



## LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL JOINT POWERS AGENCY

### A G E N D A

SPECIAL MEETING | VIRTUAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

6:00 PM

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This meeting is compliant with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 which allows local legislative bodies to hold public meetings electronically only, without a physical location for public participation, accessible only telephonically or otherwise electronically (video conferencing) to all members of the public seeking to observe and address the local legislative body, in order to avoid public gatherings, and until further notice.

**REMOTE PUBLIC COMMENTS** To make a public comment, the following options are available:

- Before the Meeting via Email: Written comments can be emailed to [CityClerk@ci.seaside.ca.us](mailto:CityClerk@ci.seaside.ca.us) Include the following subject line: "Public Comment Item # (insert the agenda item number relevant to your comment). Written comments must be received by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. All submitted comments will be provided to the the Board for consideration, compiled as part of the record, and may be read into the record.
- During the Meeting via Oral Comments: When the Chair calls for public comment, attendees can queue to speak with the "Raise Hand" feature. On the Zoom application, click the "Raise Hand" button. On the phone, press \*9. The Clerk will call speaker names and unmute speaker microphones. You will have up to 3 minutes to provide your comments, with time set by the discretion of the Chair. Please note, written comments will not be read but will be included in the final record.

In an effort to ensure the virtual process closely follows our normal process, public comment will be accepted in writing during the meeting, but may not be read into the record during the meeting. They will be included in the final administrative record.

### **VIRTUAL MEETING ACCESS**

This meeting can be watched via the City of Seaside You Tube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1Cu7854Ohtjpr\\_XV1tDvRg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1Cu7854Ohtjpr_XV1tDvRg)

Or by joining the Zoom webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89794447651>

Or call in phone number: (301) 715-8592

Zoom Webinar (Meeting) ID: 897 9444 7651

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Clyde Roberson	City of Monterey
Dave Pacheco	City of Seaside
Kevin Raskoff	Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Members of the public wishing to address the Board on matters within its jurisdictions, but not on this agenda, may do so during the Public Comment period for up to three (3) minutes. Public Comments on specific agenda items are heard under that item. For the public record, please state your name.*

**4. CONSENT ITEMS**

**A. APPROVE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 2, 2019**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve minutes as presented.

**5. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. AWARDING A CONTRACT TO BELLINGER FOSTER STEINMETZ FOR \$109,965 TO CREATE A TRAIL MAINTENANCE STRATEGY AND CONDUCT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK FUNDED BY THE MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT (\$60,000), CITY OF SEASIDE (\$24,982.50) AND CITY OF MONTEREY (\$24,982.50) (NOT A PROJECT UNDER CEQA PER ARTICLE 20, SECTION 15378 AND UNDER GENERAL RULE ARTICLE 5, SECTION 15061)**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency (JPA) adopt a Resolution awarding a contract to Bellinger Foster Steinmetz for \$109,965 to create a trail maintenance strategy and conduct environmental review for Laguna Grande Regional Park funded by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (\$60,000), City of Seaside (\$24,982.50) and City of Monterey (\$24,982.50).

**B. FORT ORD REGIONAL TRAIL AND GREENWAY (FORTAG) UPDATE (NOT A PROJECT UNDER CEQA PER ARTICLE 20, SECTION 15378 AND UNDER GENERAL RULE ARTICLE 5, SECTION 15061)**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency (JPA) receive a presentation from the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) about the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) trail.

**C. NORTH FREMONT BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT FROM CASANOVA TO CANYON DEL REY (NORTH SIDE) PROJECT UPDATE (NOT A PROJECT UNDER CEQA PER ARTICLE 20, SECTION 15378 AND UNDER**

**GENERAL RULE ARTICLE 5, SECTION 15061)**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency receive a presentation from the City of Monterey engineering team about the proposed North Fremont Bike and Pedestrian Improvement from Casanova to Canyon Del Rey (North Side), also referred to as the North Fremont Gap Closure Project.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:  
TBD

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The Laguna Grande Regional Joint Powers Authority is committed to providing accessible facilities and accommodating people with disabilities in all of its services programs and activities. If special considerations are needed by any person to fully participate in this meeting, contact the Seaside City Clerk at 899-6707 no fewer than two business days prior to the meeting to allow reasonable arrangements. The City Council chamber is equipped with a portable microphone and assisted listening devices are available at all meetings. Agenda-related writings or documents provided during public meetings are available for public inspection during the meeting or from the office of the City Clerk. This agenda is posted in compliance with California Government Code Section 54954.2(a) or Section 54956.



## LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL JOINT POWERS AGENCY

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### SPECIAL MEETING

Seaside Council Chamber  
440 Harcourt Avenue  
Monday, December 2, 2019  
6:00 PM

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#### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

#### 2. **ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

PRESENT: ROBERSON, RASKOFF

ABSENT: KISPERSKY

#### 3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS: Scott Waltz, Lisa Ann Sawhney, Diane Nielson

#### 4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 28, 2019**

On motion by Agency Member Raskoff and second by Agency Member Roberson and carried by the following vote, the Agency moved to approve the minutes from October 28, 2019.

RESULT: 2-0-0-1

AYES: ROBERSON, RASKOFF

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: KISPERSKY

#### 5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

##### **A. ADOPT A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK JOINT POWERS AGENCY AGREEMENT (NOT A PROJECT PER CEQA)**

City of Monterey Community Services Director, Kim Cole provided clarification/correction to the draft resolution for the item in the "NOW, THEREFORE..." section which was corrected to read: "Section 2-1: Limitation on Powers. As required by.....exercising power possessed by the City of Monterey..."

*On motion by Agency member Raskoff and second by Agency member Roberson and carried by the following vote, the Agency moved to adopt a resolution amending the*

*Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency Agreement to designate the City of Monterey as the member entity from which the JPA's powers are limited.*

RESULT: 3-0-0-1  
AYES: Roberson, Raskoff  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Kispersky

**B. AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PREPARATION OF TRAIL MAINTENANCE STRATEGY, ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT AND LAGUNA GRANDE PARK MASTER PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (NOT A PROJECT PER CEQA)**

Ms. Cole provided a presentation on the item and reviewed the consideration of an Request for Proposal (RFP) for 1) Preparation of trail maintenance strategy and environmental document and; 2) Laguna Grande Master Plan and Environmental Document.

PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS: Steven Cry, Scott Waltz

Ms. Cole responded to questions and comments from the Agency and the public.

*On motion by Agency member Roberson and second by Agency member Raskoff and carried by the following vote, the Agency moved to that the Laguna Grande Regional Joint Powers Agency (JPA) consider the draft RFP and authorize the issuance of the RFP with the recommended amendments.*

RESULT: 3-0-0-1  
AYES: Roberson, Raskoff  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Kispersky

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Dominique L. Davis, Agency Clerk**

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**Clyde Roberson, Chair**



## LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL JOINT POWERS AGENCY

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### AGENDA REPORT

**ITEM:** 5.A.  
**TO:** Agency Members  
**FROM:** Kimberly Cole, AICP  
**DATE:** April 21, 2021

**SUBJECT:** **Awarding a Contract to Bellinger Foster Steinmetz for \$109,965 to Create a Trail Maintenance Strategy and Conduct Environmental Review for Laguna Grande Regional Park Funded by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (\$60,000), City of Seaside (\$24,982.50) and City of Monterey (\$24,982.50) (Not a Project Under CEQA per Article 20, Section 15378 and Under General Rule Article 5, Section 15061)**

#### **PURPOSE & RECOMMENDATION**

That the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency (JPA) adopt a Resolution awarding a contract to Bellinger Foster Steinmetz for \$109,965 to create a trail maintenance strategy and conduct environmental review for Laguna Grande Regional Park funded by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (\$60,000), City of Seaside (\$24,982.50) and City of Monterey (\$24,982.50).

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The contract cost is \$109,965. As described above, this contract will be jointly funded by the Park District, City of Seaside and City of Monterey. The City of Monterey will not sign the contract until these funds are formally designated by the respective agencies to the City of Monterey.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

The City of Monterey Planning Office determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CCR, Title 14, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines), Article 20, Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Section

15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or any reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

The JPA may deny the request or direct staff to work with the selected firm on scope revisions.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency (JPA) approved the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for two projects - new park plan and trail maintenance strategy. The JPA discussed the desire to have an entire park plan updated but also emphasized that a trail maintenance strategy was its highest priority at that time. Key considerations would be cost and relationship to regional projects such as the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway project (FORTAG).

The JPA received four proposals in response to the RFP. Staff members from the City of Seaside, City of Monterey, and Parks District and a Laguna Grande neighborhood representative reviewed the proposals. All of the firms were invited to an interview as well. Bellinger Foster Steinmetz was the highest ranking firm from this process.

Staff met with the various City Managers and Executive Director and there is inadequate funding to pay for the parks plan at this time and recommends that we move forward with the Trail Maintenance Strategy. The proposed Trail Maintenance Strategy will include the following key steps:

1. Inventory existing trail network and biotic communities
2. Prepare a draft trail maintenance strategy and vegetation management recommendations
3. Review maintenance strategy with stakeholders such as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Coastal Commission and Regional Water Quality Control Board and interested parties such as the Audubon Society and residents
4. Revise the maintenance strategy based on public and stakeholders' input
5. Present maintenance strategy to the JPA and finalize the project description
6. Prepare the required environmental document
7. Present maintenance strategy and environmental document to the JPA for certification

If the document is certified by the JPA, the JPA would then pursue permits for the project from various resource agencies such as the Regional Water Quality Control Board, etc. Work could commence after all permits are obtained.

In conclusion, staff is recommending that the JPA award a contract for the trail maintenance strategy/environmental review of \$109,965.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Attachment 1 - Draft Resolution
  - 2. Attachment 1 Exhibit A - Scope of Services
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Date: <MEETING_DATE>
Item No: <#>

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK  
JOINT POWERS AGENCY**

**AWARDING A CONTRACT TO BELLINGER FOSTER STEINMETZ FOR \$109,965  
TO CREATE A TRAIL MAINTENANCE STRATEGY AND CONDUCT  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK FUNDED  
BY THE MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT (\$60,000),  
CITY OF SEASIDE (\$24,982.50) AND CITY OF MONTEREY (\$24,982.50)**

**WHEREAS**, the existing Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Power Agency desires to create a trail maintenance strategy for Laguna Grande Park and conduct environmental review of this proposal;

**WHEREAS**, the JPA received four proposals;

**WHEREAS**, the proposals were reviewed and firms interviewed. Bellinger Foster Steinmetz was the highest ranking firm;

**WHEREAS**, the project requires funding from the JPA members;

**WHEREAS**, the Laguna Grande Regional Joint Powers Agency determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)(CCR, Title 14, Chapter 3 ("CEQA Guidelines), Article 20, Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or any reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project. Any subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA applicability.

NOW THEREFORE, the Laguna Grande Regional Joint Powers Agency:

1. Awards a contract to Bellinger Foster Steinmetz for \$109,965 to create a trail maintenance strategy and conduct environmental review for Laguna Grande Regional Park funded by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (\$60,000), City of Seaside (\$24,982.50) and City of Monterey (\$24,982.50);
2. Authorizes the City of Monterey to collect the funds from the member agencies and to pay the contractor on behalf of the JPA when payment is due; and
3. Authorizes the JPA Chair to sign the agreement with the contractor upon confirmation that funding has been deposited with the City of Monterey by all entities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of April, 2021, by Laguna Grande Park Joint Powers Agency with the following vote:

AYES:	MEMBERS:
NOES:	MEMBERS:
ABSENT:	MEMBERS:
ABSTAIN:	MEMBERS:

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor of said City

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk thereof

# Scope of Services

Laguna Grande Park Master Plan

Revised February 17, 2021



## 1.0 TRAIL MAINTENANCE STRATEGY

- 1.01 Project Management: This task includes project contract execution, preparation of project and contract files; preparing and maintaining project budgets, coordination of personnel, subconsultants, and communications.
- 1.02 Inventory existing trail network and biotic communities. Review previous maintenance agreements and permits. BFS will provide trail assessment and mapping; EMC Planning Group biologists will assess trail corridor natural resources. Map and summarize in table and narrative.
- 1.03 Prepare a draft trail maintenance strategy that identifies appropriate pathways throughout the park. Consider additional trails and access restriction needs. In all trail corridors with extensive vegetation, such as the southern end of the park, determine if maintenance is needed and appropriate actions. Biotic Resources Group will evaluate assessment, trail conditions, and prepare initial vegetation management recommendations.
- 1.04 Review maintenance strategy with JPA staff and stakeholders, such as California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Coastal Commission, and Regional Water Quality Control Board and interested parties (Audubon Society), residents, etc.
- 1.05 Revise maintenance strategy based on public and stakeholders' input.
- 1.06 Present maintenance strategy to the JPA to finalize the project description of proposed work.
- 1.07 Prepare the required environmental document. Staff anticipates that this project will trigger a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The scope of work should include any necessary background reports to make necessary conclusions for trail maintenance, such as but not limited to biological resources.
- 1.08 Present maintenance strategy and environmental document to the JPA for certification.
- 1.09 FINAL TRAIL MAINTENANCE STRATEGY. Final document will incorporate any comments, mitigation recommendations noted by CEQA document.

## 2.0 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- 2.01 Kickoff Meeting: Meet with JPA staff to review community outreach strategy. Set dates for meetings. Coordinate online protocols and management.
  - a. BFS assumes project will be hosted on [www.haveyoursaymonterey.org](http://www.haveyoursaymonterey.org)
  - b. Project material mailing, distribution and posting to website page to be managed by JPA staff.
- 2.02 Community and Neighborhood Meetings:

P19-110\_Scope 20210217.docx

- a. Coordinate and facilitate two (2) similar neighborhood / community meetings on a virtual platform (i.e. Zoom/Google Meet). Community meetings to be scheduled to cast a wide net for community input. Schedule meetings to occur concurrently while site investigations and field studies are occurring.
  - b. Work with JPA staff to provide noticing to the community. BFS to prepare fliers and digital notices. Opportunity to submit written comments is included.
  - c. Online forum and agenda:
    - 1. Meetings to be set up in a town hall forum to introduce the project scope to the community.
    - 2. Meetings to include brief presentation by JPA and BFS (to be Powerpoint/PDF) followed by Q&A period. BFS to review Q&A facilitation with JPA. (BFS suggests a timed window for participants to provide ideas, suggestions, and comments)
    - 3. Meeting materials to be available in both English and Spanish.
    - 4. Live Spanish translation to be coordinated as needed.
- 2.03 Meetings Summary: BFS to summarize virtual meetings and all community input received. Provide to JPA staff a document that can be posted online to project website.
- 2.04 Meeting Review: Review the community feedback with JPA staff and make recommendations about priorities and next steps moving forward.
- 2.05 JPA Draft Plan Review Public Meeting:
- a. Coordinate posting of Draft Trail Maintenance Plan to online platform by JPA staff for community review and input. Create opportunity for community to provide digital feedback and response.
  - b. Work with JPA staff to provide noticing to the community of the presentation of the Draft Trail Maintenance plan to JPA Board.
  - c. Present Draft Trail Maintenance Plan to Board with JPA staff. BFS to prepare presentation ( PowerPoint /PDF). Allow for community response period after presentation.
  - d. BFS to summarize virtual Board meeting and community input. Provide a document that can be posted online, by JPA staff, to the project website.
  - e. Review JPA Board and community response with JPA staff. BFS and JPA staff to identify revisions or comments to be incorporated into the Draft Trail Maintenance Plan.
- 2.06 JPA Final Plan/CEQA Review Public Meeting: JPA staff to prepare presentation; BFS staff to provide support graphics. BFS/EMC to attend virtual meetings.

## 5.0 ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Any presentations, drawings or documents not identified in the Scope of Services will be considered additional services. Additional services are provided only as authorized and on an hourly basis unless otherwise approved.

- 5.10 Any permitting: Obtain necessary permits (Fish and Wildlife, Regional Water Quality, Coastal Commission) for project implementation. This task is budgeted as an additional service. Scope detail will be refined as permit requirements are identified.

**EXCLUSIONS**

The following are excluded from our scope of services.

1. Printing and distribution of flyers / agenda / handouts for Community meetings.
2. Translation services for Community meetings.
3. Architectural Review Board Submittal.
4. Tree survey / Arborist Report.
5. Signage & graphics artwork.
6. Off-site improvements, except for utility connections.

-END -

**COMPENSATION**

1.0	TRAIL MAINTENANCE STRATEGY & CEQA REVIEW	
	EMC Planning.....	\$29,440
	Biotic Resources Group.....	\$8,665
	BFS Landscape Architects .....	\$33,410
	TOTAL .....	\$71,515
2.0	COMMUNITY OUTREACH.....	\$22,200
5.0	ADDITIONAL SERVICES	
	5.1 Permitting.....	\$13,000
	REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES BUDGET .....	\$3,250

**HOURLY RATES AND REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES:** See attached Standard Schedule of Compensation dated May 2020.

Attachments: Standard Schedule of Compensation, dated 5/2020.

**SCHEDULE**

<b>1.0 TRAIL MAINTENANCE STRATEGY</b>	
1.01 Contract Awarded & Executed	February – March 2021
1.02 Project Management	March – October 2021
1.03 Inventory	March – May 2021
1.04 Prepare Draft Trail Maintenance Strategy	May 2021
1.05 Review with JPA and Stakeholders	July 2021
1.06 Revise Trail Maintenance Strategy	August 2021
1.07 Present Strategy to JPA/Finalize Project Description	September 2021
1.08 Prepare Environmental Document for Certification	October 2021
5.10 Obtain Permits	TBD

Notice: Landscape Architects are regulated by the State of California. Any questions concerning a Landscape Architect may be referred to the Landscape Architects Technical Committee at: Landscape Architects Technical Committee, 400 R Street, Suite 4000, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 445-4954.



## LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL JOINT POWERS AGENCY

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### AGENDA REPORT

**ITEM:** 5.B.

**TO:** Agency Members

**FROM:** Kimberly Cole, AICP

**DATE:** April 21, 2021

**SUBJECT:** **Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) Update (Not a Project Under CEQA per Article 20, Section 15378 and Under General Rule Article 5, Section 15061)**

#### PURPOSE & RECOMMENDATION

That the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency (JPA) receive a presentation from the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) about the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) trail.

#### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

On November 6, 2016, a ballot measure known as the Transportation Safety & Investment Plan, or "Measure X," was adopted by the voters of Monterey County. The measure is anticipated to generate an estimated \$20 million annually for a total of \$600 million over thirty years, through a retail transactions and use tax of three-eighths of one percent (3/8%). Among the transportation safety and mobility projects identified for funding through Measure X is the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway ("FORTAG"). Approximately \$20 million in Measure X funding was identified in the Measure X Transportation Safety & Investment Expenditure Plan for the FORTAG proposal.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

The City of Monterey Planning Office determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CCR, Title 14,

Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines), Article 20, Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or any reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

None.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) Project is a proposed 27-mile continuous 12-foot wide paved bicycle and pedestrian trail with an open-space buffer on both sides. FORTAG is currently proposed to extend over and within the jurisdictions of County of Monterey, City of Del Rey Oaks, City of Marina, City of Monterey, City of Seaside, Monterey Regional Parks District, University of California Santa Cruz and California State University at Monterey Bay. The TAMC Board certified the environmental impact report for the FORTAG project.

A portion of the proposed FORTAG trail will traverse the Laguna Grande Park as generally shown in Attachment 1. Initial JPA discussions have emphasized the importance of any work proposed in the Laguna Grande Park should coordinate with the regional trail network envisioned with FORTAG.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Attachment 1 - FORTAG Trail Map
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Figure 2-7 Trail Segments



Imagery provided by ESRI and its licensors © 2019.  
 Additional data provided by A/ta Planning + Design, 2019.



## LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL JOINT POWERS AGENCY

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### AGENDA REPORT

**ITEM:** 5.C.

**TO:** Agency Members

**FROM:** Max Rieser, P.E.

**DATE:** April 21, 2021

**SUBJECT:** North Fremont Bike and Pedestrian Improvement from Casanova to Canyon Del Rey (North Side) Project Update (Not a Project Under CEQA per Article 20, Section 15378 and Under General Rule Article 5, Section 15061)

#### PURPOSE & RECOMMENDATION

That the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency receive a presentation from the City of Monterey engineering team about the proposed North Fremont Bike and Pedestrian Improvement from Casanova to Canyon Del Rey (North Side), also referred to as the North Fremont Gap Closure Project.

#### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The project design is funded through the City of Monterey's Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program (NCIP).

#### ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

The City of Monterey Planning Office determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CCR, Title 14, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines), Article 20, Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed

action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or any reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

None

**DISCUSSION:**

The North Fremont Corridor is a busy corridor with many shops, restaurants, hotels and other businesses. A key visitor attraction to this corridor is the Monterey County Fairgrounds. This busy corridor connects central Monterey to the Casanova Oak Knoll, Del Monte Grove, Laguna Grande and Villa Del Monte neighborhoods and the cities of Seaside and Del Rey Oaks to the north, as a result it continues to be a key transportation corridor for residents and businesses alike.

The North Fremont Bike and Pedestrian Access and Safety Project was the kick-off to realizing many goals for the corridor ( more information is available at: <https://haveyoursaymonterey.org/north-fremont-street-transportation-corridor>).

**Figure 1: North Fremont Bike and Pedestrian Access and Safety Project Before and After Photograph**



One of the key future opportunities is to connect the North Fremont Bike and Pedestrian Access and Safety Project to the Fort Ord Recreational Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) project. The City of Monterey has called this connection the North Fremont Gap Closure Project.

**Figure 2: North Fremont Gap Closure Project Location**



There is currently no sidewalk connection on the north side of North Fremont between Casanova and Canyon Del Rey (State Route 218). Pedestrians and cyclists utilize the roadway or the path adjacent to the guard rail to travel between Seaside and Monterey and to access the bus stop. The North Fremont Bike and Pedestrian Access and Safety Project intended to build a Class I facility to close this gap. This gap section presents many challenges as it is adjacent to an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA), includes multiple jurisdictions' right of way as well as a very steep slope. The original design in the North Fremont Bike and Pedestrian Access and Safety included retaining walls in order to preserve the ESHA and accomplish this connection. When the bids were received, this alternative was over the existing budget. Time and funding constraints from Caltrans did not allow for construction of this connection without a loss of grant funding. This project did include building a retaining wall on the NE corner of Casanova and N. Fremont that was implemented to facilitate this connection.

City staff and the engineering consulting firm working on the North Fremont Bike and Pedestrian Improvement from Casanova to Canyon Del Rey (north side) project have researched design alternatives and have been working on environmental and design since June, 2019. In order to close the gap, a bike and pedestrian bridge was determined to be the most feasible and cost effective solution to addressing the steep slope and ESHA. This bridge and sidewalk connection will provide a very critical gap closure that links North Fremont from Casanova to Canyon Del Rey and the new FORTAG trail.

**Figure 3: Concept Rendering**



## ATTACHMENTS

None

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