservoir. Coyote Reservoir Road connects the Coyote Dam Staging Area and Trailhead parking lot, which would be used for visitor access, to Roop Road.
- **Leavesley Road**, in the Project vicinity, is an east-west, two-lane street that runs from Roop Road to Monterey Street in Gilroy. Leavesley Road is accessed from U.S. 101 via Exit 357 and provides access to the Coyote Dam Staging Area and Trailhead parking lot via New Avenue.
- **New Avenue** is a north-south, two-lane street that runs from East San Martin Avenue in San Martin to Leavesley Road in Gilroy. New Avenue provides access to the Coyote Dam Staging Area and Trailhead parking lot via Roop Road and Coyote Lake Road.

- **Roop Road** is an east-west, two-lane street that runs from Coyote Lake Road to Guibal Avenue in Gilroy. Roop Road provides access to the Coyote Dam Staging Area and Trailhead parking lot via Coyote Lake Road.
- **U.S. 101** is a major north-south highway in Santa Clara County, connecting to San Mateo County to the north and Monterey County to the south.
- **East Dunne Avenue** is a County owned road that begins within the City of Morgan Hill limits and terminates at Henry W. Coe State Park. East Dunne Avenue provides access to Jackson Oaks Drive and the Ranch Complex Entrance of the Project Site. Department staff and emergency vehicles may use this road to enter the Property.
- **Jackson Oaks Drive** is a paved road through the Jackson Oaks residential development. Jackson Oaks Drive provides access to Oak Canyon Drive. Department staff and emergency vehicles may use this road to enter the Property.
- **Oak Canyon Drive** is a paved road through the Jackson Oaks residential development. The roadway provides access to the Oak Canyon Drive Service entrance of the Property. Department staff and emergency vehicles may use this road to enter the Property.
- **Tennant Avenue** is an east-west, two lane street that runs from Monterey Road in Downtown Morgan Hill to Carey Avenue where it terminates. Tennant Avenue provides access to the far northwest of the portion of the Property. Department staff and emergency vehicles may use this road to enter the Property.

### **Parking**

As stated above, the main access point for parking is the existing Coyote Dam Staging Area and Trailhead which is accessible from Coyote Lake Road. This staging area provides 70 parking spaces.

### **Airport**

The Project site is located approximately three miles from the San Martin Airport and 17 miles from the Watsonville Municipal Airport and Hollister Airport. The site is not within an Airport Land Use Commission Traffic Pattern Zone (TPZ).

### **Public Transportation**

The Project site is located approximately 3.7 miles east of the Morgan Hill Caltrain Station. Caltrain provides rail service between Gilroy to the south and San Francisco to the north.

### **Construction Related Traffic**

Project-level components as part of the Plan include 1) conversion of ranch roads, installation of trails, gates, fencing, and sign. Construction staging would be at the Project site and limited to Project site boundaries. With the ability to store materials and construction equipment on-site, construction activities for trails would have a less than significant impact to existing roads. Grading, construction, and operational activities (i.e. vehicle trips) would be located within the Project site.

Construction hauling per the County Park construction standards would be limited to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to transportation and traffic.

- 1, 2. The Proposed Project would open a portion of the Property to low intensity recreational uses and convert, construct, and maintain up to 10.4 miles of trail, is located adjacent to existing parks to the north, east, and south. Anderson Lake County Park, Henry W. Coe State Park, and Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park provide similar recreational opportunities to those proposed under the proposed Project.

The Proposed Project does not include additional parking, and visitors would use an existing parking lot in Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park. The proposed trail alignment would connect to other trails for use by hikers, equestrians, people with dogs on-leash, and bicyclists.

In addition to visitor trips, operation of the trail would include occasional vehicle trips associated with Park ranger patrols and Department maintenance staff. Many of these trips already exist in conjunction with the ongoing operation of the adjacent Anderson Lake County Park and Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park. The minor increase in vehicle trips generated by the Project would not create a noticeable change in traffic volumes or intersection delays in the Project area.

The proposed opening of Coyote Canyon to recreational uses and conversion, construction, and maintenance of 10.4 miles of trails would not conflict with any applicable plan, ordinance, or policy. Vehicle traffic generated by the Proposed Project would not create a noticeable change in the performance of the CMP network. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

3. Coyote Canyon is not located within a Traffic Pattern Zone of any airport. The proposed opening of the Property to low intensity recreational uses and conversion, construction, and maintenance of 10.4 miles of trails would not affect air traffic patterns. **(No Impact)**
4. The Proposed Project includes construction of single-track and double-track alignments through portions of the Property. Double-track alignments would be accessible to service vehicles and would avoid steep slopes and hazardous features. As described in *Section K, Land Use and Planning* of this Initial Study, the Project would be compatible with existing uses on the site. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
5. The Proposed Project would convert, construct, and maintain double-track trail alignments to provide adequate emergency access to the site. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**
6. The Proposed Project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities. **(No Impact)**
7. The Proposed Project does not modify any right-of-way. The Project would not obstruct access to nearby uses. **(No Impact)**

8. The Plan evaluated safety concerns associated with public access to the trail alignment. The Project proposes three looped alignments linking to the Harvey Bear Connector Trail in Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch County Park. Access would be provided via the existing Coyote Dam Staging Area and Trailhead parking lot, at the northern terminus of Coyote Reservoir Road. The Proposed Project did not identify any safety concerns associated with public access to the trail alignment.

Trail alignments were selected in consideration of user needs, safety, and current Department practices and direction. After opening the Property to public use, Park rangers would monitor park conditions and patrol the area. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

9. Visitors to Coyote Canyon would use the existing Coyote Dam Staging Area and Trailhead parking lot (70 vehicle spaces). The existing parking lot would accommodate anticipated visitors to Coyote Canyon. **(Less Than Significant Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.

R. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES						
	IMPACTS					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT:	NO	YES				
Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074, as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	No Impact	Less Than Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant Impact	Cumulative	
1. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 4, 9
2. A resource determined by the Lead Agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the Lead Agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 3, 4

## DISCUSSION:

To identify any historic structures on the Property, current inventories of the Santa Clara County Heritage Resource Inventory were examined. Existing structures on the Property are not listed on the Santa Clara County Heritage Resource Inventory. On November 20, 2018, a request was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission to 1) identify any areas of concern within the Property that may be listed in their Sacred Lands Files and 2) provide a list of Native American representatives who may have additional information regarding potential tribal cultural resources on the site.

On November 27, 2018, a response was received from NAHC indicating that no sacred sites were identified on the Coyote Canyon Property. The letter included a list of seven Native American tribes and their representatives. On November 28, 2018, the Department mailed notification of the Project to the specified tribes pursuant to AB 52. No tribes requested consultation.

- Amah Mutsun Tribal Band (Davis, CA)
- Amah Mutsun Tribal Band (Galt, CA)
- Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista
- Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan
- Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area
- North Valley Yokuts Tribe
- The Ohlone Indian Tribe

## **IMPACT ANALYSIS:**

The Proposed Project would have less than significant impacts related to tribal cultural resources.

1. Existing structures on the Property are not listed in the local register of historic resources, the Santa Clara County Heritage Resource Inventory. The Project does not propose any alterations or impacts to the existing structures. **(Less than Significant Impact)**
2. The aforementioned tribes have not sent written requests for notification of the Project or requested further consultation regarding per Assembly Bill (AB) 52. No known tribal cultural features, including sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, or sacred places have been identified. There are no known recorded landscape, sacred place, or cultural object with in the Project area. **(Less than Significant Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.



S. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS						
	IMPACT					SOURCE
WOULD THE PROJECT:	NO	YES				
	No Impact	<u>Less Than Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>	
1. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
2. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 4
3. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
4. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2, 4
5. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's Projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
6. Not be able to be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2
7. Comply with Federal, State, and Local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1, 2

#### DISCUSSION:

N/A

#### IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The Proposed Project would have no impacts related to utilities and service systems.

1–2, 4–5. The Proposed Project would convert, construct, and maintain up to 10.4 miles of trail within Coyote Canyon, would not use water outside of the construction period. Existing water supplies are available for Project construction. The Project would not generate wastewater. Therefore, the Project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements or require new water or wastewater treatment facilities. **(No Impact)**

3. The Proposed Project would not construct impervious surfaces or substantially alter the existing drainage of the site. The Proposed Project does not propose construction of new or expanded stormwater drainage facilities. **(No Impact)**

6–7. The Proposed Project would not produce or dispose of solid waste. **(No Impact)**

**MITIGATION:** No mitigation required.

# MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	<u>No Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	Checklist Source(s)
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number of restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,3,15,17
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
c. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,2,3
d. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1

## DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

- a) Under Section 15065(a)(1) of the CEQA Guidelines, a finding of significance is required if a project "has the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory."

Based on the analysis provided in this Initial Study, the Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts to aesthetics, agricultural and forest resources, energy, geology and soils, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems (refer to sections a -c, and f-s, respectively). Project implementation practices related to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, noise, and hazards and hazardous materials are also incorporated.

With the implementation of the mitigation measures included in the Proposed Project and described in biological resources (MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-2) and cultural resources (MM CUL-1 through MM CUL-3) sections (refer to Section *D Biological Resources* and Section *E Cultural/Historical/Archaeological Resources*), the Proposed Project would not result in significant adverse environmental impacts.

b) As described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15065(a)(2), a lead agency shall find that a project may have a significant effect on the environment where there is substantial evidence that the project has the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.

The Proposed Project would convert, construct, and maintain up to 10.4 miles of trails on the Coyote Canyon Property and would not result in the conversion of an undeveloped use to urban uses or otherwise commit resources in a wasteful or inefficient manner. Although the Proposed Project would require the temporary disturbance of developed and undeveloped land as well as the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources during trail construction, it is anticipated that these short-term effects would be substantially off-set by the long-term improvements to the recreational trail system that will be provided by the Project.

While the Proposed Project could result in disturbances to biological and cultural resources, the mitigation measures above would reduce impacts to a less than significant level. Construction implementation practices are included in the Proposed Project and would avoid air quality and hydrology impacts. Implementation of these mitigation measures and construction implementation practices would reduce the impacts of the Project on long-term environmental goals to a less than significant level.

c) Under Section 15065(a)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, a lead agency shall find that a project may have a significant effect on the environment where there is substantial evidence that the project has potential environmental effects “that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.” As defined in Section 15065(a)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, cumulatively considerable means “that the incremental effects on an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.” Using this definition, a project that has no impact in a given impact category cannot have a cumulatively considerable contribution because its contribution is zero.

The project evaluated in this Initial Study is limited to the conversion, construction, and maintenance of up to 10.4 miles of trails on the Coyote Canyon Property. Due to the nature of this Proposed Project, many types of impacts that are frequently associated with development projects (e.g., housing, offices, commercial uses, etc.) will not occur. For example, per the analyses found throughout the Environmental Checklist and Discussion of Impacts, the operation of the trail will have no adverse impacts on agricultural lands, air quality, GHGs, hazardous materials, land use, mineral resources, population and housing, recreation, transportation, and utilities. Therefore, by definition, there would be no cumulative impacts in any of these categories.

Some of the short-term, construction-related, impacts of the project (e.g., cultural resources, and biological resources) could combine with those of other projects being constructed in the area at the same time to become significant. The Proposed Project is a covered activity under the Habitat Plan and potential impacts on natural resources would be within the allowances of impacts within the entire Habitat Plan Permit area. Other approved Projects in the vicinity of Coyote Canyon would be required to incorporate similar measures in accordance with Federal, State, and Local policies and regulations. In this case, however, that outcome would not occur since there are no other projects proposed in the same general area.

As described in *Section D. Biological Resources*, the project will affect sensitive biological resources in the short-term. These impacts, however, would not result in a cumulatively significant loss of such resources because all projects, including the proposed trail, are required to comply with the “no net loss” policies of various permitting agencies. In addition, mitigation measures ensure construction of the Project will not harm protected species in the Project site. As a result, the Proposed Project’s contribution to cumulative biological impacts will not be cumulatively considerable.

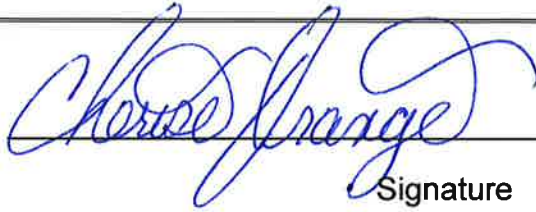
As described in *Section E. Cultural/Historical/Archaeological Resources*, the conversion, construction, and maintenance of trails will create short-term ground disturbing activities. Due to such activities, the Proposed Project may impact cultural/historical/archaeological resources. These potential impacts, however, would not result in a cumulatively significant loss of such resources because all projects, including the proposed trail, are required to comply with State Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code. In addition, mitigation measures ensure construction of the Project will not harm cultural, historical, or archaeological resources in the Project site. As a result, the Proposed Project's contribution to cumulative cultural/historical/archaeological impacts will not be cumulatively considerable.

- d) Consistent with Section 15065(a)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, a lead agency shall find that a project may have a significant effect on the environment where there is substantial evidence that the project has the potential to cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Under this standard, a change to the physical environment that might otherwise be minor must be treated as significant if people would be significantly affected. This factor relates to adverse changes to the environment of human beings generally, and not to effects on particular individuals. While changes to the environment that could indirectly affect human beings would be represented by all of the designated CEQA issue areas, those that could directly affect human beings include air quality, hydrology and water quality, hazards and hazardous materials, and noise. The Proposed Project would provide low intensity recreational opportunities on the Project site for County residents and visitors. Adherence to Santa Clara County General Plan policies and implementation of air quality, hydrology and water quality, and noise construction practices incorporated into the Proposed Project would reduce effects on human beings to a less than significant level. No other direct or indirect adverse effects on human beings have been identified.

**DETERMINATION** (To be completed by the Lead Agency):

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ I find that the Proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- ☒ I find that although the Proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because mitigation measures are included as part of the Proposed Project. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the Proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.
- ☐ I find that the Proposed Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the Proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the Proposed Project, nothing further is required.

  
Signature

4/30/2019  
Date

Print name & title: Cherise Orange, Associate Planner, County of Santa Clara, Parks & Recreation  
Department

## INITIAL STUDY SOURCE LIST

1. Professional judgment and expertise of the environmental specialists preparing this assessment, based upon a review of the site and surrounding conditions, as well as a review of the Project plans.
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