Exhibit 5: Mitigated Negative Declaration,Mitigation Monitoring Program, Board Resolution and Notice of Determination

Public Review Draft

LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA PROTECTED LANDS TRAILS PLAN

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

SONOMA COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Sonoma County
Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

August 2006

DESIGN, COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

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August 2006

DESIGN, COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The following proposed project has been reviewed pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the purpose of determining the likelihood of a significant adverse environmental impact occurring as a result of project completion.

LEAD AGENCY
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
747 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 100
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

CONTACT PERSON AND PHONE NUMBER
Maria J. Cipriani (707) 565-7360

CONSULTING FIRM
Design, Community & Environment (DC&E)
1625 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 300
Berkeley, CA 94709

PROJECT TITLE
Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan (Trails Plan)

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT
See attached project description

PROJECT LOCATION
Sonoma County, on the east side of the City of Sebastopol, north and south of Highway 12.

DETERMINATION
The proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment. As described in the attached Initial Study, all environmental issue areas have been considered, and any potentially significant impacts would be mitigated by policies and construction protocols in the Trails Plan and mitigation measures specified in the Initial Study. The environmental analysis results in less-

than-significant impacts regarding the issues of most concern: biological resources, cultural resources and hydrology. Air quality is a regional concern, which the Trails Plan would not impact significantly.

See attached Initial Study for documentation to support the findings.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures are included in the Initial Study to avoid potentially significant impacts.

Mitigation Measure AQ-1. The following dust control practices shall be followed during the construction phase of the project:

- Water all active construction areas at least twice daily.
- Water or cover stockpiles of debris, soil, sand or other materials that can be blown by the wind.
- Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand and other loose materials or require all trucks to maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- Apply water three times daily or apply (non-toxic) soil stabilizers on all unpaved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites.
- Sweep daily (preferably with water sweepers) all paved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites.
- Sweep streets daily (preferably with water sweepers) if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent public streets.
- Limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph.

This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-18 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-1. Prior to construction, a qualified botanist will conduct surveys of the proposed trail alignments and other trail features using protocols approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). If special-status plants are

located during these surveys, the trail or associated features will be relocated away from habitat supporting the plant, at a distance to be determined through consultation with the qualified botanist. The results of the biological surveys and any project modifications will be reported to the USFWS and CDFG for comment. This mitigation is also Construction Protocol CP-1 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-2. In order to prevent a potential "take" of California tiger salamander (CTS), measures outlined in the Conservation Strategy shall be applied to the proposed project. Additionally, the USFWS shall be consulted prior to construction to determine appropriate avoidance measures to be implemented prior to and during construction. During construction, mitigation for CTS within 1.3 miles of known breeding areas shall include:

- Daily inspections of the construction site by a USFWS approved biological monitor, as specified in the Conservation Strategy.
- CTS impact awareness training for all construction personnel prior to initiation of construction activities.
- Implementation of an erosion and sedimentation control plan to control erosion into seasonal wetlands adjacent to the trails.
- Construction activities will use existing farm access routes and staging area and minimize the size and number of new access and staging routes.
- Food and food-related trash will be enclosed in sealed trash containers daily and removed from the construction sites every three days.
- No pets will be onsite during construction. After construction, dogs on leash and horses will be allowed on multi-use trails during most of the year, unless conditions are determined to be too wet.
- A speed limit of 15 miles per hour will be adhered to within the construction site(s).
- All equipment will be maintained such that there will be no leak of automotive fluids, such as gasoline, oil, or solvents.

- Hazardous materials, such as fuels, oils, solvents etc., will be stored in sealable containers in a designated location that is at least 200 feet from aquatic sites.
- All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 200 feet away from an aquatic site.
- All grading and clearing will be conducted between April 1 and October 15.
- Project areas temporarily disturbed by construction activities will be revegetated with native plants approved by USFWS or CDFG.

This mitigation is also Construction Protocol CP-3 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-3. During trail maintenance activities in areas within 1.3 miles of known breeding of California tiger salamander, the following measures shall be implemented:

- Weed control will be limited to strips along the trail and staging areas.
- Mowing will be conducted during daylight hours and minimized during the rainy season.
- Herbicides toxic to amphibians will not be used.

This mitigation is also Construction Protocol CP-4 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-4. Potential impacts to nesting birds will be minimized by limiting construction, trimming and removal of vegetation to the non-nesting season (roughly August through May); by conducting pre-construction surveys for nesting birds prior to trail clearing; and by avoiding construction activities within 150 feet of each nest until the young have fledged. This mitigation is also Construction Protocol CP-2 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-5. During construction, the following measures shall be implemented to reduce indirect effects on riparian and wetland communities downstream and adjacent to the construction site.

- Prior to construction, the limits of construction within the wetland or riparian community will be established with construction fencing. Fences shall remain in place until construction is completed.
- Vegetation trimming and removal will be minimized at each site.
- If required for construction access, trees in close proximity to waterway crossing sites will be trimmed and allowed to re-sprout.
- Construction will take place in the dry season.
- As needed, sites will be temporarily dewatered with sheet piles or coffer dams with flows directed through a bypass pipe. Dewatering will be of short duration and at a time of year that no CTS or other special-status species are impacted.
- Hazardous materials such as fuels, oils, solvents will be stored in sealable containers in a designated location that is at least 200 feet from riparian and wetland sites.
- All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 200 feet away from riparian and wetland areas.
- Following construction, disturbed areas will be stabilized (including streambanks) with native plant materials, straw mulch tacked in place, straw wattles, silt fences, hydroseeding or similar measures which would prevent erosion.

This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-6 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-6. If trail alignment results in the loss of wetlands, wetland mitigation will be provided at a ratio of two acres for every one acre lost, or the rate recommended by the ACOE during the wetland permitting process under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-9 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-7. Where culverts will be used for waterway crossing in the Trails Plan, culvert layout and configuration shall allow for upstream and downstream fish passage. Final project design will include site specific factors for each crossing, including the timing, flows and species using the waterway. When fish passage is required, the final design will avoid culverts elevated over the surface waters, culvert velocities that are not suitable for fish passage, and water depths in the culvert that are too shallow for fish passage. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-10 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-8. Prior to trail construction, the proposed trails and other trail features will be evaluated to allow for the placement of each structure with minimal impacts to heritage trees. To the maximum extent possible, the proposed multi-use trails and other trail features will be sited outside the drip line of heritage trees. When there is no alternative alignment and trails pass through the drip line of heritage trees, no damage shall be made to tree roots from digging or other activities. If necessary, trees in close proximity to the trail or other trail features should be trimmed in keeping with accepted arboricultural practices. Trail design and construction will not alter the existing drainage, and will not result in water pooling within the drip line of heritage trees. Stockpiling, staging and equipment storage within the drip line of a heritage tree shall be prohibited. Permits for alteration of heritage and protected trees and/or grading will be coordinated with the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma. In addition, the alignment of trails and siting of other project features will avoid all oak regeneration planting areas and visible oak seedlings. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-5 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure CULT-1. Prior to construction of the proposed trails, a historic resources survey of the proposed trail alignment(s) and other trail features, i.e., staging areas, waterway crossings, picnic areas and interpretive signage, will be conducted by a qualified architectural historian. If historic buildings or structures are identified during the survey(s), the trail alignment(s) and/or associated features will be relocated away from the historic

resources(s), unless the resources are determined not to be eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources. The architectural historian will determine the required distance from the resource. A final report, including the results of the surveys and evaluations, will be provided to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-14 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure CULT-2. Prior to construction of the proposed trails, a pedestrian survey of the proposed trail alignment(s) and other trail features, i.e., staging areas, waterway crossings, picnic areas and interpretive signage, will be conducted by a qualified archaeologist. If an archaeological site(s) is identified during the survey(s), the site(s) will be recorded, including the extent of the site boundaries. The trail alignment(s) and/or associated features will be relocated away from the archaeological site(s), unless the site(s) are evaluated and determined not to be eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources. The archaeologist will determine the required distance from the resource. If the eligible site(s) cannot be avoided, the proposed trail would be designed with protective elements that would provide for trail use with minimal affect on the archeological site(s). These protective elements may include fencing, or placement of the trail on a bridge, boardwalk or earthen berm. Prior to construction, data recovery and testing would be conducted as needed. A final report, including the results of the surveys and evaluations, will be provided to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-15 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure CULT-3. If paleontological resources are encountered during grading or other soil disturbing activities, construction will be halted within 50 feet of the site and a qualified paleontologist will be contacted to investigate the find within 24 hours. If the find is deemed to be significant, a complete paleontological survey and removal of paleontological finds will be warranted prior to resuming construction activities in the area. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-16 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure CULT-4. If human remains are encountered, work will halt within 50 feet of the find and the County Coroner will be notified immediately. An archaeologist will also be contacted to evaluate the find. In accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if the Coroner recognizes the human remains to be of Native American origin or has reason to believe they are, the Coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of this identification. Subsequently, pursuant to Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code, the Native American Heritage Commission will identify a Native American Most Likely Descendent to inspect the site and provide recommendations for the proper treatment of the remains and associated grave goods. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-17 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1. Implementation of the proposed project will follow Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) recommended by the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department and/or other relevant agencies, to prevent erosion during construction. Such BMPs include the following:

- Limit construction activities to the dry season.
- Stabilize construction sites, including entrances and exits.
- Protect exposed slopes and use of straw wattles to prevent erosion.
- Minimize the spread of oil, gas and engine fluids.

This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-12 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2. Following construction, disturbed areas, including streambanks, will be stabilized with native plant materials, straw mulch tacked in place, straw wattles, silt fences, hydroseeding or similar measures that would prevent erosion. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-13 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-3. Crossing structures shall be designed to allow for passage of high flows with flows directed away from downstream channel banks. Culverts should be sized for high flows and allow flood flows to pass over the crossing without redirection of flood waters. Channel incision at each site will not be altered by culvert placement because culvert placement will not alter the slope of the channel bed. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-11 in the Trails Plan.

I INITIAL STUDY SUMMARY

1. **Project title:** Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan (Trails Plan)

2. **Lead agency name and address:**

   Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
   747 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 100
   Santa Rosa, CA 95401

3. **Contact person and phone number:**

   Maria J. Cipriani (707) 565-7360

4. **Project location:**

   Sonoma County, on the east side of the City of Sebastopol, north and south of Highway 12. Please see Figure 1 of this Initial Study.

5. **Project sponsor's name and address:**

   Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
   747 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 100
   Santa Rosa, CA 95401

6. **Sonoma County General Plan land use category and zoning:**
   - Alpha Farm and Brown Farm – Land Extensive Agriculture, 100-acre density; LEA, B6 100, portions include BR (Biotic Resources), F2 (Floodplain), SR (Scenic Resources), and Z (Second Unit Exclusion) combining districts
   - Kelly Farm – Land Extensive Agriculture, 60-acre density; LEA-B6 60, F2 (portion)
   - Stone Farm – Land Extensive Agriculture, 60-acre density; LEA-B6 60, SR, Z, F2
   - Balletto Easement – Land Extensive Agriculture, 60-acre density; LEA-B6, 60, SR, F2, BR

7. **Description of project:**

   See attached project description, Section 2 of this Initial Study.

8. **Surrounding land uses and setting**:

   Surrounding uses of this rural area include agriculture and the Laguna de Santa Rosa. To the west, the City of Sebastopol is located on the opposite side of the Laguna from the project area.

9. **Other public agencies whose approval is required:**
   - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
   - California Department of Fish and Game
   - Regional Water Quality Control Board

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- County of Sonoma
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Sebastopol

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, as indicated by the checklist on the following pages, involving at least one impact that could have a significant impact, which has been reduced to less-than-significant impacts by incorporation of mitigation measures.

	Aesthetics		Agriculture Resources	X	Air Quality
X	Biological Resources	X	Cultural Resources		Geology / Soils
	Hazards / Hazardous Materials	X	Hydrology / Water Quality		Land Use
	Mineral Resources		Noise		Population / Housing
	Public Services		Recreation		Transportation / Traffic
	Utilities / Service Systems		Mandatory Findings of Significance		

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.
X	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 revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. 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 _____ Date _____

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Laguna de Santa Rosa is the largest freshwater wetland complex in Sonoma County. Its 250-square-mile watershed includes the communities of Windsor, Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Sebastopol and Forestville. Figure 1 shows the Laguna's location within the region. The Laguna is the primary drainage of the Santa Rosa Plain and also functions as a major floodwater storage basin for the lower Russian River. The aquatic, riparian and upland habitats of the Laguna are biologically rich and diverse, and support a number of rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan (Trails Plan) proposes a trail system located along a portion of the Laguna de Santa Rosa east of the City of Sebastopol in Sonoma County as shown in Figure 2. The proposed trails would be located on four properties owned by the City of Santa Rosa and one privately-owned property for which the County of Sonoma has received irrevocable offers to dedicate trail easements. These properties are commonly known as Alpha Farm, Brown Farm, Kelly Farm, Stone Farm and the Balletto Easement. Additionally, the County has received an irrevocable offer to dedicate fee over the Balletto Easement.

This Initial Study evaluates the Trails Plan, which is a conceptual plan for trails and other trail features on the study properties. This Initial Study also evaluates the construction of the proposed trails and other trail features on Kelly Farm and the southern portion of the Balletto Easement (Phase 1). Phase 1 is a trail segment of independent utility because it provides recreational trails and interpretive opportunities on the Kelly Farm and Balletto Easement that further link with trails on the Laguna Wetlands Preserve. Future phases of construction on the study properties are speculative at this time and are dependent on the availability of future funding.

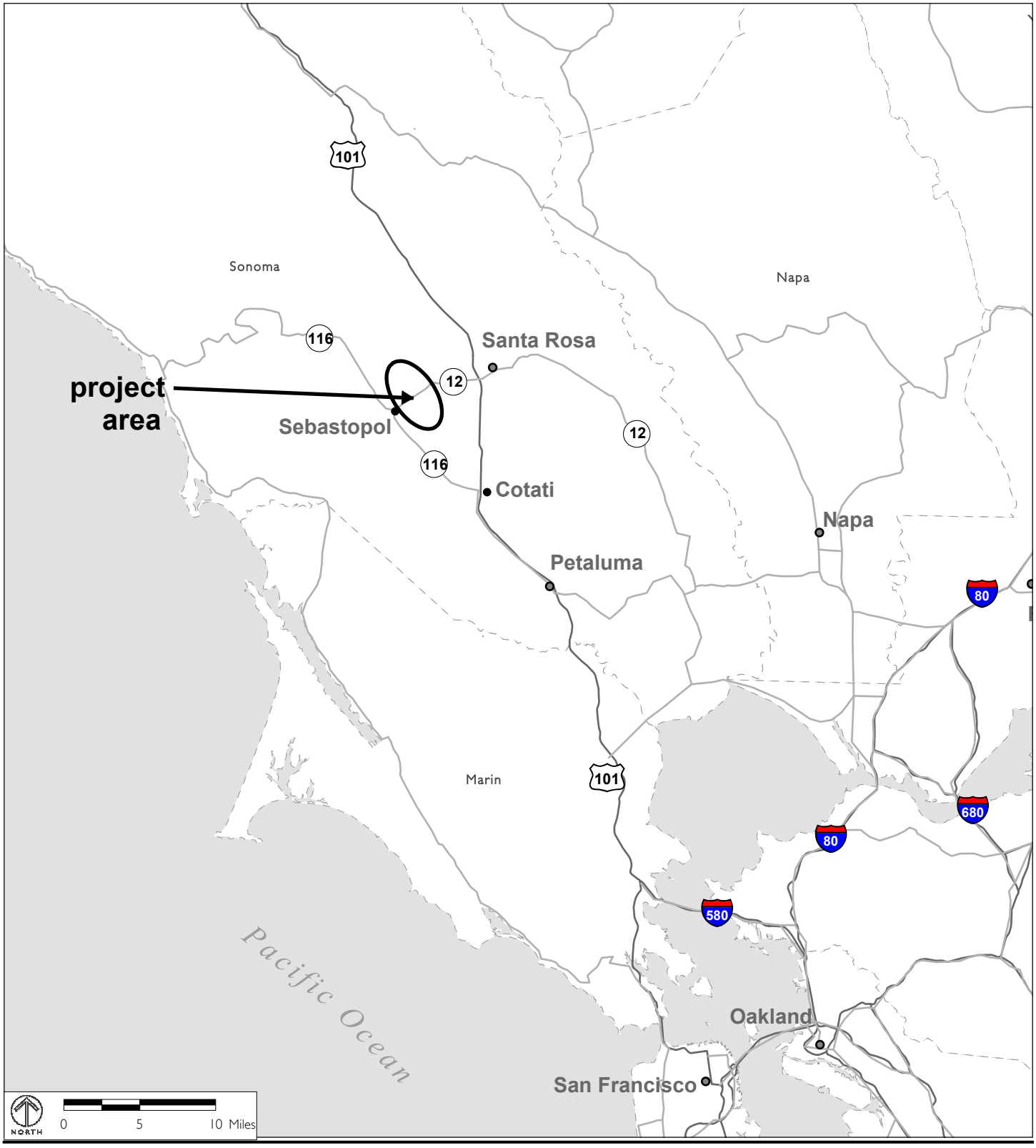
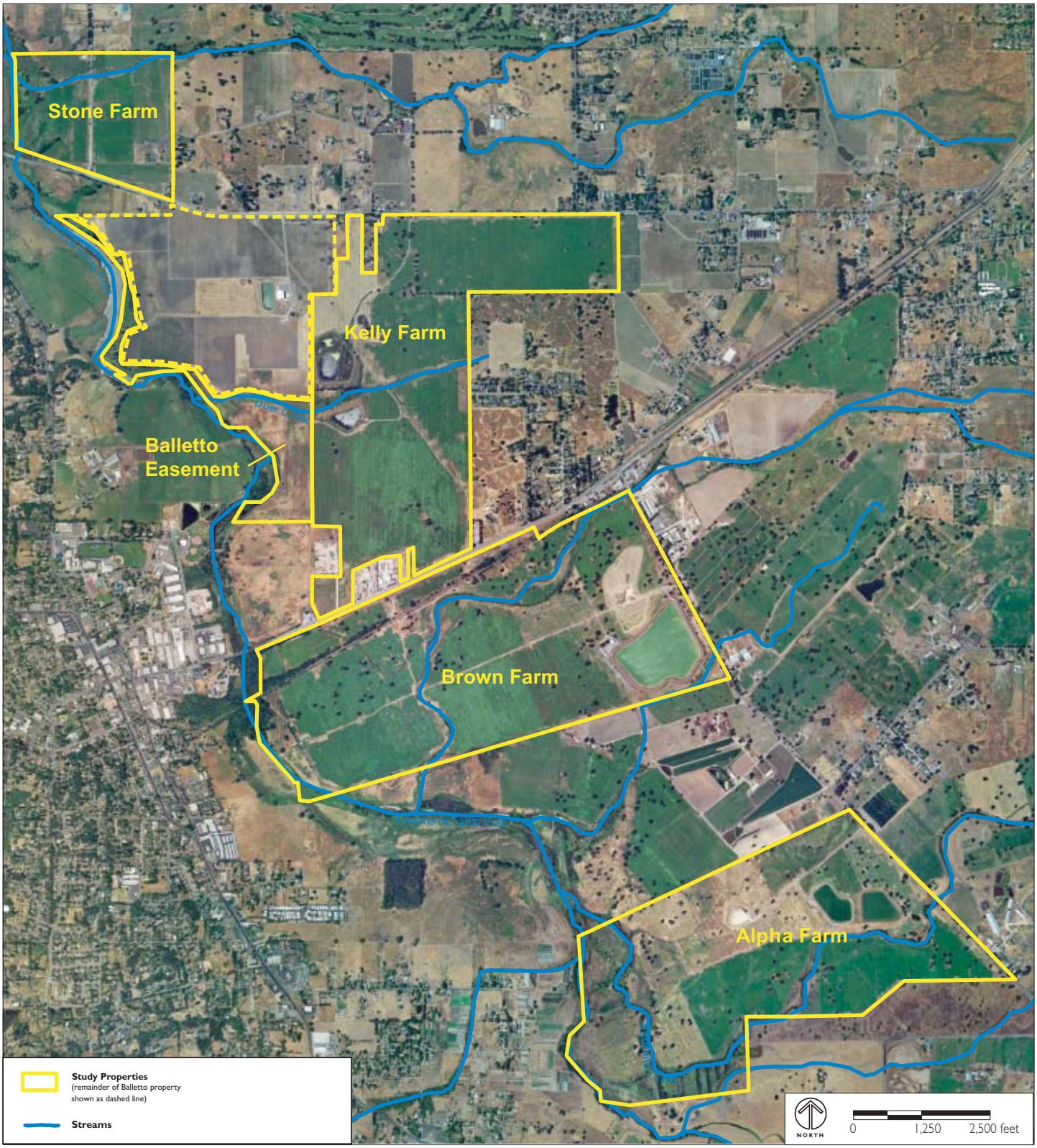


FIGURE 1

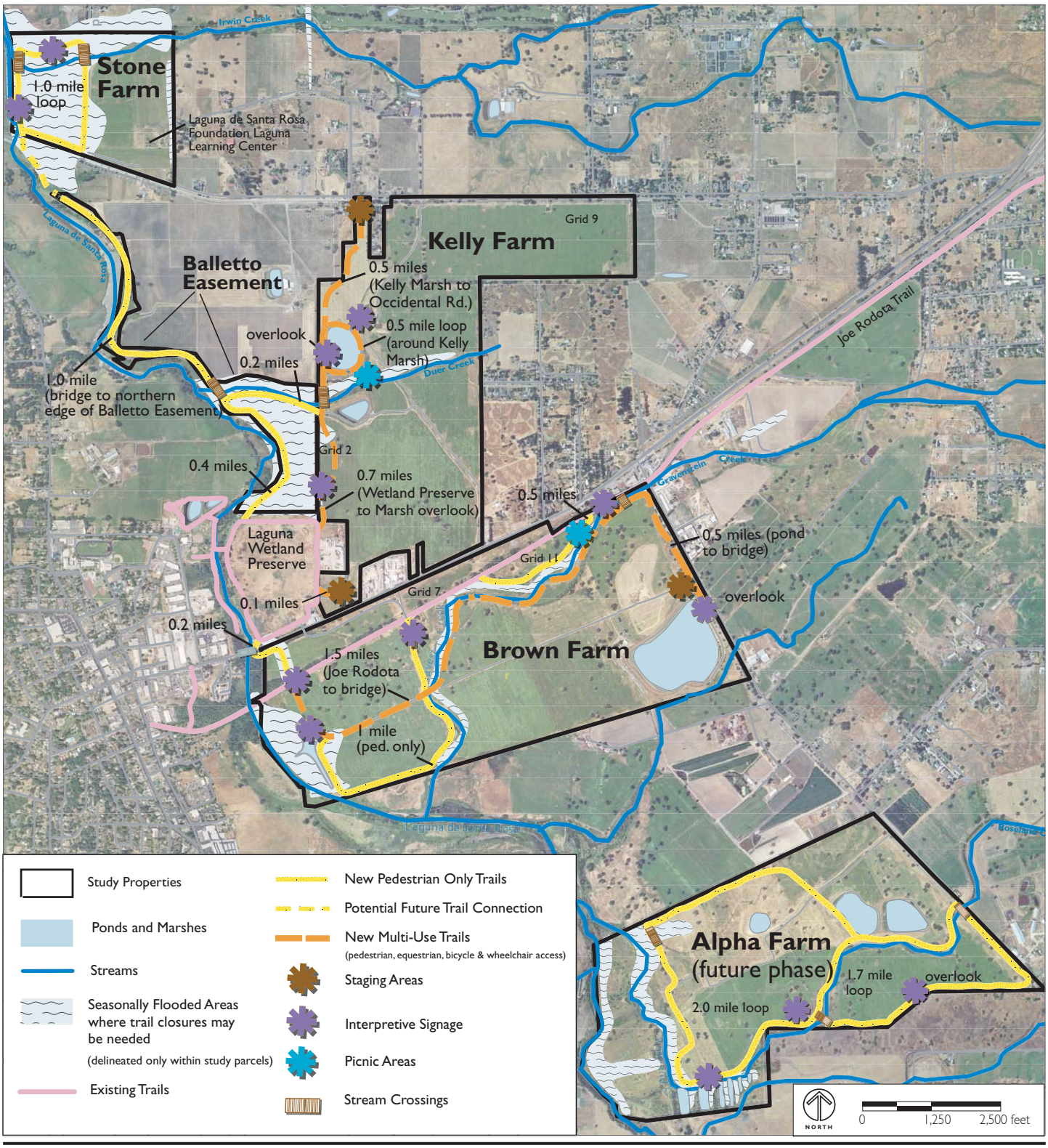
REGIONAL LOCATION



Data Source: Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District

FIGURE 2

PROJECT AREA



Data Source: Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District, City of Santa Rosa (Denise Cadman), GANDA

FIGURE 3

TRAILS PLAN

A. Trails Plan

The preferred alignment for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan is depicted in Figure 3. The Trails Plan includes pedestrian-only trails, multi-use trails, seven creek crossings, two undercrossings, three staging areas, two picnic areas and multiple interpretive opportunities over the study properties.

As part of the Trails Plan, policies have been developed to guide the plan's implementation. Together with the Trails Plan, these policies support the project goals developed as part of the project and described in Chapter 1 of the Trails Plan document. They have been developed to address the protection of natural resources and to guide the implementation of the Trails Plan. They are included for reference as Appendix A of this Initial Study. In addition to these policies, Construction Protocols have been developed to guide the construction of the project. These protocols would be followed as part of trail design and construction for any trails and other project features as part of the implementation of the Trails Plan.

1. Trail Alignments

The Trails Plan includes approximately twelve miles of trails. The proposed trails are generally located in the area that is not currently farmed, between the Laguna and the agricultural areas. This ensures that there would be minimal conflict between trail use and habitat functions, as well as between trail use and farming operations. In addition, the trails do not enter the Laguna, but instead follow the edge of the riparian vegetation along the Laguna. Description of the trails on each property follows.

- **Alpha Farm.** Trails at Alpha Farm would be pedestrian-only trails. Approximately 3.5 miles of trails are proposed on Alpha Farm. These trails would follow along the north side of the Roseland Creek corridor and make use of the Alpha Farm Road that is parallel to the Laguna. Three potential creek crossings or boardwalks are located on Alpha Farm. The pedestrian trail would follow along the northern edge of Alpha Farm,

creating a loop. Another loop would bring pedestrian trail users to the southern edge of the property, with views toward the Todd Road Ecological Preserve.

- **Brown Farm.** Approximately 3.7 miles of trails are proposed at Brown Farm. A multi-use trail would run parallel to Llano Road from the Brown Farm Pond and connect to the Joe Rodota Trail. This multi-use trail would continue along the south side of Gravenstein Creek and connect with the existing farm road at the creek crossing. The trail would then pass by the Brown Farm Recovery Area toward the Joe Rodota Trail. A pedestrian trail also would run along the north side of Gravenstein Creek, connecting to the Joe Rodota Trail. Another pedestrian trail would follow the Recovery Area south to the property line, and along the western side of Gravenstein Creek, and follow an unimproved farm road to the Joe Rodota Trail. A crossing under Highway 12 at the Caltrans bridge, which is being upgraded, would connect trails between the south and north sides of Highway 12.

- **Kelly Farm.** A 1.8-mile multi-use trail would be located along the western property line of Kelly Farm and along the Kelly Marsh levee, between a staging area off Occidental Road and a staging area off of Highway 12. This trail would connect at the southwest corner of Kelly Farm with the City of Sebastopol Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetland Preserve Trails (Wetland Preserve Trails). The multi-use trail would also connect with the Balletto Easement to the west. In addition, a multi-use trail is proposed around Kelly Marsh.

- **Balletto Easement.** Approximately 1.6 miles of pedestrian trails are proposed on the Balletto Easement. A trail would connect to the Wetland Preserve Trails to the south, and follow the Laguna north to Occidental Road, through County property located between the Balletto Easement and Occidental Road. An undercrossing at the bridge on Occidental Road would allow for safe passage to Stone Farm. Another pedestrian trail segment would follow Duer Creek to connect with the Kelly Farm multi-use trail.

- **Stone Farm.** A pedestrian trail on Stone Farm would create a one-mile loop around the farm property, making use of an existing cattle bridge to cross Irwin Creek.

2. Trail Types

Two types of trails are proposed as part of the Trails Plan:

- **Pedestrian-only Trails.** Pedestrian trails would be two to four feet wide and would initially be mowed or cleared. Construction would include light grading to create an even surface and to clear vegetation along pedestrian trails. Maintenance of the trails would include clearing debris and trimming vegetation along the sides and above the trails, as necessary. No dogs would be allowed on these trails. The pedestrian trails, which are in the floodplain, would be closed seasonally. Signage would be posted to inform people of this policy. A gate would be installed at the existing break in the fence between Kelly Farm and the Balletto property, as well as between the Balletto property and the Laguna Wetland Preserve. During winter months, the gate would be closed and a sign posted, indicating that trails are temporarily closed due to wet conditions.
- **Multi-use Trails.** Multi-use trails would be approximately six to eight feet wide with a one-foot shoulder on each side. The surface would be comprised of crushed fines or gravel, combined with a stabilizer, which allows some water to infiltrate. An erosion control fabric would be used below the trails' surface material in order to minimize erosion. These trails would have slopes no greater than 5 percent, and would be accessible to bicyclists and wheelchair users. Multi-use trails would allow equestrians and dogs on leash during most of the year. However, when conditions are determined by the maintaining agency to be too wet, signs would be placed at trailheads indicating that trails are temporarily closed to horses and dogs due to wet conditions.

3. Staging Areas

A total of three staging areas are proposed to be located on two of the study properties for public parking. These staging areas would have a gravel base, allowing for infiltration, although the wheelchair-accessible parking spaces

would be paved. Trash receptacles and informational signage would be available at the staging areas; restrooms and running water would not be provided.

- **Brown Farm.** A staging area is proposed at Brown Farm at the existing gravel parking area at the entrance to the farm property from Llano Road. The Brown Farm staging area would accommodate up to 20 vehicles. Because the area is used for agricultural activities during several two- to three-week long periods during the summer and fall, signage would be required to indicate that the staging area was closed to the public during those times. The staging area would also be fenced in order to limit public access to the eastern portion of Brown Farm. Visitors arriving at the Brown Farm staging area would be directed north along the trail proposed to run parallel to Llano Road.

- **Kelly Farm.** Two staging areas are proposed on Kelly Farm, providing access to each end of the multi-use trail on this property. A small staging area is proposed at the northwest corner of Kelly Farm, accessed from Occidental Road. This staging area would be large enough to accommodate eight vehicle and one wheelchair-accessible parking spaces. A second staging area would be located at a flat area at the southwest corner of Kelly Farm, accessed from a City-owned road connecting to Highway 12. This staging area would accommodate twelve vehicles, one wheelchair-accessible space, and space for three horse trailers. The trail would head west from the staging area and connect to the Wetland Preserve Trails. Another connection would be made between the Kelly Farm mixed-use trail and the Wetland Preserve Trails at the northeast corner of the City of Sebastopol's property.

4. Picnic Areas and Overlooks

Interpretive elements and furnishings are proposed for trails on three City farms. The following picnic areas and overlooks are proposed as part of the Trails Plan.

- **Alpha Farm.** Overlooks on Alpha Farm would provide viewing opportunities of the Todd Road Ecological Preserve.

- **Brown Farm.** A picnic area would be located near the pedestrian trail in Grid 11, just north of Gravenstein Creek. An overlook at Brown Pond would allow for views of birds using the pond, and a view toward the north and west over Brown Farm.
- **Kelly Farm.** A small picnic area currently exists on Kelly Farm, south of Kelly Pond. A more formal picnic area, including wheelchair-accessible picnic tables and interpretive signage, are proposed at this location. An overlook would be located at the southwest corner of Kelly Marsh, allowing for sweeping views over the Balletto Easement and toward the Laguna.

5. Estimated Trail Usage

Based on information regarding the use pattern at Sonoma County parks with trails, it appears that the Trails Plan would attract approximately 30,000 visitors per year at Plan buildout and approximately 20,000 visitors per year during Phase 1.[1] While the number of trail users per day would vary widely depending on the season and the local weather, the Plan estimates an average 75 to 85 people on the proposed trails per day at buildout and 50 to 60 trail users per day during Phase 1. This is shown more specifically in Table 1.

6. Biological Resources and Restoration Areas

The project area supports a diversity of habitat types under a variety of management intensities, ranging from highly disturbed agricultural fields to areas with little or no present usage. These conditions provide habitat for a variety of special-status species. The Trails Plan proposes to protect sensitive habitat and restore any areas disturbed by trail construction, including placing restrictive fencing, signage and plantings.

---

[1] Jim McCray, Division Manager, Sonoma County Regional Parks, personal communication with Sara Press, DC&E. April 12 and July 28, 2006. Estimate based on Pinnacle Gulch, which has 15,000 to 20,000 visitors per year and 15 to 20 parking spaces, some of which are usually available.

TABLE 1 **PROJECTED VISITORS, VEHICLE TRIPS AND PARKING SPACES**

	Plan Buildout	Phase 1
Total visitors per year	30,000	20,000
Average daily visitors	82	55
Average daily vehicle trips [a]	41	28
Parking spaces provided [b]	45	25
Parking spaces available per day [c]	135	75
Average daily parking surplus	94	47

[a] assumes two visitors per vehicle
[b] includes wheelchair-accessible and horse trailer spaces
[c] assumes three rounds of parking space turnovers per average day

Plant and animal species that are federally- and/or State-listed are known to occur in the project area. In addition, potential habitat is present, or potentially restorable habitat is present on the subject properties.[2] Two species of special-status plants, Sebastopol meadowfoam *(Limnanthes vinculans)* and Lobb's aquatic buttercup (*Ranunculus lobbii*), have been found within vernal pool and vernal swale habitat in the project area within recent years.[3] Additional special-status plants found within the project area include: Sonoma sunshine *(Blennosperma bakeri)*, Burke's goldfields *(Lasthenia burkei)* and showy Indian clover (*Trifolium amoenum*).

Special-status birds with high potential to occur in freshwater marsh habitats on the study properties include American bittern *(Botaurus lentiginosus)* and

[2] *Biological Resource Analysis for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan*, Garcia and Associates, January 2006.

[3] Denise Cadman, City of Santa Rosa, personal communications, Fall 2004 and Winter 2005.

northern harrier *(Circus cyaneus).* Existing riparian woodlands provide potential nesting habitat for special-status bird species including Allen's hummingbird *(Selasphorus sasin)*, California thrasher *(Toxostoma redivivum)*, Vaux's swift *(Chaetura vauxi)*, and yellow warbler *(Dendroica petechia brewsteri).* There is potential wintering habitat for Cooper's hawk *(Accipiter cooperi)* and bald eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)*, while oak woodlands and savannas provide suitable nesting habitat for white-tailed kite *(Elanus leucurus)*, loggerhead shrike *(Lanius ludovicianus)* and oak titmouse *(Baeolophus inornatus)*.[4]

Other animal species considered to have high potential to occur, based on documented records of the species in or near the project area and the presence of suitable habitat, include juvenile steelhead *(Oncorhynchus mykiss)*, northwestern pond turtle *(Clemmys marmorata marmorata)*, and two bats, Yuma myotis *(Myotis yumanensis)* and Townsend's western big-eared bat *(Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii)*.[5]

The project area also supports an extensive and irreplaceable collection of heritage-quality trees, especially valley oaks. Heritage valley oaks occur as impressive stands and as isolated individuals along the proposed trail routes. The proposed trail alignments would not require removal of any heritage trees.

There are a number of projects that either currently exist or are planned to restore special-status species and habitats, including Sebastopol meadowfoam, California tiger salamander (CTS) and valley oak. Specific restoration efforts on the study properties are listed below.

- **Alpha Farm.** Pedestrian trails on Alpha Farm would pass near the Spring Creek mitigation area on the southern portion of the property.

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[4] *Biological Resource Analysis for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan*, Garcia and Associates, January 2006.

[5] *Biological Resource Analysis for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan*, Garcia and Associates, January 2006.

- **Brown Farm.** Restoration of Sebastopol meadowfoam is currently being conducted on Grid 11, just north of Gravenstein Creek.
- **Kelly Farm.** The northeast portion of Kelly Farm is a CTS Conservation Area, and no trails are proposed in the vicinity of this area. In addition, an oak restoration project is proposed on Grid 2, an area south of Kelly Marsh that is currently being irrigated. The Kelly Farm multi-use trail would curve away from the western fence line in this area, and would run between this restoration area and the actively irrigated fields, approximately 250 feet from the fence line.
- **Balletto Easement.** Restoration plantings have been proposed along the Laguna on the Balletto Easement. Trail construction near this area would include native plantings.[6] In addition, removal of invasive plant species would occur along a portion of the Balletto Easement near the Laguna.
- **Stone Farm.** Exclusionary fencing is being constructed along Irwin Creek in order to keep grazing livestock from accessing the creek channel. Trails construction near this area would include revegetation of disturbed areas with native plant species.

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation will be completing habitat restoration projects on the Balletto Easement, Kelly Farm and Stone Farm in 2006 and 2007. The District will coordinate with the Foundation regarding the exact timing and location of trails and restoration activities.

B. Trails Plan Phase 1

As part of the Trails Plan, a subset of the trails and associated elements were selected to be the first phase of implementation. This phase will be referred

[6]The specific plants would be selected among native species found in the area, and the planting recommendations would be developed in consultation with the City of Santa Rosa in order to be consistent with the City's ongoing revegetation efforts along Irwin Creek.

to as Phase 1 throughout the remainder of this document, and is analyzed as part of this Initial Study. Phase 1 of the Trails Plan includes approximately 2.4 miles of trails, as seen in Figure 4, with pedestrian-only trails, multi-use trails, one creek crossing and two staging areas over Kelly Farm and the Balletto Easement.

1. Kelly Farm

The 1.8-mile multi-use trail described above on Kelly Farm would be constructed in Phase 1.

a. Kelly Marsh and Pond Trails

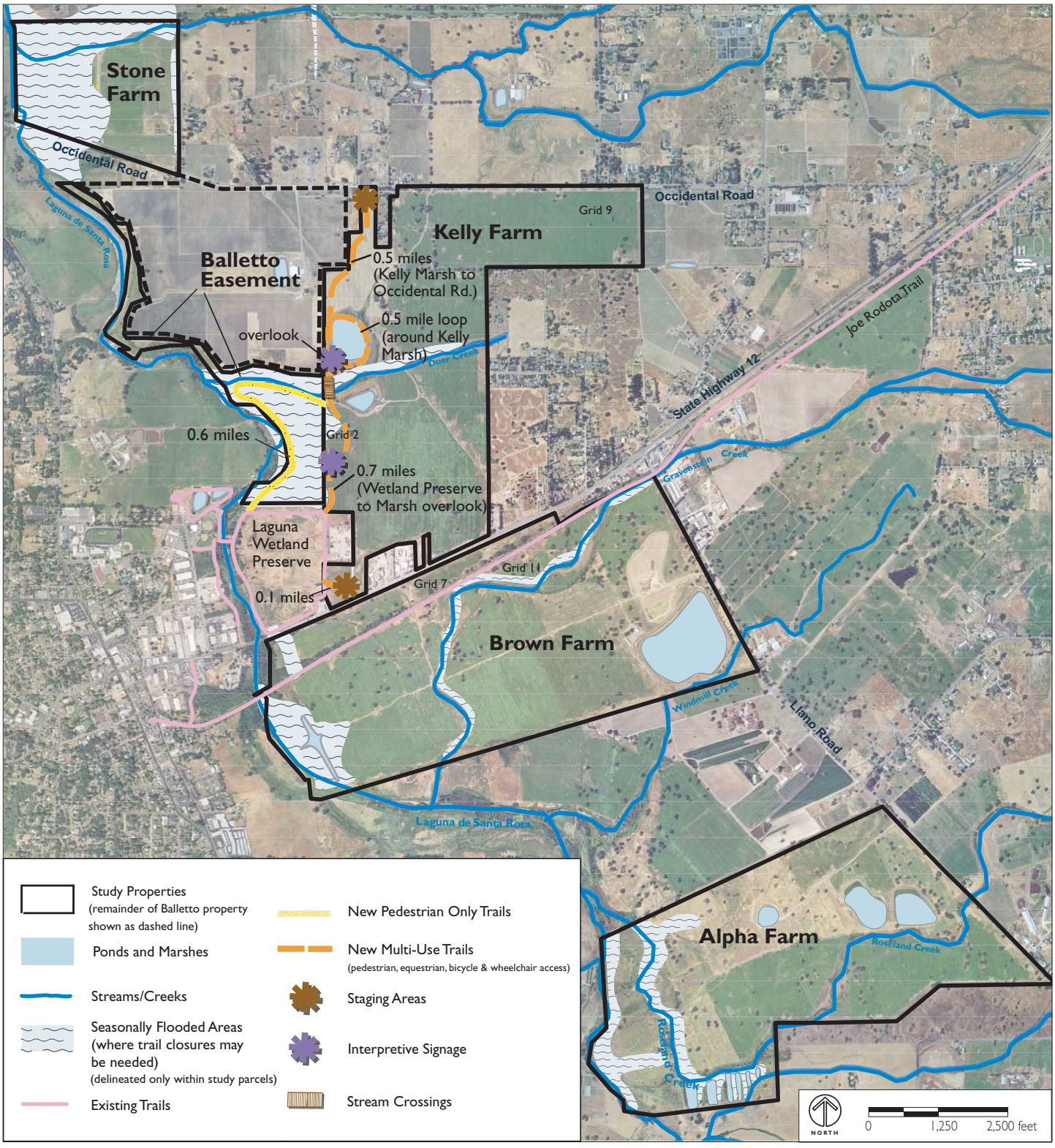
Kelly Marsh and Kelly Pond are two water features on Kelly Farm that the proposed trail would access, at least visually. The existing path along Kelly Marsh would be improved as an accessible, year-round trail. The higher elevation of the marsh would provide excellent views from the overlook, as described above, over the Balletto Easement and toward the Laguna and hills to the west.

b. Staging Areas

The two staging areas on Kelly Farm are part of Phase 1. As discussed above, access to these staging areas would be from Occidental Road at the existing entry to Kelly Farm on Occidental Road, and from Highway 12 at a City-owned road that intersects with Highway 12. As part of Phase 1, the number of parking spaces constructed on Kelly Farm would total 20 unpaved parking spaces, two wheelchair-accessible parking spaces and three spaces for horse trailers. The wheelchair-accessible spaces would be paved with asphalt.

2. Balletto Easement

The Balletto Easement provides a linkage between the Laguna and Kelly Farm to the east, as well as to the Wetlands Preserve Trails to the south. The Easement is located entirely within the floodplain and the surrounding properties drain into this low-lying site. There are well-developed stands of riparian woodland along the Laguna on this property.



Data Source: Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District, City of Santa Rosa (Denise Cadman), GANDA

FIGURE 4

PHASE I TRAILS

Approximately 0.6 miles of pedestrian trails are proposed on the Balletto Easement as part of Phase 1. This portion of the trail would connect to Kelly Farm along Duer Creek and to the Wetland Preserve Trails to the south.

3. Phase 1 Creek Crossings

One creek crossing is proposed as part of the Phase 1 project, to cross over Duer Creek, which runs through Kelly Farm and the Balletto Easement. This crossing at the Kelly Marsh complex would utilize an existing berm and make some slight modifications to the facility spill control structure. The Duer Creek crossing would consist of a concrete slab that would pass over an existing asphalt culvert that releases water from Kelly Marsh into Duer Creek. Improvement of the surface of this culvert would allow the multi-use trail to pass over it without interrupting its hydrological function. This modification would be designed so that water could continue to pass over it during periods of high flows.

4. Phase 1 Heritage Trees

No heritage trees would be removed under Phase 1. Implementation of the proposed Phase 1 project would include a multi-use trail along the western margin of Kelly Farm, past scattered heritage class valley oaks, and a pedestrian trail from Kelly Farm west towards the Laguna, then south along the Laguna. There is a single heritage tree located near the Duer Creek crossing at the Kelly Marsh complex, which the proposed Phase 1 trail alignment would not require to be removed.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

This chapter contains the Environmental Checklist used by the District to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed project. Following the checklist is the evaluation of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan, which includes the Phase 1 component.

Environmental Topic	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Aesthetics				
Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			X	
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				X
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			X	
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X
2. Agriculture 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 Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland.				
Would the project:				
a. 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?			X	
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?			X	
c. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?			X	

Environmental Topic	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3. Air Quality Where available, the significance of criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct the applicable air quality plan?			X	
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?		X		
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			X	
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				X
4. Biological Resources The following analysis of project-related impacts on biological resources is based on a review of existing information from the trail planning area summarized by Garcia and Associates in 2005. Would the project:				
a. 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 Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?		X		

Environmental Topic	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. 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.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?		X		
d. 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?		X		
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?		X		
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?		X		
5. Cultural Resources				
The following discussion is based on a cultural resources records search conducted for the project area by Garcia and Associates in June 2004.				
Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5?		X		
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5?		X		
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?		X		
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?		X		

Environmental Topic	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
6. Geology and Soils Would the project:				
a. 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.			X	
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			X	
iv. Landslides, mudslides or other similar hazards?			X	
b. Result in substantial erosion or loss of topsoil?			X	
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable as a result of on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?			X	
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?			X	
e. 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?			X	

Environmental Topic	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
7. Hazards and Hazardous Materials Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
b. 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?				X
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X
d. 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?				X
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
h. 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?			X	

Environmental Topic	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
8. Hydrology and Water Quality Would the project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				X
b. 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?			X	
c. 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?		X		
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface water runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X	
e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			X	
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			X	
g. Place housing 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?				X
h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flows?				X

Environmental Topic	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i. 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?			X	
j. Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				X
9. Land Use Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?				X
b. 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?			X	
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?			X	
10. Mineral Resources Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?			X	
b. 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?			X	
11. Noise Would the project:				
a. 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?			X	
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?				X

Environmental Topic	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private air-strip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
12. Population and Housing Would the project:				
a. 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)?				X
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessi-tating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
13. Public Services Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental 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:				
a. Fire protection?			X	
b. Police protection?			X	

Environmental Topic	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Schools?				X
d. Parks?				X
14. Recreation Would the project:				
a. 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?				X
b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?			X	
15. Transportation/Traffic Would the project:				
a. Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?			X	
b. Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?			X	
c. 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?				X
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			X	
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?			X	
f. Result in inadequate parking capacity?			X	

Environmental Topic	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				X
16. Utilities and Services				
Would the project:				
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
b. 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?				X
c. 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?			X	
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X
e. 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?				X
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				X
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X

Environmental Topic	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
17. Mandatory Findings of Significance				
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 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?			X	
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)?			X	
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				X

4 EXPLANATIONS OF CHECKLIST FINDINGS

This section provides the background and evaluation of each of the environmental topics summarized above. The evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed project includes both the proposed Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan and the Phase 1 components. Potential impacts that are particular to Phase 1 are called out separately. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires mitigation of potentially significant impacts only.

1. Aesthetics

a. There are no officially recognized scenic vistas in the proposed project area. The study area is within a Community Separator, which is a designation used by the City of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County in their General Plans to ensure visual separation between the urban areas of cities located within the county.[1] The Laguna itself, and the Trails Plan study area, lie within this greenbelt between Santa Rosa and Sebastopol.

The proposed Trails Plan does not propose any new buildings or structures that would affect the views or character of the Community Separator. Proposed improvements such as the trails, interpretive signage, benches and picnic areas would generally not be visible passing by the study properties on Highway 12, Occidental Road or Llano Road.

The northern and southern Kelly Farm staging areas, as proposed in Phase 1, may be somewhat visible from Occidental Road and Highway 12, respectively, but would be somewhat screened by vegetation. Additionally, the southern staging area would be located near light industrial uses along Highway 12, and the northern staging area is currently used as an entrance for farm machinery and docent-led trips. The proposed staging areas would be consistent with surrounding uses, and would not affect the existing rural character. The view across fields and to the Laguna, with open vistas of oak woodlands and riparian vegetation, would not be blocked by the proposed project. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts related to scenic views, resources, character and visual quality.

b. The proposed project would not be located within a State scenic highway; therefore, implementation of the proposed Trails Plan would result in no aesthetic impact.

c. See answer 1a.

d. The Trails Plan does not propose any sources of light or glare and therefore, would have no impact on day or nighttime views in the area. There is potential for an increase in glare on a sunny days from cars at the staging areas, but it would not be substantial, as vehicles currently park at the existing entrances to Brown and Kelly Farms and the increase in number of cars would not be significant. Furthermore, existing vegetation would help screen the cars from the adjacent roads, resulting in a less-than-significant impact.

[1] City of Santa Rosa 2020 General Plan and 1989 Sonoma County General Plan.

2. Agricultural Resources

a. The Trails Plan proposes trails on four properties owned by the City of Santa Rosa and one privately-owned property for which Sonoma County has received irrevocable offers to dedicate trail easements. There is Prime Farmland on Brown Farm, Kelly Farm and the Balletto Easement, and areas of Farmland of Statewide Significance on each of the five properties.[2] However, the land where the trails and other features would be located is not actively farmed; the trails would be either on the fringe of a riparian corridor, under riparian vegetation, through oak upland, or in other non-agricultural areas. Implementation of the proposed project would not involve changes in the existing environment that could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. Therefore, use of this land for trails would result in less-than-significant impacts in regard to conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses.

b. The farm properties on which the Trails Plan proposes trails are not under Williamson Act contracts. The Balletto property, including the Balletto Easement, is under a Williamson Act contract. The proposed pedestrian-only trails would generally consist of mowed surfaces, and would be located along the Laguna channel and just south of Duer Creek in an area characterized by riparian habitat, emergent wetland and non-native annual grassland, where native oak and plant restoration has occurred. The Balletto Easement is subject to seasonal flooding, and is not actively farmed. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with the Williamson Act contract on the property, resulting in a less-than-significant impact.

c. Implementation of the proposed project would not involve changes in the existing environment that could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts.

3. Air Quality

a. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is the local agency that regulates stationary sources of air pollution. The air quality monitoring station closest to the project site is located in Santa Rosa. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in emissions from industrial facilities, commercial processes, or from a significant number of vehicle trips.

Traffic and automobile travel are the most significant sources of air emissions. The number of vehicle trips expected to be generated by anticipated users of the proposed trails would not impact air quality. At buildout, an estimated 30,000 users per year[3] would be expected to generate between 40 to 45 vehicle trips per day,[4] regardless

[2] State Department of Conservation, 2002.

[3] Jim McCray, Division Manager, Sonoma County Regional Parks, personal communication, July 28, 2006.

[4] An average of 30,000 users per year, divided by 365 days per year, equals 82 users per day. Assuming two users per vehicle, 82 users would equal 41 vehicle trips per day.

of where the vehicle parks. For Phase 1, an estimated 20,000 users per year would generate between 25 and 30 trips per day,[5] regardless of where the vehicle parks. These numbers of trips are minimal in relation to the existing number of trips in the area. Therefore, significant new air quality impacts are not anticipated as a result of implementation of the proposed project. See Table 1 of the Project Description for more specific information.

During construction, any increase in traffic would be negligible. One small to mid-sized machine for grading would be needed and it would be staged onsite. No significant number of vehicle trips during construction are anticipated. Thus, the proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the current 2005 Ozone Strategy.

b. The entire Bay Area is in "non-attainment" for both particulate matter (PM_{10}) and ozone. Fine particulate matter in the form of fugitive dust would be the pollutant of greatest concern during construction of the proposed project. Emissions of particulate matter can result from excavation, grading or vehicle travel on unpaved surfaces and diesel equipment exhausts. Construction of the proposed project would involve slight amounts of grading, particularly to connect the south end of Kelly Marsh with the Balletto Easement below, which could result in emissions of particulate matter. Any emissions would be temporary during trail construction; and furthermore, implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would ensure that potential air quality impacts during the construction phase of the project would be reduced to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure AQ-1. The following dust control practices shall be followed during the construction phase of the project:

- Water all active construction areas at least twice daily.
- Water or cover stockpiles of debris, soil, sand or other materials that can be blown by the wind.
- Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand and other loose materials or require all trucks to maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- Apply water three times daily or apply (non-toxic) soil stabilizers on all unpaved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites.
- Sweep daily (preferably with water sweepers) all paved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites.
- Sweep streets daily (preferably with water sweepers) if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent public streets.
- Limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph.

This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-18 in the Trails Plan.

[5] 20,000 divided by 365 equals 55 users per day, which would result in 28 vehicle trips per day.

c. The Bay Area is designated as a marginal non-attainment area of the national 8-hour ozone standard, as well as a non-attainment area of the State 1-hour ozone, 24-hour particulate matter (PM_{10}) and fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$). The proposed pedestrian and multi-use trails could result in a slight, temporary increase of particulate matter during construction. Implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1, in addition to the amount of construction proposed within the context of the larger Bay Area region, would result in a less-than-significant impact on the cumulative net increase in ozone or PM.

d. The proposed project would attract people to the project area, which would bring people into the vicinity of agriculture and farming practices. No new residents or other sensitive receptors are proposed in this project, and thus, they would not be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations. However, as farming practice on the Balletto property, pesticides are occasionally sprayed on the existing vineyards. Spraying occurs only on the farm itself, not within the Balletto Easement. Plan Policy AIR-2 ensures that signs be posted before and during spraying, temporarily closing the trail on the Balletto Easement, and keeping people away from the spraying. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact related to exposing sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

e. Implementation of the proposed Trails Plan, which includes trails and other trail features, would not create objectionable odors, and therefore, would result in no impact related to the creation of objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

4. Biological Resources

The following analysis of project-related impacts on biological resources is based on a review of existing information from the trail planning area summarized by Garcia and Associates in 2005. This summary includes a review of the 2005 California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB), as well as site specific investigations conducted within the Laguna de Santa Rosa. This information was supplemented by the recently completed Final Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy.[6]

a. If any trail or other trail features were placed within or through a rare plant population, it could result in the loss of habitat and individual special-status plants, which would constitute a significant adverse impact. However, Plan Policy BIO-1 states that trails and other trail features will avoid existing populations of special-status species. In addition, implementation of Mitigation Measure BIOL-1 would reduce the potential for significant impacts on special-status species and their habitat to less-than-significant levels.

[6] Conservation Strategy Team Group, Final Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy, 2005.

Recent surveys of the Kelly Farm and Balletto Easement for Phase 1 did not identify habitat for special-status plants. Therefore, the proposed project on these properties is expected to have less-than-significant impacts on special-status plant populations and habitats.[7]

The proposed trails and other trail features could impact California tiger salamander *(Ambystoma californiense*) or California tiger salamander (CTS) habitat. CTS breed in vernal pools and other seasonal or permanent ponds, and spend up to 90 percent of their lives in upland habitats. They typically occur in grassland and oak savanna habitats and use rodent burrows or deep soil crevices as long-term refuge sites. Individuals may move as far as 1.3 miles between breeding ponds and upland refuge sites. Adult salamanders migrate from upland habitats to breeding ponds during late fall and early winter.[8]

CTS have been documented both within and adjacent to the study area. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) reports 18 occurrences of CTS within approximately two miles of the study area, primarily located east of Alpha, Brown and Kelly Farms. CTS have recently been detected on and immediately adjacent to Kelly Farm, in Grid 9 in the northeastern portion of Kelly Farm, and also adjacent to the southern portion of Kelly Farm, in November 2003.[9]

Within the study area, the upland areas and eastern side of Kelly, Brown and Alpha farms, could provide terrestrial habitat for CTS, including a few pools that could hold water for long enough (into mid-spring) to support CTS breeding. Although most of the pools in these areas are in relatively degraded condition due to intensive hay production activities, some could potentially support CTS breeding. [10]

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the Sonoma County CTS as federally endangered on March 19, 2003[11] but proposed on May 23, 2003 to list the entire CTS species complex statewide, including the Sonoma County population, as a threatened species.[12] Any harm or disturbance of individuals would likely be considered a "take" by the USFWS, which is prohibited under Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act. However,

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[7] "Laguna Trails: Balletto Easement reconnaissance for rare plant habitat." Garcia and Associates, 2006; "Laguna Trails: Kelly Farm reconnaissance for rare plant habitat." Garcia and Associates, 2006.

[8] *Interim Guidance on Conducting Site Assessments and Field Surveys for Determining Presence or a Negative Finding of the California Tiger Salamander*, USFWS and CDFG, October 2003 referenced in *Biological Resource Analysis for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan*, Garcia and Associates, January 2006.

[9] California Natural Diversity Data Base, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), 2004.

[10] Personal communication between Denise Cadman and Garcia and Associates, 2004.

[11] "Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; determination of endangered status for the Sonoma County Distinct Population Segment of the California tiger salamander; Final rule." Federal Register 68 (53): 13497-13520, March 19, 2003.

[12] "Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; listing of the Central California Distinct Population Segment of the California tiger salamander; Proposed rule." Federal Register 68 (100): 28647-28670, May 23, 2003.

while the Sonoma County CTS is a distinct population segment, the Department of the Interior's Federal Register explains that no critical habitat is designated for Sonoma County.[13]

Additionally, the Trails Plan project area is included within the Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy (Conservation Strategy) planning area.[14] In general, the Conservation Strategy shows that the trail alignments are not within a designated conservation area for CTS and listed plants. Furthermore, proposed trail alignments on the Balletto Easement and the western portion of the farm properties are within the 100-year floodplain, where the Conservation Strategy states that "the presence of CTS is not likely."

Figure 5 shows the areas designated as "within 1.3 miles of known breeding."[15] There is the potential for temporary disturbance or harm to CTS during staging area and trail construction in these areas. Subsequent trail maintenance, mowing or vegetation management along the proposed trails on Alpha, Brown and Kelly Farms could affect individual CTS. Impacts on individual CTS populations could also take place with the construction of the multi-use trails and staging areas on Brown and Kelly Farms, as a small to mid-sized machine would be used to prepare the trail grade and place a suitable trail surface. These activities may result in the loss of CTS populations, and this loss would be considered a significant impact.

The proposed project has been designed to avoid impacts to CTS populations, and there are no trails or other features proposed where there are known locations of CTS. Plan Policy BIO-1 in the Trails Plan requires that trail siting, design and construction activities avoid existing populations of special-status and federally-threatened or endangered plants and animals. Minimal disturbance to vernal pools, wetlands, and watercourses, and protection of significant trees and riparian vegetation, as stated in Plan Policy BIO-2, would prevent or minimize potential impacts to most special-status wildlife species, including CTS.[16] Additionally, implementation of Mitigation Measures BIOL-2 and BIOL-3 would ensure less-than-significant impacts to CTS during and after construction.

As part of Phase 1, the proposed trails on the Balletto Easement and the southwestern portion of Kelly Farm would not be expected to affect CTS populations, as presence of CTS is not likely in the floodplain. The north

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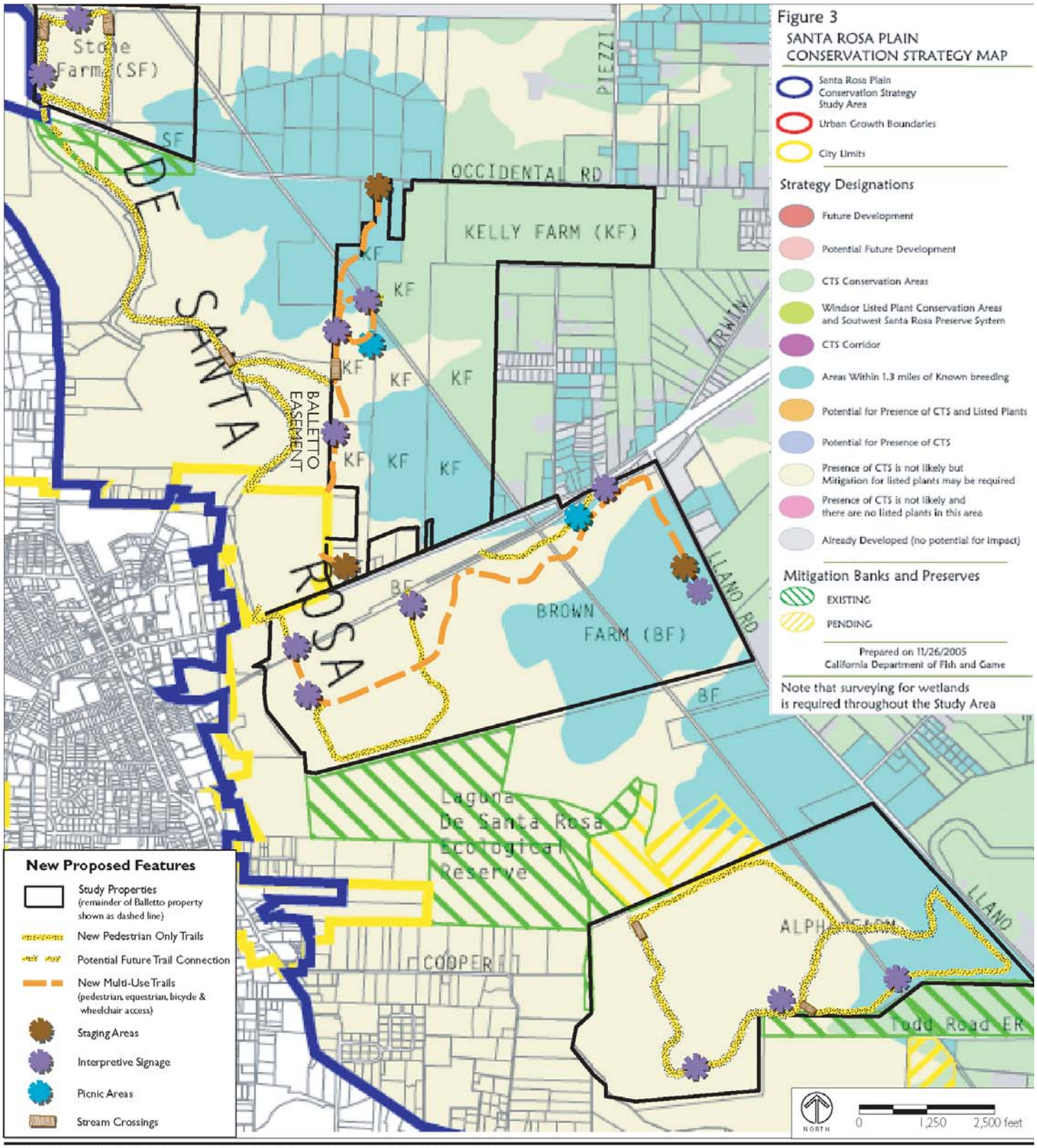
[13] Federal Register, Vol.70, No.239, December 14, 2005.

[14] The Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy seeks to create a long-term program to mitigate potential adverse effects on listed species due to future development on the Santa Rosa Plain. The Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy Team, which developed the Strategy, was made up of representatives of government agencies and interested parties.

[15] Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy, Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy Team, 2005. http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/santa_rosa_conservation.html, accessed January 2006.

[16] *Biological Resource Analysis for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan*, Garcia and Associates, January 2006.



Data Sources: Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District and 2006 Santa Rosa Plain Draft Conservation Strategy

FIGURE 5

PROPOSED TRAILS PLAN IN RELATION TO SANTA ROSA PLAIN CONSERVATION STRATEGY

ern staging area and trail segment on Kelly Farm is within 1.3 miles of known breeding, and thus there is potential for disturbance or harm to CTS. However, implementation of Mitigation Measures BIOL-2 and BIOL-3 would reduce potential impacts to CTS to a less-than-significant level.

A variety of nesting birds could be temporarily disturbed during trail construction activities. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects active nests and eggs of most birds (including non special-status species) and prohibits destruction or disturbance of active nests without authorization from the USFWS. If disturbance of nesting birds with special status designations occurred, it would constitute a significant impact. However, the Trails Plan includes Plan Policy BIO-6 to ensure protection to nesting birds by conducting pre-construction surveys and by tree trimming in the non-nesting season. Furthermore, implementation of Mitigation Measure BIOL-4 would minimize potential impacts by limiting trimming and removing vegetation to the non-nesting season (roughly August through May[17]), or by creating a buffer between construction activities and nesting birds. After construction, but before replanted vegetation matures, nesting birds are expected to utilize alternate nesting sites within the project area.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-1. Prior to construction, a qualified botanist will conduct surveys of the proposed trail alignments and other trail features using protocols approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). If special-status plants are located during these surveys, the trail or associated features will be relocated away from habitat supporting the plant, at a distance to be determined through consultation with the qualified botanist. The results of the biological surveys and any project modifications will be reported to the USFWS and CDFG for comment. This mitigation is also Construction Protocol CP-1 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-2. In order to prevent a potential "take" of California tiger salamander (CTS), measures outlined in the Conservation Strategy shall be applied to the proposed project. Additionally, the USFWS shall be consulted prior to construction to determine appropriate avoidance measures to be implemented prior to and during construction. During construction, mitigation for CTS within 1.3 miles of known breeding areas shall include:

- Daily inspections of the construction site by a USFWS approved biological monitor, as specified in the Conservation Strategy.
- CTS impact awareness training for all construction personnel prior to initiation of construction activities.
- Implementation of an erosion and sedimentation control plan to control erosion into seasonal wetlands adjacent to the trails.

[17] *Bird Inventory and Monitoring at the Laguna de Santa Rosa*, prepared by PRBO Conservation Science for the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, December 2005.

- Construction activities will use existing farm access routes and staging area and minimize the size and number of new access and staging routes.
- Food and food-related trash will be enclosed in sealed trash containers daily and removed from the construction sites every three days.
- No pets will be onsite during construction. After construction, dogs on leash and horses will be allowed on multi-use trails during most of the year, unless conditions are determined to be too wet.
- A speed limit of 15 miles per hour will be adhered to within the construction site(s).
- All equipment will be maintained such that there will be no leak of automotive fluids, such as gasoline, oil, or solvents.
- Hazardous materials, such as fuels, oils, solvents etc., will be stored in sealable containers in a designated location that is at least 200 feet from aquatic sites.
- All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 200 feet away from an aquatic site.
- All grading and clearing will be conducted between April 1 and October 15.
- Project areas temporarily disturbed by construction activities will be revegetated with native plants approved by USFWS or CDFG.

This mitigation is also Construction Protocol CP-3 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-3. During trail maintenance activities in areas within 1.3 miles of known breeding of California tiger salamander, the following measures shall be implemented:

- Weed control will be limited to strips along the trail and staging areas.
- Mowing will be conducted during daylight hours and minimized during the rainy season.
- Herbicides toxic to amphibians will not be used.

This mitigation is also Construction Protocol CP-4 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-4. Potential impacts to nesting birds will be minimized by limiting construction, trimming and removal of vegetation to the non-nesting season (roughly August through May); by conducting pre-construction surveys for nesting birds prior to trail clearing; and by avoiding construction activities within 150 feet of each nest until the young have fledged. This mitigation is also Construction Protocol CP-2 in the Trails Plan.

b. The project area supports several natural communities that are designated by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for protection. Riparian communities and wetlands could be affected during construction. Localized alteration of designated native plant communities associated with crossing structures could occur. However, Plan Policies BIO-2 and HYDRO-1 ensure that the proposed design and development of the Trails Plan would occur with minimal disturbance of these natural communities, and would allow for trail use without substantial alteration of the vegetation or ground disturbance. Mitigation Measure BIOL-5 would reduce indirect effects on riparian and wetland communities during construction, while implementation of Mitigation Measure BIOL-6 would mitigate any potential impacts to wetlands overall. Implementation of these measures would reduce potential significant impacts to riparian and other sensitive natural communities to less-than-significant levels.

Implementation of the proposed Phase 1 project would include improving the surface of an existing crossing structure over Duer Creek. Construction impacts associated with the use of small to mid-sized motorized equipment could also occur with the modification of the crossing structure. However, Plan Policies BIO-2 and HYDRO-1 ensure that this modification would not substantially adversely affect riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities. Furthermore, implementation of Mitigation Measures BIOL5 and BIOL-6 would reduce the potential for significant impacts to riparian and other sensitive natural communities to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-5. During construction, the following measures shall be implemented to reduce indirect effects on riparian and wetland communities downstream and adjacent to the construction site.

- Prior to construction, the limits of construction within the wetland or riparian community will be established with construction fencing. Fences shall remain in place until construction is completed.
- Vegetation trimming and removal will be minimized at each site.
- If required for construction access, trees in close proximity to waterway crossing sites will be trimmed and allowed to re-sprout.
- Construction will take place in the dry season.
- As needed, sites will be temporarily dewatered with sheet piles or coffer dams with flows directed through a bypass pipe. Dewatering will be of short duration and at a time of year that no CTS or other special-status species are impacted.
- Hazardous materials such as fuels, oils, solvents will be stored in sealable containers in a designated location that is at least 200 feet from riparian and wetland sites.
- All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 200 feet away from riparian and wetland areas.

- Following construction, disturbed areas will be stabilized (including streambanks) with native plant materials, straw mulch tacked in place, straw wattles, silt fences, hydroseeding or similar measures which would prevent erosion.

This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-6 in the Trails Plan.

c. Creeks on the study properties are likely subject to the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and CDFG under Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code. In addition, wetlands on the Balletto Easement, and both Brown and Kelly Farms may be subject to RWQCB, ACOE and CDFG jurisdictions. Prior to construction, wetland areas potentially impacted by the proposed trail development would be delineated in keeping with the ACOE 1987 wetland delineation methods.

The proposed project could result in potentially significant impacts to federally protected waterways and wetlands from trail construction or waterway crossing structures, which could cause the direct removal of jurisdictional area or indirectly alter hydrology and hydraulics. The placement of aggregate for a multi-use trail surface within a wetland would result in the loss of wetlands and their functions and values. However, the use of pedestrian trails during the dry season is not likely to cause a loss of wetland or substantial alteration of the wetland functions and values. Flooding and soggy soils are likely to preclude pedestrian trail use in the wet season.

For wetland areas that would not be avoided by relocation of the trail, adherence to Plan Policy HYDRO-1 and implementation of Mitigation Measure BIOL-6 would reduce any adverse effects to federally protected wetlands. Therefore, potentially significant adverse effects on wetlands would be reduced to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-6. If trail alignment results in the loss of wetlands, wetland mitigation will be provided at a ratio of two acres for every one acre lost, or the rate recommended by the ACOE during the wetland permitting process under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-9 in the Trails Plan.

d. Within the project area, local populations of wildlife are expected to utilize the existing riparian corridors for dispersal and movement. When flooded, migratory populations of waterfowl use the Laguna for foraging and resting. Waterways within the project area are expected to be used by a variety of resident fish. The proposed Trails Plan does not include any structures that would impede movement; wildlife-friendly fences would allow wildlife movement through them. No lights are proposed and the trails would be closed at night, which are important considerations for the nocturnal animals in the area. Culvert use at creek crossings could impede fish movements, depending on the culvert size and final configuration, which would be a significant impact. However, Plan Policy BIO-7 ensures that the project would not impede fish movement and implementation of Miti-

gation Measure BIOL-7 would reduce any potential impacts related to wildlife movement to a less than-significant level.

Phase 1 is expected to allow for continued wildlife movement on Kelly Farm and the Balletto Easement, and the continued use of the Laguna by migratory waterfowl. Phase 1 includes one creek crossing on Duer Creek near the Kelly Marsh complex, which would include minor modification of the spillway facilities on an existing berm. This site is not currently used for fish passage and project alterations of this site are not expected to allow for fish passage. Compliance with Plan Policy BIO-7 and implementation of Mitigation Measure BIOL-7 would reduce any potential impacts related to wildlife movement to a less than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-7. Where culverts will be used for waterway crossing in the Trails Plan, culvert layout and configuration shall allow for upstream and downstream fish passage. Final project design will include site specific factors for each crossing, including the timing, flows and species using the waterway. When fish passage is required, the final design will avoid culverts elevated over the surface waters, culvert velocities that are not suitable for fish passage, and water depths in the culvert that are too shallow for fish passage. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-10 in the Trails Plan.

e. Local planning ordinances require the protection of heritage trees that are native to Sonoma County. Heritage trees are defined in Chapter 17 of the City of Santa Rosa Municipal Code. Article 67 of the Sonoma County Zoning Regulations (Ord. No. 4991 1[h], 1996) protects large valley oaks with a diameter at breast height (DBG) of 20 inches, and small valley oaks with a cumulative DBH of 60 inches or more. The proposed trails and other trail features would not require the removal or alteration of heritage or protected trees. However, trail alignment may be placed under the canopy of heritage trees, which would be within the drip line of the trees. Ground disturbance associated with the multi-use trails on Brown and Kelly Farms, and the use of heavy equipment to place the trail surface may take place within the canopy of heritage trees. These ground disturbing activities could affect the roots of heritage trees and lead to their decline and subsequent death. The Santa Rosa City Code requires a permit for actions which may alter heritage trees, including trimming and changes in grade within the drip line of these trees. The loss of heritage trees, as well as project elements that would contribute to the decline of heritage trees, would be considered a significant impact.

With the exception of the trail alignment on the Balletto Easement and a single valley oak located at the Kelly Marsh Complex, the proposed Phase 1 trails are well removed from heritage and protected oak trees. The pedestrian trail located on the Balletto Easement would require minimal ground alteration for trail construction and is not expected to significantly affect heritage or protected trees. The proposed trail on the Kelly Farm would pass by a single heritage tree located near the Duer Creek crossing at the Kelly Marsh complex. The trail would not require grade alterations within the drip line of the tree.

Plan Policies BIO-4 and BIO-5, and implementation of Mitigation Measure BIOL-8, would guide trail design to protect heritage trees and restoration of oak trees and other native plantings, which would reduce potential impacts related to tree preservation to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-8. Prior to trail construction, the proposed trails and other trail features will be evaluated to allow for the placement of each structure with minimal impacts to heritage trees. To the maximum extent possible, the proposed multi-use trails and other trail features will be sited outside the drip line of heritage trees. When there is no alternative alignment and trails pass through the drip line of heritage trees, no damage shall be made to tree roots from digging or other activities. If necessary, trees in close proximity to the trail or other trail features should be trimmed in keeping with accepted arboricultural practices. Trail design and construction will not alter the existing drainage, and will not result in water pooling within the drip line of heritage trees. Stockpiling, staging and equipment storage within the drip line of a heritage tree shall be prohibited. Permits for alteration of heritage and protected trees and/or grading will be coordinated with the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma. In addition, the alignment of trails and siting of other project features will avoid all oak regeneration planting areas and visible oak seedlings. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-5 in the Trails Plan.

f. A loss of species viability would be a significant impact for conservation planning efforts within the Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy planning area. The Conservation Strategy seeks to create a long-term program to mitigate potential adverse effects on listed species due to future development on the Santa Rosa Plain. Implementation of the proposed project would include coordination with resource agencies to acquire necessary approvals and permits to mitigate any potential impacts before construction could begin. Additionally, implementation of Mitigation Measures BIOL-1, BIOL-2 and BIOL-3 would protect special-status plant populations and CTS and reduce the potential for impacts on these species and thus reduce the impact on conservation planning to a less-than-significant level. Thus, implementation of the proposed project is not expected to conflict with the long-term goals and objectives of the Conservation Strategy.

5. Cultural Resources

The following discussion is based on a cultural resources records search conducted for the project area by Garcia and Associates in June 2004. The cultural resources study included a review of maps and records on file at the Northwest Information Center at Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California. Geologic maps, databases, and studies were also reviewed to determine the paleontological context of the region.[18]

a. The Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed is considered a culturally sensitive region. Implementation of the proposed Trails Plan may cause impacts to existing historic resources, such as the two unrecorded historic features

[18] Allen, 2005; Blake et al., 2002; Powell et al., 2004.

at Stone Farm and the unrecorded farmsteads at Brown and Kelly Farms. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CULT-1 would mitigate potential impacts to less-than-significant levels.

There are no known historic resources along the proposed Phase 1 alignment on Kelly Farm, and recent surveys of Kelly Farm did not identify any significant historic resources within the proposed alignment for the trail. Recent surveys of the Balletto Easement did not identify any significant historic resources within the proposed alignment for the trail.[19]

Mitigation Measure CULT-1. Prior to construction of the proposed trails, a historic resources survey of the proposed trail alignment(s) and other trail features, i.e., staging areas, waterway crossings, picnic areas and interpretive signage, will be conducted by a qualified architectural historian. If historic buildings or structures are identified during the survey(s), the trail alignment(s) and/or associated features will be relocated away from the historic resources(s), unless the resources are determined not to be eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources. The architectural historian will determine the required distance from the resource. A final report, including the results of the surveys and evaluations, will be provided to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-14 in the Trails Plan.

b. Known and undiscovered archaeological sites could be significantly impacted by the proposed trail development. Seven previously-recorded prehistoric and historic archaeological sites are present within the proposed Trails Plan study area. Additional archaeological resources may be located on the unsurveyed portions of Stone Farm, or on portions of Alpha and Brown Farms where previous surveys are not sufficient to eliminate the possibility of the presence of archaeological resources along proposed routes. Furthermore, recently completed surveys of the Balletto Easement confirm the presence of an archaeological resources site along the trail alignment that follows the Laguna and is proposed for Plan buildout. Archaeological sites were not detected during recent surveys conducted on the proposed trail route on Kelly Farm.[20]

Implementation of Mitigation Measure CULT-2 would reduce any potential impacts related to archaeological resources to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure CULT-2. Prior to construction of the proposed trails, a pedestrian survey of the proposed trail alignment(s) and other trail features, i.e., staging areas, waterway crossings, picnic areas and interpretive signage, will be conducted by a qualified archaeologist. If an archaeological site(s) is identified during the survey(s), the site(s) will be recorded, including the extent of the site boundaries. The trail alignment(s) and/or as-

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[19] "Laguna Trails: Kelley Farm pedestrian survey for Cultural Resources." Garcia and Associates, 2006; "Laguna Trails: Balletto Easement pedestrian survey for Cultural Resources." Garcia and Associates, 2006.

[20] "Laguna Trails: Balletto Easement pedestrian survey for Cultural Resources." Garcia and Associates, 2006; "Laguna Trails: Kelley Farm pedestrian survey for Cultural Resources." Garcia and Associates, 2006.

sociated features will be relocated away from the archaeological site(s), unless the site(s) are evaluated and determined not to be eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources. The archaeologist will determine the required distance from the resource. If the eligible site(s) cannot be avoided, the proposed trail would be designed with protective elements that would provide for trail use with minimal affect on the archeological site(s). These protective elements may include fencing, or placement of the trail on a bridge, boardwalk or earthen berm. Prior to construction, data recovery and testing would be conducted as needed. A final report, including the results of the surveys and evaluations, will be provided to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-15 in the Trails Plan.

c. Geologic maps and paleontological documents and records for Sonoma County indicate that the Laguna de Santa Rosa river valley is composed exclusively of Quaternary alluvial fan and fluvial deposits that are not likely to contain vertebrate or invertebrate fossils. No paleontological resources are known to exist in the project area;[21] however, in the event that paleontological resources are discovered during construction activities, these resources could be damaged. Damage of paleontological resources would be considered a significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CULT-3 would reduce potential impacts to a level that is less than significant.

Mitigation Measure CULT-3. If paleontological resources are encountered during grading or other soil disturbing activities, construction will be halted within 50 feet of the site and a qualified paleontologist will be contacted to investigate the find within 24 hours. If the find is deemed to be significant, a complete paleontological survey and removal of paleontological finds will be warranted prior to resuming construction activities in the area. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-16 in the Trails Plan.

d. The project area is in a culturally sensitive location and it is plausible that Native American or historic burials could be present in the project area. Available data sources indicate that human remains, especially from the prehistoric era, may be present along the proposed Trails Plan alignments. Disruption of human remains would be a significant impact. However, no human remains have been previously reported within the project parcels,[22] and therefore, implementation of Mitigation Measure CULT-4 would reduce this potentially significant impact to a level that is less than significant.

Mitigation Measure CULT-4. If human remains are encountered, work will halt within 50 feet of the find and the County Coroner will be notified immediately. An archaeologist will also be contacted to evaluate the find. In accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if the Coroner recognizes the human remains to be of Native American origin or has reason to believe they are, the Coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of this identification. Subsequently,

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[21] *Cultural Resources Analysis for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan*, Garcia and Assoc., June 2004.

[22] *Cultural Resources Analysis for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan*, Garcia and Assoc., June 2004.

pursuant to Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code, the Native American Heritage Commission will identify a Native American Most Likely Descendent to inspect the site and provide recommendations for the proper treatment of the remains and associated grave goods. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-17 in the Trails Plan.

6. Geology and Soils

a.i. The San Francisco Bay Area is subject to seismic activity dominated by the active San Andreas fault system. Geologic maps do not indicate the presence of active faults at or near the study area, nor is the site within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake fault zone. The closest active fault is the Rodgers Creek Fault, which passes approximately six miles from the project site.[23] Although the project site and its vicinity would be subject to shaking from this fault, potential substantial adverse effects would be unlikely. Trail users would be outside in an open area, the project does not include any habitable structures, and there are no existing structures on or near the project area that would pose a threat during a seismic event such as ground shaking or ground failure. Therefore, this potential impact is considered less than significant.

a.ii. See answer 6.a.i.

a.iii. Much of the land adjacent to the San Francisco Bay and the major rivers and streams is underlain by unconsolidated deposits that are particularly vulnerable to earthquake shaking and liquefaction of water-saturated granular sediment. The western edges of the farm properties and all of the Balletto Easement may be highly susceptible to liquefaction.[24] However, the proposed project comprises trails and other trail features that are designed for the existing outdoor environment, so that in a seismic-related event, trail users would be outdoors in an open area, away from structures that could collapse, and thus, would not be exposed to potential substantial adverse affects related to ground failure or liquefaction. This would result in less-than-significant impacts.

a.iv. The site is relatively flat to gently sloping throughout. There is one slope with a gradient of 2 (horizontal):1 (vertical) between the lower elevation of the Balletto Easement and Kelly Marsh, which is about 18 feet higher in elevation.[25] However, there are no existing landslides in this area, and the relatively flat topography of the project site precludes the risk of landslides or mudslides in the proposed project area.[26] Therefore, trail users would not be exposed to potential substantial risk of loss, injury or death, by exposure to landslides, mudslides and similar hazards, resulting in less-than-significant impacts.

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[23] *Report Soil Investigation Laguna de Santa Rosa Pedestrian Trail, Santa Rosa, California*, Giblin Assoc., March 2006.

[24] ABAG, September 2003, referencing USGS Open File Report 00-444, Knudsen and others, 2000. http://gis.abag.ca.gov accessed on December 27, 2005.

[25] *Report Soil Investigation Laguna de Santa Rosa Pedestrian Trail, Santa Rosa, California*, Giblin Assoc., March 2006.

[26] ABAG, September 2003, referencing USGS Open File Report 97-745 E, 1997. http://gis.abag.ca.gov accessed on December 27, 2005.

b. During construction, there is the opportunity for erosion and loss of topsoil. However, the project properties are primarily flat and the trails would be designed and constructed to avoid erosion. Implementation of the Trails Plan would not result in substantial erosion or loss of topsoil through adherence to Plan Policies HYDRO-3, HYDRO-4, HYDRO-5 and HYDRO-6, and implementation of Mitigation Measures HYDRO-1 and HYDRO-2, which would mitigate any potential impacts related to substantial erosion or loss of topsoil to a less-than-significant level.

c. The project area overlays discontinuous layers of silts, clays, sands and gravels. The upper materials are weak and compressible, becoming stiffer below depths of about one to three feet, with dense to very dense granular material at further depths. However, the site can be used for pedestrian-only trails at surface-level, and multi-use trails and staging areas in the project area can be slightly graded and improved for gravel-surfacing.[27] Therefore, any potential impacts related to unstable soil or geologic unit would be less than significant.

d. The effects of expansive soils can damage foundations of above-ground structures, paved roads and streets, and concrete slabs. Trails constructed as part of the proposed project may be located on expansive soil.[28] However, since the project proposes trails and other trail features, and not construction of habitable facilities, there would be no substantial risks to life or property. This potential impact would be less than significant.

e. No restrooms are proposed for the staging areas or elsewhere in the project area. Therefore, there would be no need to tie into an existing wastewater system. If in the future, restrooms are desired at one or all of the staging areas, they would be composting or temporary toilets that would not use septic tanks that could affect local soils. Therefore, there would be less-than-significant impacts to soils in relation to wastewater disposal and soils.

7. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

a. No transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials is proposed as part of the Trails Plan. Therefore, there would be no impacts related to releases of hazardous materials into the environment.

b. See answer 7a.

c. The project would not induce releases of hazardous materials and there are no schools located within one-quarter mile of the study area, resulting in no impacts from hazardous emissions.

d. The Laguna de Santa Rosa has been used as a natural resource by native peoples and subsequent residents. There is no exhibit of history or evidence of the presence, storage or use of hazardous materials on the proper-

[27] *Report Soil Investigation Laguna de Santa Rosa Pedestrian Trail, Santa Rosa, California*, Giblin Assoc., March 2006.

[28] *Report Soil Investigation Laguna de Santa Rosa Pedestrian Trail, Santa Rosa, California*, Giblin Assoc., March 2006.

ties where trails are proposed. Therefore, there would be no impacts related to creating a hazard to the public or the environment.

e. There is no public airport, public use airport or private airstrip located within one-quarter mile of the study area. This results in no impacts related to safety hazards for people residing or working in the project area.

f. See answer 7e.

g. The Santa Rosa Emergency Operations Plan addresses how the City of Santa Rosa will respond to extraordinary events or disasters, from preparation through recovery. In addition, Sonoma County is in the process of completing a Sonoma County Hazard Mitigation Plan (SCHMP), which represents the County's commitment to pre-disaster mitigation, prevention and preparation. A Public Review Draft of the SCHMP is currently available and there should be final approval and adoption by the end of 2006. The proposed trails and other trail features would not be the type of development, or at a location that would impair implementation of an emergency response plan. Therefore, there would be no impact to an emergency response or evacuation plan with implementation of the proposed plan.

h. Trails users and structures could be exposed to wildland fires; there is one residence and a historical farmhouse with outhouses at Stone Farm, as well as pump houses and maintenance buildings over the other farms. The farms and the Balletto Easement are not within a fire-threatened community area,[29] and additionally, the Draft Sonoma County Hazard Mitigation Plan indicates that there is generally no fuel for wildland fires in the study properties.[30] The trails would be closed and access restricted by emergency service personnel in the case of wildland fires. Therefore, there would be less-than-significant impacts to trail users or structures from wildland fires.

8. Hydrology and Water Quality

a. The proposed project does not use or require a water supply or waste discharge. Therefore, implementation of the project would have no impact on water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

b. Natural groundwater recharge takes place along many streams and rivers, through permeable materials. The proposed project does not use or require a water supply, and implementation of the project would not impact the underlying groundwater basin. The project area is located in the Santa Rosa Plain subbasin of the Santa

[29] ABAG, June 2004, referencing California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 2003. http://gis.abag.ca.gov accessed on December 27, 2005.

[30] Wildland Fire Threat Areas, Draft Sonoma County Hazard Mitigation Plan. http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/hmp/draft1/fig2-10.pdf accessed on July 25, 2006.

Rosa Valley Groundwater basin, which covers 158 square miles.[31] The surface of the pedestrian-only trails would be the existing soil and would not impact permeability. The surface of the multi-use trails, crushed fines or gravel combined with a stabilizer, would allow for some infiltration. There would be asphalt paving on the two wheelchair-accessible parking spaces, but within the context of a much larger groundwater basin, and infiltration that is allowed by surfaces of the trails and staging areas, the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts related to recharge of the groundwater basin.

c. Implementation of the Trails Plan would not alter the course of a stream or river, nor alter drainage patterns that could result in erosion or siltation on- or off-site. The trails and crossing structures would not be in or through the creeks leading to the Laguna or the Laguna itself. The pedestrian trails would be permeable, and the multi-use trails would have an erosion control fabric below the trail surface material to minimize potential erosion. Plan Policies HYDRO-3 and HYDRO-4 state that drainage patterns would not be altered, and, as stated in Plan Policy HYDRO-5, the project would have slopes no greater than five percent. Furthermore, the portion of Kelly Farm multi-use trail on the small hill near the Kelly Marsh complex would be outsloped in order to prevent erosion by encouraging water to sheet flow across the trails. Mitigation Measures HYDRO-1, HYDRO-2 and HYDRO-3 would mitigate potentially significant impacts related to erosion and siltation to less-than-significant levels.

Phase 1 proposes improving the surface of an existing culvert on Kelly Farm, near the Kelly Marsh complex, to use as a waterway crossing. This crossing would utilize an existing berm, with some proposed modifications to the facility spill control structure. This element of the project would be implemented without direct effects on riparian and wetland vegetation but could result in significant indirect effects from construction. If the crossing structure restricted, impeded or directed high flows, there could be localized changes in stream hydrology and hydraulics, which could cause a change in stream morphology and associated bank erosion, resulting in significant indirect effects from construction on Duer Creek hydrology. Adherence to Plan Policies HYDRO-3 and HYDRO-4, and implementation of Mitigation Measures HYDRO-1, HYDRO-2 and HYDRO-3, would mitigate any potentially significant impacts related to erosion and siltation to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1. Implementation of the proposed project will follow Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) recommended by the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department and/or other relevant agencies, to prevent erosion during construction. Such BMPs include the following:

- Limit construction activities to the dry season.
- Stabilize construction sites, including entrances and exits.

[31] Draft Sonoma County General Plan Water Resources Element. http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/gp2020/phdraft/wre.pdf accessed on July 25, 2006.

- Protect exposed slopes and use of straw wattles to prevent erosion.
- Minimize the spread of oil, gas and engine fluids.

This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-12 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2. Following construction, disturbed areas, including streambanks, will be stabilized with native plant materials, straw mulch tacked in place, straw wattles, silt fences, hydroseeding or similar measures that would prevent erosion. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-13 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-3. Crossing structures shall be designed to allow for passage of high flows with flows directed away from downstream channel banks. Culverts should be sized for high flows and allow flood flows to pass over the crossing without redirection of flood waters. Channel incision at each site will not be altered by culvert placement because culvert placement will not alter the slope of the channel bed. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-11 in the Trails Plan.

d. Implementation of the proposed project would not alter the course of a stream or river nor alter drainage patterns that would result in an increase in the rate or amount of runoff that would result in flooding on- or off-site. Part of the proposed trail system would be located within the existing floodplain of the Laguna and be susceptible to flooding. The pedestrian trails would be designed to be under water annually and would be closed to pedestrian use during that time. Multi-use trails would be located primarily above the floodplain and would not affect the capacity of the floodplain. In addition, runoff resulting from the multi-use trails would be minimized and would not contribute to flooding on- or off-site, as stated by Plan Policy HYDRO-4. Implementation of Mitigation Measure HYDRO-3 would ensure that any potential impacts would be less than significant.

Phase 1 trails on the Balletto Easement would be located within the existing floodplain of the Laguna and would not affect the amount of surface water runoff. Drainage patterns would not be substantially altered, and multi-use trails on Kelly Farm would not affect runoff in a manner or amount that would result in flooding on- or off-site. Therefore, such potential impacts would be less than significant.

e. The existing storm water drainage system runs into creeks that run into the Laguna or that run directly into the Laguna. No new storm water system is proposed; Plan Policy HYDRO-4 states that drainage patterns would not be altered. Therefore, trails and trail features proposed as part of this project would not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing storm water drainage system or additional sources of polluted runoff. This would result in less-than-significant impacts.

f. Implementation of Phase 1 could affect water quality during construction, particularly where grading occurs, and thus, before proceeding with construction, consultation would occur with the RWQCB. If it is determined that there are potential impacts to jurisdictional waters, a Section 401 certificate would be obtained. As stated in

Plan Policies HYDRO-3, HYDRO-4 and HYDRO-6, trails and other trail features would be constructed so as to avoid runoff, which could substantially degrade water quality. The most significant grading proposed would be to connect the Kelly Farm multi-use trail between Kelly Marsh and the land below. The Plan Policies ensure that this multi-use trail would be on a slope of less than 5 percent, would not create runoff that would significantly affect water quality, and that trails in hillside areas would be outsloped in order prevent erosion by encouraging water to sheet flow across the trails rather than form a more erosive gully. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts to water quality.

g. No housing is proposed as part of the proposed Trails Plan. Therefore, there would be no impact related to placing housing in a 100-year flood hazard area.

h. No substantial structures are proposed as part of the Trails Plan. Trail features such as picnic tables and interpretive signage would be placed in the 100-year flood hazard area, but, by their impervious nature, would not impede or redirect flows. Additionally, the pedestrian trails would be impervious and any gates or fences would allow water to pass through. Therefore, impacts related to structures in the 100-year floodplain would be less than significant.

i. Implementation of the Trails Plan would not expose people to risk involving flooding, including as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. The Laguna drains into the Russian River, which floods back up into the Laguna. Upriver of the Russian River is Lake Sonoma, which was created by the construction of Warm Springs Dam in 1983 and which provides flood control, irrigation and recreation. In the case of a dam failure there, the Russian River may increase its flow, which could back up into the Laguna. If there was dam failure at either Matanzas Creek or Coyote dams, the study area would be within a dam failure inundation hazard area. However, dam failure is unlikely due to current State regulations for design, maintenance and monitoring of dams, which is overseen by the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). The potential for catastrophic dam failure is considered low based on past performance of the DSOD jurisdictional dams and DSOD inspection requirements. Furthermore, no structures are proposed in this project, and the proposed trails would be closed when flooded, as backup of the Russian River happens slowly enough to anticipate flooding and close the trails. Plan Policies TRAIL-9 and TRAIL-10 explain that trails may be closed during periods of heavy rain and flooding. This would remove people from potential significant risk of loss, injury or death as a result of dam failure, resulting in a less-than-significant impact.

j. The study properties are located in the interior of Sonoma County and not within reach of seiches or tsunamis, which occur on the coast. The study area is located in the relatively flat Santa Rosa Plain, which is not conducive to mudflows. Therefore, there would be no impact related to seiche, tsunami or mudflow.

9. Land Use

a. The proposed project consists of trails for recreational and educational use on properties over which the District has conservation easements. The trails would be located on four properties owned by the City of Santa Rosa and one privately-owned property for which Sonoma County has received irrevocable offers to dedicate trail easements. These properties are used for agriculture, including animal grazing, and habitat restoration. There is no established human community, and therefore, implementation of the project would result in no impact related to dividing a community.

b. All study properties are designated Land Extensive Agriculture (LEA), with either 60- or 100-acre density in the 1989 Sonoma County General Plan land use element. However, the four farm properties were annexed to the City of Santa Rosa pursuant to Government Code section 56742, and thus City regulations apply to the farm properties. The Balletto Easement is subject to Sonoma County regulations. Portions of the proposed project area are within the Laguna de Santa Rosa Conservation Program Boundary as identified in the 1989 Sonoma County General Plan, which calls for preservation of the Laguna.

The proposed project is consistent with policies of the Santa Rosa 2020: General Plan, the 1989 Sonoma County General Plan, and the draft Sonoma County Regional Parks Outdoor Recreation Plan, and would actually implement stated policies in relation to recreational opportunities, bicycle and pedestrian links between communities, and protection of the Laguna's important biotic resources and water retention functions. The proposed project is also consistent with the terms of the District's easements over the properties. Therefore, implementation of the Trails Plan would not conflict with any applicable plans or regulations, resulting in a less-than-significant impact.

c. The proposed project is located within the Santa Rosa Plain, for which the Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy addresses conservation of CTS and special-status species. Implementation of the proposed project would be guided by the Conservation Strategy. Thus, there would be a less-than-significant impact related to applicable habitat conservation or natural community conservation plans.

10. Mineral Resources

a. The 1989 Sonoma County General Plan does not show any mineral resource deposits (State-designated MRZ-2 site) on the five project properties.[32] Therefore, implementation of the project would result in a less-than-significant impact related to the loss of known mineral resources or mineral resource recovery sites.

b. See answer 10a.

[32] Sonoma County Resource Conservation Element http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/docs/gp/98gp-06.htm#8.0 accessed on August 6, 2006.

11. Noise

a. The proposed project consists of trails and other trail features for recreational and educational use on land adjacent to agricultural uses. Farm activity and farm animals do not generate excessive noise; this noise is consistent with the rural nature of the area. Trail users would not be exposed to noises levels in excess of local standards. Furthermore, implementation of the project would not create significant noise; therefore, any potential impacts related to exposure to or generation of noise levels in excess of established standards would be less than significant.

b. The proposed project consists of trails and other trail features for recreational and educational use on land adjacent to agricultural uses. Farm activity and farm animals do not generate excessive ground borne vibration or noise levels. Therefore, there would be no impacts related to exposure to or generation of ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels.

c. The proposed Trails Plan would not create a substantial permanent increase in noise levels. Construction, cars and horse trailers in the staging areas would create temporary noises, however, there would be less-than-significant impacts related to substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels.

d. The proposed Trails Plan would not create a substantial temporary or periodic increase in noise levels, although implementation of the proposed project would create temporary construction noise. Construction of the trails would require a small to mid-sized machine, similar to the types of noise currently generated on the adjacent farms. This would be temporary and not substantial. Noise from cars and horse trailers in the staging areas would also create temporary noises, however, these noises would be intermittent during the day, and absent at night. Therefore, there would be less-than-significant impacts related to substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels.

e. There is no public airport, public use airport or private airstrip located within two miles of the study area. Therefore, implementation of the Trails Plan and Phase 1 would not result in any exposure of people in the project area to excessive noise levels from airports or airstrips.

f. See answer 11e.

12. Population and Housing

a. The proposed Trails Plan proposes trails for recreational and educational purposes. The proposed project does not propose housing or employment, and would not induce substantial population growth in the area. Therefore, implementation of the project would result in no impact related to population growth.

b. There is one residence in the project area, on Stone Farm, and the project would not displace its residents. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would result in no impact related to existing housing, and there would be no need for replacement housing.

c. Implementation of the proposed project would not displace a substantial number of people. There is one family residing on the farm properties, on Stone Farm. However, this home is at the southeast corner of the property, on the opposite side of the property as the proposed trails. Residents, farmers and other people who work on the farms would not be displaced by the proposed project, as the trails and other trail features would be located in areas not planned for agriculture and would not affect farming activities. Therefore, implementation of the project would not displace any people nor necessitate the construction of replacement housing, resulting in no impact related to displacing people.

13. Public Services

a. Fire protection in Sonoma County is provided by almost 30 different agencies.[33] When an emergency 911 call is received by the area dispatcher, he or she looks for the fire department that is geographically the closest, who then responds to the incident. This could be a City Fire Department, a Community Service District or Fire District.[34] Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services, Fire Services Division coordinates all fire service activities in the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County, which is called County Services Area (CSA) #40. The Cities of Santa Rosa and Sebastopol each has their own fire department.

The Fire Services Division of the County of Sonoma Department of Emergency Services coordinates all fire service activities in the unincorporated areas of Sonoma County. In 2004, the Division responded to 266 fire incidents, 390 medical incidents, 247 vehicle incidents and 239 other types of incidents, for a total of 1,142 calls.[35]

Resources of the Santa Rosa Fire Department include 128 uniformed men and women who work from eight fire stations located throughout Santa Rosa. In 2004, the City Fire Department responded to 17,084 emergency incidents. The majority of these calls, approximately 64 percent, were of an emergency medical nature. About 5 percent were fires and the remainder were for other types of service.[36]

The proposed trails project would not increase permanent population, and the estimated number visitors at Plan buildout would average 82 people per day, while in Phase 1, there would be an average of 55 visitors per day.

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[33] Sonoma County General Plan 2020 Draft EIR, January 2006.

[34] Bruce Varner, Santa Rosa Fire Chief, personal communication. April 13, 2006.

[35] County of Sonoma Department of Emergency Services. http://www.sonoma-county.org/des/fs_incident.htm accessed on April 13, 2006.

[36] City of Santa Rosa Fire Department. http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/default.aspx?PageId=1115 accessed on April 13 and July 25, 2006.

The additional demand for service would not trigger the need for a new or altered facility in order to maintain existing levels of service. Therefore, potential impacts related to fire protection would be less than significant.

b. The District and Sonoma County Regional Parks Department, in coordination with the City of Santa Rosa, will enter into a formal agreement regarding providing maintenance and police services for the trails proposed in the Trails Plan. It is anticipated that the Regional Parks Department would maintain and patrol the area. The Regional Parks Department currently provides this service to about 40 other parks, beaches and trails across Sonoma County, including the Pinnacle Gulch Coastal Access Trail near Bodega Bay, which would be similar to the proposed project.

With the addition of two staging areas and 2.4 miles of trail corridor proposed in Phase 1, the Regional Parks Department would hire additional help. However, the Department would not need to expand or build a few facility, as any new employee would work out of existing facilities.[37] As the proposed project would be a small proportion of the Department's work, with the trails closed at night and during flood events, implementation of the proposed project would not trigger the need for a new or altered facility, resulting in less-than-significant impacts related to police protection.

c. The proposed project would not increase permanent population or the number of children that would demand educational services and therefore, implementation of the project would result in no impact on schools.

d. Implementation of the proposed Trails Plan would increase the number of pedestrian and multi-use trails in the area, as well as create linkages between existing trails. Implementation of the proposed project would create additional recreational opportunities in the county, which could be considered a beneficial impact related to parks.

14. Recreation

a. Implementation of the proposed project would not increase the permanent population and therefore, would not create additional demand on existing parks or recreational facilities. Instead, implementation of the proposed project would increase the amount of recreational acreage and options in the area, which could be considered a beneficial impact related to recreation.

b. The proposed project consists of trails, staging areas, waterway crossings, interpretive signage, benches and picnic areas, and as stated in Plan Policy TRAIL-2, would be designed, constructed and located such that there would be no adverse physical effects on the environment. Therefore, implementation of the proposed plan would result in less-than-significant adverse effects on the environment.

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[37] Jim McCray, Division Manager, Sonoma County Regional Parks Department, personal communication, April 12, 2006.

15. Transportation/Traffic

a. Implementation of the proposed project would create vehicle trips to project trailheads. Vehicle entrances to the staging areas, where most trailheads are located, would be from Llano Road, Occidental Road, and an access road off of Highway 12. Besides driving and parking at one of the proposed staging area, trail users would also arrive at trailheads by walking, biking or riding a horse via the Joe Rodota Trail. Other trail users would park in the City of Sebastopol and access the proposed trails by using the City's floating bridge over the Laguna, the Wetlands Preserve Trails, or along Highway 12 for the short distance to the southern Kelly Farm staging area.

Bicyclists also may arrive from Llano or Occidental Roads. During construction, machinery would be stored on-site and not create many additional trips.

Average daily traffic volumes and weekday peak hour traffic volumes and levels of service are shown in Table 2. Traffic volumes on Llano and Occidental Roads range from 480 to 1,310 car trips during peak hours, and 6,400 to 11,400 average daily car trips respectively. Highway 12 currently functions at LOS D and F during peak hours, which is considered unacceptable.[38]

As shown in Table 3, the number of estimated trips the project would generate is a very small percent of the number of existing trips. At buildout, estimated trail users project would add approximately one to two percent on Llano and Occidental Roads of total trips, and less than one percent additional trips to the proposed staging areas, averaged throughout the year. Phase 1 would generate fewer trips, and thus an even smaller percent, less than one percent, of existing vehicle trips. Therefore, potential impacts to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system would be less than significant.

b. Implementation of the proposed project would attract trail users to trailheads and staging areas, which could impact vehicle traffic and the established level of service (LOS) standard. In 2001, the LOS along Highway 12 varied between LOS D and LOS F during AM and PM weekday peak periods, which are considered unacceptable levels of service. All other County roads, including Occidental and Llano Roads, operated at a C or better, as shown in Table 2. Many trail users would be local residents who would link a trip to the trails with another existing trip, thereby avoiding any increase in trips. The increase in vehicle trips related to the proposed project would not be sufficient to exceed, or cause to exceed, existing levels of service. This would result in less-than-significant impacts in relation to level of service standards.

c. There is no public airport, public use airport or private airstrip located in the vicinity of the project area. Therefore, implementation of the Trails Plan would result in no impact to changes in air traffic patterns.

[38] Sonoma County General Plan 2020 Draft EIR, January 2006, referencing Dowling Associates, Inc., Dec. 2003.

TABLE 2 **TRAFFIC VOLUMES AND LOS IN 2001**

	Llano Road at North Ludwig Avenue	Occidental Road at Sanford Road	Highway 12 east of City of Sebastopol
Average Daily Traffic Volumes	6,400 trips	11,400 trips	n/a
Weekday AM Peak Hour	480 trips	760 trips	n/a
Weekday PM Peak Hour	740 trips	1,310 trips	n/a
Weekday AM Peak Hour Level of Service (LOS)	C both directions	C both directions	F westbound D and F eastbound
Weekday PM Peak Hour Level of Service (LOS)	C both directions	C both directions	F westbound D and F eastbound

Source: Sonoma County General Plan 2020 Draft EIR, January 2006, referencing Dowling Associates, Inc., December 2003.
Note: LOS A, B and C are considered acceptable, and LOS D, E, and F are considered unacceptable. LOS D is defined as the stage approaching unstable traffic flow where speeds and maneuverability are restricted, and LOS F represents the worst possible service.

d. The proposed project includes crossings under bridges along Highway 12 and Occidental Road. The under-crossing at each of these locations would be accessible in dry weather only, when there would be no hazard of flood water. The proposed trails on Alpha, Brown and Stone Farms would be adjacent to grazing cows and sheep; however, fences would be constructed to separate these uses and the animals would not pose a hazard. During times of hay operation, the staging area on Brown Farm would be closed in order to avoid potential hazards related to incompatible uses. Therefore, there would be less-than-significant impacts related to hazards due to design features or incompatible uses of the proposed project.

The trails proposed in Phase 1 do not include any crossings under bridges, and there are no grazing animals on Kelly Farm or the Balletto Easement. Therefore, any impacts related to hazards due to design features or incompatible uses of Phase 1 would be less than significant.

e. Existing emergency vehicle access to the study properties from Llano Road, Highway 12, Occidental Road and Sanford Road would not be affected by the proposed project and the associated vehicle trips. The addition of two staging areas at Kelly Farm would offer additional emergency entrances to the area. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts related to emergency access.

f. There are no County Zoning regulations or District standards regarding the number of parking spaces required for a trail system. The Trails Plan includes Plan Policy TRAIL-2 to locate, design and construct staging

TABLE 3 **PROJECTED PROJECT-RELATED PERCENT OF TRAFFIC VOLUMES**

	New Trips at Plan Buildout		New Trips for Phase 1
	Llano Road (Brown Farm Staging Area)	**Occidental Road** (Northern Kelly Farm Staging Area)	**Occidental Road** (Northern Kelly Farm Staging Area)
Average Daily Traffic Volumes[a]	6,400	11,400	11,400
Estimate number of average daily trips[b]	41	41	28
Percent of Existing Trips	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%

[a] Information about Highway 12 at the southern end of Kelly Farm not available for comparative purposes.

[b] Regardless of where the vehicles park.

areas so that there will be no adverse physical effect, and to provide adequate parking. The Trails Plan proposes three staging areas that would provide 40 parking spaces, two wheelchair-accessible parking spaces, and three spaces for horse trailers, for a total of 45 spaces at Plan buildout. The total number of parking spaces that would be developed in Phase 1 would be 20 parking spaces, two wheelchair-accessible parking spaces and three spaces for horse trailers for a total of 25 spaces. Additional parking space would be available at the historic Stone Farm after the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation completes development of the Laguna Learning Center at that location.

The staging area proposed at Brown Farm would accommodate 20 vehicles. During the approximately three two- to three-week long periods during the summer and fall when this area is used for agricultural activities, the parking area would be closed and signage would indicate the temporary closure to the public and direct trail users to other parking areas (see Plan Policy TRAIL-11). Signage at Brown Farm would refer to parking areas on Kelly Farm, which would be available year-round, as well as other possible staging areas, such as in the City of Sebastopol or along the Joe Rodota Trail in Santa Rosa.

Two staging areas are proposed on Kelly Farm, both proposed as part of Phase 1. The northern staging area, off Occidental Road at the existing entry to Kelly Farm, would accommodate eight vehicles and one wheelchair-accessible parking space. The southern staging area, off Highway 12 at the intersecting City-owned road next to the Chevron gas station, would accommodate twelve vehicles, one wheelchair-accessible space and three horse trailers.

TABLE 4 **PROJECTED VISITORS AND PARKING SPACES**

	Buildout	Phase 1
Total visitors per year	30,000 visitors per year	20,000 visitors per year
Total average visitors by day	82 visitors per day	55 visitors per day
Average daily vehicles that park at staging areas [b]	21 vehicles parking	14 vehicles parking
Parking spaces provided [c]	45 spaces	25 spaces
Parking spaces available per average day [d]	135 spaces	75 spaces
Average daily parking surplus [e]	114 spaces	61 spaces

[a] Assumes half the visitors will park at project staging areas.
[b] Assumes two visitors per vehicle.
[c] Includes wheelchair-accessible and horse trailer spaces.
[d] Assumes three rounds of parking space turnovers per average day. Peak usage times would likely be in the summer, when daylight lasts longer, and therefore allows time for additional turnovers, and thus, an increased parking capacity.
[e] Subtracts vehicles coming to park from the number of parking spaces available.

Besides driving and parking, trail users would also arrive at trailheads a number of different ways, including carpooling, and walking, biking or riding a horse via the Joe Rodota Trail. Other trail users would park in Sebastopol and access the proposed trails by using the City's floating bridge over the Laguna, the Wetlands Preserve Trails, or along Highway 12 for the short distance to the southern Kelly Farm staging area. Bicyclists also may arrive from Occidental or Llano Roads.

As shown in Table 4, the Plan anticipates 30,000 visitors per year, which would be 82 visitors per day, on average. The Plan assumes that half of those visitors would arrive by vehicle to one of the staging areas and half would arrive either from Sebastopol, the Joe Rodota Trail or ways other than using the staging areas. Therefore, 41 visitors would arrive at the trailheads by vehicle, while another 41 visitors would access the trails another way. Visitors arriving at the proposed staging areas would result in approximately 21 vehicles parking each day, since two visitors would arrive together in one car, on average.

Table 4 also shows that, based on the number of parking spaces provided at staging areas, there would be capacity for 135 vehicle trips to the staging areas, accounting for parking turnover throughout the day. This would result in a surplus of 114 parking spaces on average. Therefore, there would be less-than-significant impacts related to parking capacity.

Approximately 20,000 trail users are anticipated during Phase 1, which would be 55 visitors per day, on average, with half of those arriving by vehicle to one of the staging areas, together with another visitor. A resulting 14 vehicles would need parking per day. Capacity at the two Kelly Farm staging areas would be 75 vehicles per day, assuming parking turnover throughout the day, which would result in a surplus of 61 spaces on average. Therefore, there would be less-than-significant impacts related to parking capacity during Phase 1.

g. The proposed project consists of trails for recreational and educational use by pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians. This project supports alternative transportation by linking to the Joe Rodota Trail and the Laguna Wetland Preserve, allowing people to travel between Santa Rosa, Sebastopol and Occidental Road by bicycle. The project would not conflict with any plans, policies or programs that support alternative transportation, but actually support such a goal and could be included in any future plans, policies or programs, such as the Countywide Bicycle Plan. Implementation of the proposed Phase 1 project would add a trail that would connect Highway 12 and Occidental Road for pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians through Kelly Farm. Therefore, the project could be considered to have a beneficial impact related to alternative transportation.

16. Utilities and Services

a. The proposed project would not produce or create wastewater and therefore, implementation of the proposed project would result in no impact related to exceeding wastewater treatment requirements or requiring new or expanded wastewater treatment facilities.

b. See answer 16a.

c. No new construction or physical changes to the property are proposed in the Trails Plan that would significantly impact storm water drainage, and thus, no new or expanded storm water facilities would be needed. The proposed pedestrian trails would be unpaved, and the amount of multi-use paved trails, which are less permeable, would be insignificant in relation to the full size of Kelly Farm and the Balletto Easement, so that there would be no need for a new or expanded storm water drainage facility. Additionally, Plan Policy HYDRO-4 ensures no increase in rate or amount of runoff. Any changes to existing drainage patterns would be slight enough to result in less-than-significant impacts.

d. No new construction or physical changes to the study properties are proposed at this time that would require water supply. As a result, the project would not impact water supply entitlements.

e. No additional wastewater would be generated from the proposed project, and therefore, the proposed project would not require wastewater treatment. As a result, the project would not impact wastewater treatment provider capacity.

f. No construction or activities on the project area are proposed that would require service by a landfill. Any excavation needed for trail construction would be used as fill so that any grading would use on-site fill, as stated in Plan Policy HYDRO-2. As a result, the proposed project would not impact landfill capacity or regulations related to solid waste.

g. See answer 16f.

17. Mandatory Findings of Significance

a. As described in this report, no new construction or physical changes are proposed in the Trails Plan that would degrade the quality of the environment. The design and method of construction of the proposed trail alignments, staging areas, interpretive signage, benches and picnic areas ensure that trails avoid sensitive plant and animal habitats. Plan Policies and Construction Protocols ensure the conservation of habitats, as well as plant, fish and wildlife populations. Additionally, opportunities would be taken to educate the population about California history, habitats and habitat restoration. Therefore, any changes to the environment could be considered to have less-than-significant impacts to the quality of the environment.

b. Future cumulative impacts would result in increased connectivity to regional trails, Santa Rosa and Sebastopol, increased access to experience and learn about the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and increased opportunities for restoration projects. Slight increases in noise and impacts to air quality may occur as a result of construction activities, but would be temporary in nature and could be mitigated to a less than significant level. In addition, construction of any future trails on the study properties would follow Plan Policies and Construction Protocols, as well as go through an environmental review process, including receiving necessary approvals and permits at that time. The Plan Policies and Construction Protocols ensure that all potentially significant impacts are being avoided, and hence, there is no chance for small impacts to join with others to create bigger cumulative impacts. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would result in less-than-significant cumulative impacts.

c. The proposed trail project would not create environmental effects that would cause physical changes to property that would result in adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly. The increased recreational, educational and restorative opportunities proposed in the Trails Plan could be considered a beneficial impact.

5 MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures are included in the Initial Study to mitigate potentially significant impacts to be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure AQ-1. The following dust control practices shall be followed during the construction phase of the project:

- Water all active construction areas at least twice daily.
- Water or cover stockpiles of debris, soil, sand or other materials that can be blown by the wind.
- Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand and other loose materials or require all trucks to maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- Apply water three times daily or apply (non-toxic) soil stabilizers on all unpaved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites.
- Sweep daily (preferably with water sweepers) all paved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites.
- Sweep streets daily (preferably with water sweepers) if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent public streets.
- Limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph.

This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-18 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-1. Prior to construction, a qualified botanist will conduct surveys of the proposed trail alignments and other trail features using protocols approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). If special-status plants are located during these surveys, the trail or associated features will be relocated away from habitat supporting the plant, at a distance to be determined through consultation with the qualified botanist. The results of the biological surveys and any project modifications will be reported to the USFWS and CDFG for comment. This mitigation is also Construction Protocol CP-1 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-2. In order to prevent a potential "take" of California tiger salamander (CTS), measures outlined in the Conservation Strategy shall be applied to the proposed project. Additionally, the USFWS shall be consulted prior to construction to determine appropriate avoidance measures to be implemented prior to and during construction. During construction, mitigation for CTS within 1.3 miles of known breeding areas shall include:

- Daily inspections of the construction site by a USFWS approved biological monitor, as specified in the Conservation Strategy.
- CTS impact awareness training for all construction personnel prior to initiation of construction activities.
- Implementation of an erosion and sedimentation control plan to control erosion into seasonal wetlands adjacent to the trails.
- Construction activities will use existing farm access routes and staging area and minimize the size and number of new access and staging routes.
- Food and food-related trash will be enclosed in sealed trash containers daily and removed from the construction sites every three days.
- No pets will be onsite during construction. After construction, dogs on leash and horses will be allowed on multi-use trails during most of the year, unless conditions are determined to be too wet.
- A speed limit of 15 miles per hour will be adhered to within the construction site(s).
- All equipment will be maintained such that there will be no leak of automotive fluids, such as gasoline, oil, or solvents.
- Hazardous materials, such as fuels, oils, solvents etc., will be stored in sealable containers in a designated location that is at least 200 feet from aquatic sites.
- All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 200 feet away from an aquatic site.

- All grading and clearing will be conducted between April 1 and October 15.
- Project areas temporarily disturbed by construction activities will be revegetated with native plants approved by USFWS or CDFG.

This mitigation is also Construction Protocol CP-3 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-3. During trail maintenance activities in areas within 1.3 miles of known breeding of California tiger salamander, the following measures shall be implemented:

- Weed control will be limited to strips along the trail and staging areas.
- Mowing will be conducted during daylight hours and minimized during the rainy season.
- Herbicides toxic to amphibians will not be used.

This mitigation is also Construction Protocol CP-4 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-4. Potential impacts to nesting birds will be minimized by limiting construction, trimming and removal of vegetation to the non-nesting season (roughly August through May); by conducting pre-construction surveys for nesting birds prior to trail clearing; and by avoiding construction activities within 150 feet of each nest until the young have fledged. This mitigation is also Construction Protocol CP-2 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-5. During construction, the following measures shall be implemented to reduce indirect effects on riparian and wetland communities downstream and adjacent to the construction site.

- Prior to construction, the limits of construction within the wetland or riparian community will be established with construction fencing. Fences shall remain in place until construction is completed.
- Vegetation trimming and removal will be minimized at each site.

- If required for construction access, trees in close proximity to waterway crossing sites will be trimmed and allowed to re-sprout.
- Construction will take place in the dry season.
- As needed, sites will be temporarily dewatered with sheet piles or coffer dams with flows directed through a bypass pipe. Dewatering will be of short duration and at a time of year that no CTS or other special-status species are impacted.
- Hazardous materials such as fuels, oils, solvents will be stored in sealable containers in a designated location that is at least 200 feet from riparian and wetland sites.
- All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 200 feet away from riparian and wetland areas.
- Following construction, disturbed areas will be stabilized (including streambanks) with native plant materials, straw mulch tacked in place, straw wattles, silt fences, hydroseeding or similar measures which would prevent erosion.

This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-6 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-6. If trail alignment results in the loss of wetlands, wetland mitigation will be provided at a ratio of two acres for every one acre lost, or the rate recommended by the ACOE during the wetland permitting process under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-9 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-7. Where culverts will be used for waterway crossing in the Trails Plan, culvert layout and configuration shall allow for upstream and downstream fish passage. Final project design will include site specific factors for each crossing, including the timing, flows and species using the waterway. When fish passage is required, the final design will avoid culverts elevated over the surface waters, culvert velocities that are not suitable

for fish passage, and water depths in the culvert that are too shallow for fish passage. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-10 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure BIOL-8. Prior to trail construction, the proposed trails and other trail features will be evaluated to allow for the placement of each structure with minimal impacts to heritage trees. To the maximum extent possible, the proposed multi-use trails and other trail features will be sited outside the drip line of heritage trees. When there is no alternative alignment and trails pass through the drip line of heritage trees, no damage shall be made to tree roots from digging or other activities. If necessary, trees in close proximity to the trail or other trail features should be trimmed in keeping with accepted arboricultural practices. Trail design and construction will not alter the existing drainage, and will not result in water pooling within the drip line of heritage trees. Stockpiling, staging and equipment storage within the drip line of a heritage tree shall be prohibited. Permits for alteration of heritage and protected trees and/or grading will be coordinated with the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma. In addition, the alignment of trails and siting of other project features will avoid all oak regeneration planting areas and visible oak seedlings. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-5 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure CULT-1. Prior to construction of the proposed trails, a historic resources survey of the proposed trail alignment(s) and other trail features, i.e., staging areas, waterway crossings, picnic areas and interpretive signage, will be conducted by a qualified architectural historian. If historic buildings or structures are identified during the survey(s), the trail alignment(s) and/or associated features will be relocated away from the historic resources(s), unless the resources are determined not to be eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources. The architectural historian will determine the required distance from the resource. A final report, including the results of the surveys and evaluations, will be provided to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-14 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure CULT-2. Prior to construction of the proposed trails, a pedestrian survey of the proposed trail alignment(s) and other trail features, i.e., staging areas, waterway crossings, picnic areas and interpretive signage, will be conducted by a qualified archaeologist. If an archaeological site(s) is identified during the survey(s), the site(s) will be recorded, including the extent of the site boundaries. The trail alignment(s) and/or associated features will be relocated away from the archaeological site(s), unless the site(s) are evaluated and determined not to be eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources. The archaeologist will determine the required distance from the resource. If the eligible site(s) cannot be avoided, the proposed trail would be designed with protective elements that would provide for trail use with minimal affect on the archeological site(s). These protective elements may include fencing, or placement of the trail on a bridge, boardwalk or earthen berm. Prior to construction, data recovery and testing would be conducted as needed. A final report, including the results of the surveys and evaluations, will be provided to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-15 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure CULT-3. If paleontological resources are encountered during grading or other soil disturbing activities, construction will be halted within 50 feet of the site and a qualified paleontologist will be contacted to investigate the find within 24 hours. If the find is deemed to be significant, a complete paleontological survey and removal of paleontological finds will be warranted prior to resuming construction activities in the area. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-16 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure CULT-4. If human remains are encountered, work will halt within 50 feet of the find and the County Coroner will be notified immediately. An archaeologist will also be contacted to evaluate the find. In accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if the Coroner recognizes the human remains to be of Native American origin or has reason to believe they are, the Coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of this identifica-

tion. Subsequently, pursuant to Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code, the Native American Heritage Commission will identify a Native American Most Likely Descendent to inspect the site and provide recommendations for the proper treatment of the remains and associated grave goods. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-17 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1. Implementation of the proposed project will follow Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) recommended by the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department and/or other relevant agencies, to prevent erosion during construction. Such BMPs include the following:

- Limit construction activities to the dry season.
- Stabilize construction sites, including entrances and exits.
- Protect exposed slopes and use of straw wattles to prevent erosion.
- Minimize the spread of oil, gas and engine fluids.

This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-12 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2. Following construction, disturbed areas, including streambanks, will be stabilized with native plant materials, straw mulch tacked in place, straw wattles, silt fences, hydroseeding or similar measures that would prevent erosion. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-13 in the Trails Plan.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-3. Crossing structures shall be designed to allow for passage of high flows with flows directed away from downstream channel banks. Culverts should be sized for high flows and allow flood flows to pass over the crossing without redirection of flood waters. Channel incision at each site will not be altered by culvert placement because culvert placement will not alter the slope of the channel bed. This mitigation is Construction Protocol CP-11 in the Trails Plan.

APPENDIX A

TRAILS PLAN POLICIES

This appendix describes the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan policies, which, together with the Trails Plan, support the project goals. These policies have been developed to address the protection of natural resources and to guide the implementation of the Trails Plan.

A. Trail Policies

Implementation of the following policies will ensure that the development of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan will meet the goals of the project related to user experiences, recreation, adequate facilities and interpretive opportunities. The policies are divided into two general areas: trail features, and trail use and regulation.

Trail Features

TRAIL-1. A variety of recreational trails shall be provided on the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands, offering opportunities for recreation, education and wildlife observation.

TRAIL-2. Adequate trailheads, parking, picnic areas and staging areas shall be developed in conjunction with new trails. These areas shall be located, designed and constructed so that there will be no adverse physical effects on the environment.

TRAIL-3. Interpretive information and displays about the natural and cultural resources of the Laguna, and about the agricultural operations on the City Farms shall be provided along trails.

TRAIL-4. Development of trails on the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands shall include linkages to existing and proposed trails.

Trail Use and Regulation

TRAIL-5. Trail alignments and proposed uses shall be compatible with activities occurring on the City Farms and the Balletto Easement.

TRAIL-6. Dogs may be allowed on some trails, subject to the following guidelines:

- All dogs will be required to be leashed.
- Trails passing through sensitive areas will prohibit dogs. Specific trails on which dogs will be prohibited will be determined by the designated management entity, in consultation with the District and City of Santa Rosa when applicable.
- Dogs will not be allowed on pedestrian-only trails.
- Dogs will not be allowed on trails in areas being actively grazed.

TRAIL-7. Multi-use trails shall be designed to be accessible to a variety of users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, wheelchair users and equestrians.

TRAIL-8. There should be signs at all staging areas and trailheads showing the trail network, including multiple parking possibilities.

TRAIL-9. All trails may be subject to seasonal closure during periods of heavy rain and flooding in the Laguna.

TRAIL-10. Multi-use trails may be closed to certain uses during periods of heavy rain and flooding in the Laguna, as determined necessary by the designated management entity. A sign should be posted at staging areas on Kelly Farm alerting trails users whether the City of Sebastopol's floating bridge across the Laguna is available or unavailable.

TRAIL-11. The staging area at Brown Farm may be closed due to cutting of hay during several two- to three-week periods throughout the year. At this time, a sign will be posted at the Brown Farm entrance describing the closure and indicating the expected date of re-opening for public use.

B. Biological Resources

Implementation of the following policies will ensure that the development the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan Area will meet the goals of providing recreational trail access while protecting the sensitive resources of the Laguna.

BIO-1. Siting, design and construction activities for trails and other project features shall avoid existing populations of special-status, State and federally threatened or endangered plants and animals.

BIO-2. Trails and other project features on the subject properties shall be developed with minimal disturbance to wetlands, waterways, vernal pools and riparian vegetation.

BIO-3. Trail construction shall follow the protocols for protection of special-status species described in Appendix D-Trail Construction Protocols.

BIO-4. Trail design and construction shall protect heritage-quality trees by implementing the protocols for protection of trees and riparian vegetation described in Appendix D-Trail Construction Protocols.

BIO-5. Oak and other native plantings shall be protected by implementing the following measures:

- Oak restoration planting areas and sites where natural regeneration of oaks is occurring shall be avoided when siting trails and other project features.
- If oak seedlings and saplings affected by construction of trails and other project features, they shall be replaced at a ratio of one-to-one.

BIO-6. Nesting birds and their nests shall be protected by implementing the following actions:

- Pre-construction surveys for nesting birds shall occur prior to construction of trails and other project features. Should any nesting birds be detected along the alignment, appropriate nest protection measures should be implemented, as determined by a qualified biologist.
- Trimming and removal of vegetation shall occur during the non-nesting season so that nesting birds are not temporarily disturbed during construction of trails and other project features.

BIO-7. The project shall not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish of wildlife species, corridor or nursery sites. Culvert size and configuration shall not impede fish movements.

BIO-8. Design and construction of trails and other project features shall include replanting with appropriate native species in areas of disturbance. Species shall be selected in consultation with the City of Santa Rosa and County of Sonoma.

BIO-9. The District shall coordinate with ongoing restoration activities on the study properties to ensure that design and construction of trails and other project features do not conflict with these efforts.

C. Hydrological Resources

Implementation of the following policies will ensure that the development of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan is completed in a way that protects hydrologic resources in the study area.

HYDRO-1. Trails and other project features on the subject properties shall be developed with minimal disturbance to the hydrology of wetlands, waterways and riparian communities in the project area.

HYDRO-2. Any grading needed for construction of the trails and other project features shall use fill on-site.

HYDRO-3. Construction of trails and other project features shall not result in substantial erosion or loss of topsoil, and will follow the protocols for protection of hydrological resources described in Appendix D-Trail Construction Protocols.

HYDRO-4. Construction of trails and other project features shall not alter any drainage patterns which would result in erosion or siltation on- or off-site, or result in an increase in the rate or amount of run-off that would result in flooding on- or off-site.

HYDRO-5. Trail grades shall be minimized in order to limit erosion and meet accessibility guidelines outlined in the *California Disabled Accessibility Guidebook 2003*. Multi-use trails shall have a slope of 5% or less.

HYDRO-6. Trails in hillside areas shall be outsloped in order prevent erosion by encouraging water to sheet flow across the trails.

D. Cultural Resources

Implementation of the following policies will ensure that the development of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan will meet the goal of providing recreational trail access while protecting the sensitive cultural resources of the Laguna.

CULT-1. Design and construction of trails and other project features shall follow the protocols for protection of cultural resources as described in Appendix D-Trail Construction Protocols .

E. Air Quality

Implementation of the following policies will ensure that the development of trails on the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan will

AIR-1. Construction of trails and other project features shall follow the protocols for air quality protection as described in Appendix D - Trail Construction Protocols.

AIR-2. If spraying for agricultural purposes is to occur within 200 feet of the trails, the District will post signs at the trailheads indicating the temporary trail restrictions.

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE PROTECTED LANDS TRAILS PLAN

Mitigation Measures	Party Responsible for Implementation	Implementation Trigger/ Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Monitoring Action	Monitoring Frequency
AIR QUALITY					
Mitigation Measure AQ-1. The following dust control practices shall be followed during the construction phase of the project: ♦ Water all active construction areas at least twice daily.	Project Contractor	During construction	SCAPOSD, City of Santa Rosa	Water all active construction areas	Twice daily or more often as needed
♦ Water or cover stockpiles of debris, soil, sand or other materials that can be blown by the wind. ♦ Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand and other loose materials or require all trucks to maintain at least two feet of freeboard. ♦ Apply water three times daily or apply (non-toxic) soil stabilizers on all unpaved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites.	Project Contractor	During construction	SCAPOSD, City of Santa Rosa	Water or apply non-toxic soil stabilizer on all unpaved areas at construction sites	Three times daily or more often as needed
♦ Sweep daily (preferably with water sweepers) all paved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites.	Project Contractor	During construction	SCAPOSD, City of Santa Rosa	Sweep all paved areas at construction sites	Daily
♦ Sweep streets daily (preferably with water sweepers) if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent public streets. ♦ Limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph.	Project Contractor	During construction	SCAPOSD, City of Santa Rosa	Sweep all paved streets if visible soil is carried onto adjacent public streets	Daily
	Project Contractor	During construction	SCAPOSD, City of Rosa	Site visits to verify practices are being followed	Once per week

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE PROTECTED LANDS TRAILS PLAN (CONTINUED)

Mitigation Measures	Party Responsible for Implementation	Implementation Trigger/ Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Monitoring Action	Monitoring Frequency
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES					
Mitigation Measure BIOL-1. Prior to construction, a qualified botanist will conduct surveys of the proposed trail alignments and other trail features using protocols approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). If special-status plants are located during these surveys, the trail or associated features will be relocated away from habitat supporting the plant, at a distance to be determined through consultation with the qualified botanist. The results of the biological surveys and any project modifications will be reported to the USFWS and CDFG for comment.	Qualified Botanist	Prior to construction	SCAPOSD	Review survey(s)	Once
	Qualified Botanist	If special-status plants are located during the survey	SCAPOSD	Verify alignment of trail and location(s) of trail features, and report to USFWS and CDFG	Once
Mitigation Measure BIOL-2. In order to prevent a potential "take" of California tiger salamander (CTS), measures outlined in the Conservation Strategy shall be applied to the proposed project. Additionally, the USFWS shall be consulted prior to construction to determine appropriate avoidance measures to be implemented prior to and during construction. During construction, mitigation for CTS within 1.3 miles of known breeding areas shall include: ♦ Daily inspections of the construction site by a USFWS approved biological monitor, as specified in the Conservation Strategy. ♦ CTS impact awareness training for all construction personnel prior to initiation of construction activities. ♦ Implementation of an erosion and sedimentation control plan to control erosion into seasonal wetlands adjacent to the trails. ♦ Construction activities will use existing farm access routes and staging area and minimize the size and number of new access and staging routes. ♦ Food and food-related trash will be enclosed in sealed trash containers daily and	Project Contractor	Prior to construction	SCAPOSD	Consultation	Once
	Project Contractor	Prior to construction	SCAPOSD	CTS awareness training	Once
	Project Contractor	Prior to construction	SCAPOSD	Verify implementation of erosion and sedimentation control plan	Once
	Project Contractor	During construction	SCAPOSD, USFWS	Inspection of construction site(s) to ensure measures are implemented	Weekly, except as otherwise specified

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE PROTECTED LANDS TRAILS PLAN (CONTINUED)

Mitigation Measures	Party Responsible for Implementation	Implementation Trigger/ Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Monitoring Action	Monitoring Frequency
removed from the construction sites every three days. ♦ No pets will be onsite during construction. After construction, dogs on leash and horses will be allowed on multi-use trails during most of the year, unless conditions are determined to be too wet. ♦ A speed limit of 15 miles per hour will be adhered to within the construction site(s). ♦ All equipment will be maintained such that there will be no leak of automotive fluids, such as gasoline, oil, or solvents. ♦ Hazardous materials, such as fuels, oils, solvents etc., will be stored in sealable containers in a designated location that is at least 200 feet from aquatic sites. ♦ All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 200 feet away from an aquatic site. ♦ All grading and clearing will be conducted between April 1 and October 15. ♦ Project areas temporarily disturbed by construction activities will be revegetated with native plants approved by USFWS or CDFG.	Project Contractor	After construction	SCAPOSD	Revegetate areas disturbed by construction activities with plants approved by USFWS or CDFG	Once
Mitigation Measure BIOL-3. During trail maintenance activities in areas within 1.3 miles of known breeding of California tiger salamander, the following measures shall be implemented: ♦ Weed control will be limited to strips along the trail and staging areas. ♦ Mowing will be conducted during daylight hours and minimized during the rainy season. ♦ Herbicides toxic to amphibians will not be used.	Project Contractor	Trail maintenance	SCAPOSD	Site visits to verify measures are being implemented	Once quarterly, or more often as needed

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE PROTECTED LANDS TRAILS PLAN (CONTINUED)

Mitigation Measures	Party Responsible for Implementation	Implementation Trigger/ Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Monitoring Action	Monitoring Frequency
Mitigation Measure BIOL-4. Potential impacts to nesting birds will be minimized by limiting construction, trimming and removal of vegetation to the non-nesting season (roughly August through May); by conducting pre-construction surveys for nesting birds prior to trail clearing; and by avoiding construction activities within 150 feet of each nest until the young have fledged.	Project Contractor and Qualified Biologist	Nesting season (roughly June and July)	SCAPOSD	Site visits to ensure no construction, trimming or removal of vegetation	Once prior to activity
	Project Contractor and Qualified Biologist	Prior to trail clearing and construction	SCAPOSD	Survey for nesting birds	Once prior to activity
	Project Contractor and Qualified Biologist	During construction	SCAPOSD	Site visits to ensure avoidance of construction activities within 150 feet of nest	Once per week
Mitigation Measure BIOL-5. During construction, the following measures shall be implemented to reduce indirect effects on riparian and wetland communities downstream and adjacent to the construction site.	Project Contractor	Prior to construction	SCAPOSD	Place construction fencing at limits of construction	Once
♦ Prior to construction, the limits of construction within the wetland or riparian community will be established with construction fencing. Fences shall remain in place until construction is completed. ♦ Vegetation trimming and removal will be minimized at each site. ♦ If required for construction access, trees in close proximity to waterway crossing	Project Contractor	During construction	SCAPOSD	Site visits to ensure implementation of measures	Once per month

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE PROTECTED LANDS TRAILS PLAN (CONTINUED)

Mitigation Measures	Party Responsible for Implementation	Implementation Trigger/ Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Monitoring Action	Monitoring Frequency
sites will be trimmed and allowed to re-sprout. ♦ Construction will take place in the dry season. ♦ As needed, sites will be temporarily dewatered with sheet piles or coffer dams with flows directed through a bypass pipe. Dewatering will be of short duration and at a time of year that no CTS or other special-status species are impacted. ♦ Hazardous materials such as fuels, oils, solvents will be stored in sealable containers in a designated location that is at least 200 feet from riparian and wetland sites. ♦ All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 200 feet away from riparian and wetland areas. ♦ Following construction, disturbed areas will be stabilized (including streambanks) with native plant materials, straw mulch tacked in place, straw wattles, silt fences, hydroseeding or similar measures which would prevent erosion.	Project Contractor	After construction	SCAPOSD	Stabilize disturbed areas to prevent erosion	Twice or more often as needed
Mitigation Measure BIOL-6. If trail alignment results in the loss of wetlands, wetland mitigation will be provided at a ratio of two acres for every one acre lost, or the rate recommended by the ACOE during the wetland permitting process under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.	SCAPOSD	Loss of wetland	SCAPOSD, ACOE	Confirm provision of wetland mitigation as recommended by ACOE	Once or as needed
Mitigation Measure BIOL-7. Where culverts will be used for waterway crossing in the Trails Plan, culvert layout and configuration shall allow for upstream and downstream fish passage. Final project design will include site specific factors for each crossing, including the timing, flows and species using the waterway. When fish passage is required, the final design will avoid culverts elevated over the surface waters, culvert velocities that are not suitable for fish passage, and water depths in the culvert that are too shallow for fish passage. Culvert replacement would be conducted in accordance with published guidelines of the Department of Fish and Game or NOAA Fisheries.	Project Designer	After final design	SCAPOSD	Review construction documents for culvert layout and configuration	Once

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE PROTECTED LANDS TRAILS PLAN (CONTINUED)

Mitigation Measures	Party Responsible for Implementation	Implementation Trigger/ Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Monitoring Action	Monitoring Frequency
Mitigation Measure BIOL-8. Prior to trail construction, the proposed trails and other trail features will be evaluated to allow for the placement of each structure with minimal impacts to heritage trees. To the maximum extent possible, the proposed multi-use trails and other trail features will be sited outside the drip line of heritage trees. When there is no alternative alignment and trails pass through the drip line of heritage trees, no damage shall be made to tree roots from digging or other activities. The District shall have an arborist on site during all construction activities and in developing trail construction plans. If necessary, trees in close proximity to the trail or other trail features should be trimmed in keeping with accepted arboricultural practices. Trail design and construction will not alter the existing drainage, and will not result in water pooling within the drip line of heritage trees. Stockpiling, staging and equipment storage within the drip line of a heritage tree shall be prohibited. Permits for alteration of heritage and protected trees and/or grading will be coordinated with the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma. In addition, the alignment of trails and siting of other project features will avoid all oak regeneration planting areas and visible oak seedlings.	Project Designer, Project Contractor, Arborist	Prior to construction	SCAPOSD, City of Santa Rosa	Evaluation of trail alignment	Once prior to construction, and then as needed
	Project Contractor, Arborist	During construction	SCAPOSD, City of Santa Rosa	Site visits to ensure no damage to heritage trees, no storage within drip line	Once per month
CULTURAL RESOURCES					
Mitigation Measure CULT-1. Prior to construction of the proposed trails, a historic resources survey of the proposed trail alignment(s) and other trail features, i.e., staging areas, waterway crossings, picnic areas and interpretive signage, will be conducted by a qualified architectural historian. If historic buildings or structures are identified during the survey(s), the trail alignment(s) and/or associated features will be relocated away from the historic resources(s), unless the resources are determined not to be eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources. The architectural historian will determine the required distance from the resource. A final report, including the results of the surveys and evaluations, will be provided to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review.	Qualified Architectural Historian	Prior to construction	SCAPOSD, City of Santa Rosa	Historic resources survey, final report provided to State for review	Once per construction phase
	Qualified Architectural Historian	Upon discovery of subsurface historic resources during construction	SCAPOSD	Determination of required distance from resource(s)	Once per historic resource
Mitigation Measure CULT-2. Prior to construction of the proposed trails, a pedestrian survey of the proposed trail alignment(s) and other trail features, i.e., staging areas, waterway crossings, picnic areas and interpretive signage, will be conducted by a qualified archaeologist. If an archaeological site(s) is identified during the survey(s), the	Qualified Archaeologist	Prior to construction	SCAPOSD, City of Santa Rosa	Pedestrian survey, final report provided to State for review	Once per construction phase

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE PROTECTED LANDS TRAILS PLAN (CONTINUED)

Mitigation Measures	Party Responsible for Implementation	Implementation Trigger/ Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Monitoring Action	Monitoring Frequency
site(s) will be recorded, including the extent of the site boundaries. The trail alignment(s) and/or associated features will be relocated away from the archaeological site(s), unless the site(s) are evaluated and determined not to be eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources. The archaeologist will determine the required distance from the resource. If the eligible site(s) cannot be avoided, the proposed trail would be designed with protective elements that would provide for trail use with minimal affect on the archaeological site(s). These protective elements may include fencing, or placement of the trail on a bridge, boardwalk or earthen berm. Prior to construction, data recovery and testing would be conducted as needed. A final report, including the results of the surveys and evaluations, will be provided to the State Historic Preservation Officer for review.	Qualified Archaeologist	Upon discovery of archaeological site(s) prior to construction	SCAPOSD	Data recovery and testing, record site(s) and boundaries	Once per archaeo-logical discovery
	Qualified Archaeologist	Upon discovery of subsurface cultural resources during construction	SCAPOSD	Determine required distance from resource	Once per archaeo-logical discovery
	SCAPOSD, Project Designer	If eligible site(s) cannot be avoided	SCAPOSD, Qualified Archaeologist	Design and implement protective elements	Once per archaeo-logical discovery
Mitigation Measure CULT-3. If paleontological resources are encountered during grading or other soil disturbing activities, construction will be halted within 50 feet of the site and a qualified paleontologist will be contacted to investigate the find within 24 hours. If the find is deemed to be significant, a complete paleontological survey and removal of paleontological finds will be warranted prior to resuming construction activities in the area.	Project Contractor	During construction, if paleontological resources are encountered	SCAPOSD	Halt construction within 50 feet of the site and contact qualified paleontologist to investigate	Within 24 hours of the time pale-ontological resources are encountered
	Qualified Paleontologist	Prior to resuming construction, if paleontological resources have been found	SCAPOSD	Paleontological survey and removal of finds	Once every time pale-ontological resources are encountered
Mitigation Measure CULT-4. If human remains are encountered, work will halt within 50 feet of the find and the County Coroner will be notified immediately. An archaeologist will also be contacted to evaluate the find. In accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if the Coroner recognizes the human remains to be of Native American origin or has reason to believe	Project Contractor	During construction, if human remains are encountered	SCAPOSD	Halt work within 50 feet of find and contact County Coroner and archaeologist	Within 24 hours of the time human remains are encountered

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE PROTECTED LANDS TRAILS PLAN (CONTINUED)

Mitigation Measures	Party Responsible for Implementation	Implementation Trigger/ Timing	Agency Responsible for Monitoring	Monitoring Action	Monitoring Frequency
they are, the Coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of this identification. Subsequently, pursuant to Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code, the Native American Heritage Commission will identify a Native American Most Likely Descendent to inspect the site and provide recommendations for the proper treatment of the remains and associated grave goods.	Project Contractor, Appropriate Native American tribe representative(s)	Prior to resuming work	Native American Most Likely Descendent, SCAPOSD	Inspect the site and provide recom-mendations for proper treatment of remains	Once every time human remains are encountered
HYDROLOGICAL RESOURCES					
Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1. Implementation of the proposed project will follow Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) recommended by the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department and/or other relevant agencies, to prevent erosion during construction. Such BMPs include the following: ♦ Limit construction activities to the dry season. ♦ Stabilize construction sites, including entrances and exits. ♦ Protect exposed slopes and use of straw wattles to prevent erosion. ♦ Minimize the spread of oil, gas and engine fluids.	Project Contractor	During construction	SCAPOSD, City of Santa Rosa	Site visits to verify following of BMPs	Once per week
Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2. Following construction, disturbed areas, including streambanks, will be stabilized with native plant materials, straw mulch tacked in place, straw wattles, silt fences, hydroseeding or similar measures that would prevent erosion.	Project Contractor	Following construction	SCAPOSD, City of Santa Rosa	Site visits to ensure stabilization of disturbed areas	Twice per month
Mitigation Measure HYDRO-3. Crossing structures shall be designed to allow for passage of high flows with flows directed away from downstream channel banks. Culverts should be sized for high flows and allow flood flows to pass over the crossing without redirection of flood waters. Channel incision at each site will not be altered by culvert placement because culvert placement will not alter the slope of the channel bed.	Project Designer	After final design	SCAPOSD, Qualified hydrologist/ engineer, City of Santa Rosa	Review construction documents	Once

SONOMA COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION
AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

This notice was posted on DEC 7 - 2006
and will remain posted for a period of thirty days
until 01/06/2007.

06-1207-3

EEVE T. LEWIS, Co. Clerk
BY C. FARIAS
DEPUTY CLERK

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: X Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

X County Clerk
County of Sonoma

From: Sonoma County Agricultural
Preservation & Open Space District
747 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 100
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Contact: Maria J. Cipriani
Phone: (707) 565-7360

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code

State Clearinghouse Number: 2006082076

Project Title: **Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan**

Project Location: Highway 12, Occidental Road, Llano Road, Vicinity of Sebastopol/Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Project Description: The Trails Plan proposes a trail system along a portion of the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Pedestrian and multi-use trails would be located on four properties owned by the City of Santa Rosa (Alpha, Brown, Kelly and Stone Farms) and one privately-owned property (Balletto Easement) for which the County of Sonoma has received irrevocable offers to dedicate trail easements. Other trail features proposed in the project include staging areas, interpretive signage and picnic areas.

This is to advise that the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, acting in its capacity as Lead Agency, has approved the above-described project on December 5, 2006 and has made the following determinations regarding said project:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for the project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Monitoring Program was adopted for the project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for the project.

FG# 28456

This is to certify that the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan and record of project approval is available at: **Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, 747 Mendocino Ave., Suite 100, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.**

Maria J. Cipriani
Signature

12/7/06
Date

Title: Assistant General Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR:_____