

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation  
June 5, 2008

**DIAS RIDGE TRAIL**

File No. 08-062-01

Project Manager: Tom Gandesbery

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse an amount not to exceed \$385,000 to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy to undertake public access and habitat restoration improvements of the Dias Ridge Trail, a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, located within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Marin County.

**LOCATION:** Near Unincorporated Muir Beach, Marin County

**PROGRAM CATEGORY:** San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy

---

**EXHIBITS**

- Exhibit 1: [Project Location](#)
  - Exhibit 2: [Project Site Map](#)
  - Exhibit 3: [Letters of Support](#)
  - Exhibit 4: [Environmental Assessment/Initial Study](#)  
for Dias Ridge Restoration and Trail  
Improvement Project
- 

**RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:**

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31160-31165 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed three hundred eighty five thousand dollars (\$385,000) to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC) to undertake public access and habitat restoration improvements of the Dias Ridge Trail, a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), Marin County. This authorization is subject to the condition that prior to the disbursement of funds, the GGNPC shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a detailed work program, budget, schedule and sign plan and the names and qualifications of any subcontractors that it intends to employ.”

## DIAS RIDGE TRAIL

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the purposes and objectives set forth in Chapter 4.5 of the Public Resources Code (Sections 31160 – 31165) regarding the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines last updated by the Conservancy on September 20, 2007.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed and considered the Environmental Assessment/Initial Study prepared and approved by the National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation on April 18, 2008, which is attached as Exhibit 4 to the accompanying staff recommendation, and finds that the Dias Ridge project, as mitigated, avoids, reduces or mitigates any potential significant environmental effects and that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15382.”

---

### **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The Dias Ridge Trail connects the interior of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), with the coast, offering spectacular vistas of Mount Tamalpais and the Pacific Ocean. The trail is badly eroded in some areas and exceeds 25% grade in others, making it impassible to only the most sure-footed. The project is a joint effort between the GGNRA, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC) and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks). The trail crosses both state and federal land; however the proposed project would be carried out on the portion of the trail that is within the GGNRA boundaries. A future phase would include the trail as it crosses State property. It has been designed by GGNRA staff (Exhibit 2A). Five trail alignment alternatives were considered in the planning phase, with the preferred option both creating a new trail, as well as, decommissioning other problematic trail sections (Exhibit 2B). State Parks evaluated environmental impacts associated with the trail improvements and held two public meetings and site visits in 2006 to gain public input and respond to public interest.

The present Dias Ridge trail alignment is a former ranch road/fire road, and, like many of these roads, it was not aligned in an environmentally sustainable way. The proposed project will improve the Dias Ridge Trail alignment and drainage and reduce erosion. The trail runs between the Panoramic Highway and the Golden Gate Dairy (Exhibit 2). The GGNPC will remove, re-grade, and re-vegetate, as appropriate, poorly aligned and non-designated trail segments in order to improve drainage conditions and reduce soil erosion and sediment runoff into Redwood Creek. Another outcome of the project will be an improved trailhead at Golden Gate Dairy to facilitate possible future access improvements by Marin County, Caltrans, and National Parks Service (NPS) along the State Route 1 (SR1). This will also result in improved visitor experience and visitor orientation by providing new trailhead, directional and interpretive

## DIAS RIDGE TRAIL

signage, and a safe, sustainable, multi-use trail surface and condition. Lastly, the project will complete a gap for bicycle use on the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Existing trail alignments in the Lower Redwood Creek watershed are causing resource damage to valuable park landscapes and resources. Erosion on the existing deteriorated Dias Ridge Trail and non-designated trail segments on the Ridge are also contributing to sedimentation in Redwood Creek, degrading water quality, and impacting habitat for threatened and endangered species. The project would address these problems.

### **Site Description:**

The Dias Ridge Trail is located due east of Muir Beach, within the GGNRA. It is situated on bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean and is immediately south of Muir Woods and north of Green Gulch and Highway 1 (See Exhibit 2). The current Dias Ridge Trail is 2.0 miles long and connects Panoramic Hwy to Shoreline Hwy/Hwy 1 at a dangerous intersection approximately at lower Green Gulch Farm (Exhibit 2). The reconstructed trail will be slightly longer, at 2.4 miles, and will connect Panoramic Road with a lower trailhead relocated to Golden Gate Dairy. The trail alignments are not known to support threatened or endangered animals; however assemblages of rare and threatened plants are known to occur within the project area. The trail alignment was drafted to avoid sensitive plant assemblages, such as groundwater seeps, and reflects data garnered from three plant surveys carried out by NPS staff. Within the vicinity of the trail is Redwood Creek which is known to serve as habitat for several special status species including the steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*); coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kitsutch*), red-legged frog (*rana aurora draytonii*); and is known to serve as nesting habitat for migratory birds.

### **Project History:**

The vision for the Bay Area Ridge Trail is a 550-mile multi-use, continuous trail that rings San Francisco Bay, high on the ridgeline. Supported by a diverse group of project partners, the Ridge Trail creates an interconnected system of open space and trails that provides recreational opportunities and scenic views to the public. Begun almost 20 years ago, over 300 miles of trail is now dedicated and/or open to the public in all nine Bay Area counties. This authorization will further the Conservancy's statutory and strategic goals of improving access around San Francisco Bay, and is consistent with previous Conservancy authorizations to negotiate and acquire trail easements, prepare trail construction plans and designs, and construct and open trail segments to the public.

The GGNPC applied for funding to carry out this project in response to the San Francisco Bay Area Ridge Trail Council (BARTC) grant solicitation process. The BARTC is, a nonprofit organization and a partner of the Conservancy. The BARTC, NPS and State Parks have been partners since 1987 in designating segments of the Bay Area Ridge Trail within NPS and State Parks' lands throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. The BARTC has selected Dias Ridge as a high priority for trail rerouting and habitat restoration since it serves a diverse community, has high potential use and serves as a link to the Coastal Trail through future phases of trail

DIAS RIDGE TRAIL

rebuilding and improvement. (Exhibit 2A) The Dias Ridge Trail segment is the first of three contiguous segments that will become part of the new Ridge Trail alignment.

**PROJECT FINANCING:**

Coastal Conservancy	\$385,000
Other sources	\$780,369
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$1,165,369</b>

The anticipated source of Conservancy funds is the fiscal year 2002-2003 appropriation of the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund (Proposition 40) for the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program. Funds from Proposition 40 may be used for the deployment, protection, restoration and development of land resources in accordance with the provisions of the Conservancy's enabling legislation, Division 21 of the Public Resources Code. The proposed project provides funding to develop and ensure public access to and to protect and enhance the natural resources found at this location. As discussed below, the project is also consistent with Chapter 4.5 of Division 21. Proposition 40 requires the Conservancy to give priority to grant projects with matching funds, and for this project the Conservancy will provide about **one third** of the necessary funding, with the balance derived from several sources including the federal transportation bill and NPS's "Centennial Challenge" funds.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:**

The proposed project is consistent with the provisions of Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31160-31165, which authorizes the Conservancy to award grants in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area to help achieve stated goals.

The proposed project will carry out the goals identified by Section 31162. Specifically, the proposed project will be consistent with Section 31162(a) in that it will improve public access to and within coast and ridge trail systems and open spaces without having a significant impact on agricultural operations and environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife; and with Section 31162(b) in that the project will protect and restore natural habitats and connecting corridors, watersheds, and scenic areas and other open space resources of regional importance.

This project is appropriate for prioritization under the selection criteria set forth in Section 31163(c) in that it (1) is supported by adopted local or regional plans, including the 1999 Resource Management Plan for the GGNRA and the 1980 Mount Tamalpais State Park General Plan; (2) includes participation by local conservation organizations and serves a regional constituency from multiple counties in the northern San Francisco Bay area and beyond; (3) can be implemented in a timely way because the grantee has completed planning and is ready to start work; and (4) includes matching funds as described under "Project Financing" above.

## DIAS RIDGE TRAIL

### **CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S 2007 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):**

Consistent with **Goal 10, Objective F** of the Conservancy's 2007 Strategic Plan, the project will restore and enhance deteriorated uplands habitat on the bluffs above Redwood Creek

Consistent with **Goal 11, Objective G**, the project will result in a 2.4 miles of new trail alignment and interpretive features for the San Francisco Ridge Trail.

### **CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:**

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated by the Conservancy on September 20, 2007, in the following respects:

#### **Required Criteria**

1. **Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes:** See the "Consistency with Conservancy's Enabling Legislation" section above.
2. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** See the "Project Financing" section above.
3. **Support of the public:** The GGNPC has substantial support from the bay area conservation community for this and other trail projects. The Conservancy has received letters of support for this project from Congresswomen Lynn Woolsey, County Supervisor Steve Kinsey, Ocean Riders, the Superintendent of GGNRA and the District Superintendent for State Parks (Exhibit 3). [Additionally, staff expects support letters by the time of the board meeting from State Senator Carol Migden and Assemblyman Jared Huffman \[pending 05608\].](#)
4. **Location:** The project is located in Marin County, one of the nine Bay Area Counties.
5. **Need:** This project is needed to bring the existing trail up to modern standards of safety and to allow multiple uses, consistent with state and federal plans. GGNPC has obtained matching funds from several other sources; however, without Conservancy funding, this project would likely not occur.
6. **Greater-than-local interest:** The site is a major gateway and public entryway to the Muir Woods and Redwood Creek Watershed. The project area includes links to the Miwok, Heather Cut and Redwood Creek trails that connect to a network of publicly maintained trails throughout the Mount Tamalpais area and western Marin County.

#### **Additional Criteria**

7. **Urgency:** Severely damaged trails are a hazard to hikers, equestrians and cyclists that use the existing trail alignments. Sensitive upland habitat is being damaged by pedestrians and equestrians, resulting in potential negative impacts to water quality in Redwood Creek.
9. **Leverage:** See the "Project Financing" section above.

DIAS RIDGE TRAIL

11. **Innovation:** Part of the project includes a modest new trailhead at the Golden Gate Coast Dairy, a future interpretive site of the NPS. A future phase of the project will include interpretive signage at the former dairy buildings as well as integration of the ranching history with the newly constructed trail. The project links to other major habitat and recreation improvement projects at Muir Beach such as the Big Lagoon
12. **Readiness:** GGNPC has dedicated staff resources to this project and is ready to implement the project upon approval. The GGNPC has successfully carried out numerous projects using volunteers at dozens of sites within the GGNRA boundaries. GGNPC has secured matching funds from several sources in anticipation of the Conservancy's support.
15. **Cooperation:** The project is a joint effort between the GGNRA, the GGNPC and State Parks.

**COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:**

Conservancy staff has independently reviewed the Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS) prepared and approved by NPS and State Parks on April 18, 2008 (See Exhibit 4). The EA/IS describes the project's potential significant impacts and offers mitigation to reduce the potential impacts to a level of insignificance as described below.

**Issues and impact topics analyzed**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Visual Resources and Visitor Experience | • Water Quality                                   |
| • Cultural Resources                      | • Geology and Soils                               |
| • Water Quality                           | • Hazards, Hazardous Materials, and Public Safety |
| • Air Quality                             | • Noise   |
| • Vegetation                              | • Wildlife  |
| • Wetlands and Other Waters               | • Special Status Species                          |

The Initial Study assesses the proposed project's potential impacts on the environment and the significance of those impacts and is incorporated in the Mitigated Negative Declaration. Based on the Initial Study, it has been determined that the proposed project would not have any significant impacts on the environment, once all proposed mitigation measures have been implemented. This conclusion is supported by the following findings:

- There was no potential for adverse impacts on Agricultural Resources, Land Use Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, and Utilities and Service Systems associated with the proposed project.
- Potential adverse impacts resulting from the proposed project were found to be less than significant in the following areas: Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards, and hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Public Services, Recreation, and Transportation and Traffic.

DIAS RIDGE TRAIL

- Full implementation of the proposed mitigation measures included in the MND would reduce potential project-related adverse impacts on Aesthetics and Biological Resources to a less than significant level.

**Minimization and Mitigation Measures**

The following mitigation measures have been incorporated into the scope of work for the Dias Ridge Restoration and Trail Improvement Project and will be fully implemented to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts identified in the MND. These mitigation measures will be included in contract specifications and instructions to personnel involved in implementing the project.

Mitigation Measures

<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Description</b>
Aesth-1:	Aesthetics – Project proponents will re-vegetate cut and fill slopes for stability to control erosion and to re-establish the visual continuity of vegetative cover through the duration of the project.
Aesth-2:	Aesthetics - Trail edges and any retaining walls along the new hillside trail south of Golden Gate Dairy will be vegetated using appropriate medium-to-tall coastal sage scrub species, where consistent with adjacent vegetation, to screen views of the trail from the dairy ranch complex.
Air-1	<p>Air - All active construction areas will be watered at least twice daily during dry, dusty conditions. Water used for this purpose will be obtained outside the project area.</p> <p>All trucks hauling soil, sand, or other loose materials on public roads will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet of freeboard.</p> <p>All equipment engines will be maintained in good condition, in proper tune (according to manufacturer’s specifications), and in compliance with all State and federal requirements.</p> <p>Excavation and grading activities will be suspended when sustained winds exceed 25 miles mph, instantaneous gusts exceed 35 mph, or dust from construction might obscure driver visibility on public roads.</p> <p>Earth or other material that has been transported onto paved streets and shoulder by trucks, construction equipment, erosion, or other project-related activity will be promptly removed.</p> <p>Speed limit signs limiting vehicle speed to 15 mph or less at construction sites will be posted every 500 feet</p>
Bio-1:	Native Plant Communities – In areas of new trail construction where actions will

DIAS RIDGE TRAIL

Mitigation	Description
	<p>impact sensitive native plant communities, these communities will be restored in kind in locations identified by NPS and CDPR..</p> <p>Qualified NPS and/or CDPR staff will identify appropriate reference sites for coastal prairie, coastal scrub and wetland habitats within the watershed. Botanical specialists in the agencies will determine plant palettes for direct seeding and re-vegetation actions, with seed collected within the watershed and plants grown in the NPS native plant nurseries.</p> <p>NPS will grow replacement plants from local seed sources, to result in no net loss of native plant communities. Project proponents will monitor revegetated areas and invasive plant species controlled, as part of the on-going vegetation management program</p> <p>Plants will be propagated off-site, transported to the revegetation areas by truck and/or all-terrain vehicle where appropriate, and planted by hand labor.</p>
Bio-2:	<p>Exotic Plant Species Control -</p> <p>NPS and CDPR will monitor control strategies and performance measures for invasive non-native plants for up to 5 years. Performance measures for planted natives will also be monitored for up to five years.</p> <p>Guided by these strategies and measures, NPS and CDPR restoration staff will conduct monitoring of invasive non-native plants and native plantings for up to five years following the project's implementation.</p>
Bio-3:	<p>Nesting Raptor Species -</p> <p>If construction is planned during the breeding seasons (January 1 – July 31) for any raptors, then a pre-construction survey to locate any potential raptor nests will be conducted in and around the project area. If a nest is located near the project area, then construction will not occur within 500 feet or an appropriate distance as defined by an NPS or MTSP wildlife biologist of the active nest until after the young have fledged and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting as determined by an agency-approved biologist.</p>
Bio-4:	<p>Sensitive Bat Species - The proposed project has a slight potential to affect sensitive bat species through the removal of trees that are used for roosting. Implementation of the following measure will reduce potential effects to a less than significant level.</p> <p>A bat habitat assessment and survey will be conducted by project proponents prior to construction in order to determine what species are present in trees identified for removal, and whether they are used for day, night, or maternity roosts. Trail</p>



DIAS RIDGE TRAIL

<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Description</b>
	alignments will be adjusted, where practicable, to avoid the removal of tree roosting habitat.
Bio-5	Landbird Nesting – Vegetation will removal will be planned outside the landbird breeding season (March 1 – July 31). Nest surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to vegetation removal during the breeding season. If nests are located, a suitable non-work buffer determined by a qualified biologist based on species and habitat characteristics, will be established and remain in place until birds could successfully fledge and move from the area.
Bio-6:	<p>California Red-legged Frog – Avoidance and minimization measures are proposed to minimize the potential for harm, harassment, injury, or mortality of California red-legged frog.</p> <p>Because dusk and dawn are often the times when red-legged frogs are most actively foraging and dispersing, all construction activities should cease one half hour before sunset and should not begin prior to one half hour before sunrise.</p> <p>Prior to and during construction activities, a biological monitor will search all work localities for the presence of red-legged frogs. The search area will encompass a 50-foot radius around the work sites. Vegetation that will be disturbed within the project area will be removed during these surveys to aid in observations of the species. To prevent direct injury to California red-legged frogs, removal of vegetation within suitable frog habitat will be accomplished by a progressive cutting of vegetation from the overstory level to ground level to allow frogs to move out of the work area.</p> <p>Should any frogs be observed, activities will cease until the animal is removed and relocated by a Service-approved biologist. Captured frogs shall be relocated to suitable habitat outside of the construction zone, either upstream or downstream of the construction zone.</p> <p>Nets or bare hands may be used to capture red-legged frogs. Service-approved biologists will not use soaps, oils, creams, lotions, repellents, or solvents of any sort on their hands within two hours before and during periods when they are capturing and relocating red-legged frogs. To avoid transferring disease or pathogens between aquatic habitats during the course of surveys or handling of red-legged frogs, Service-approved biologists will follow the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force’s “Code of Practice.” Service-approved biologists will limit the duration of handling and captivity of red-legged frogs. While in captivity, individuals of these species shall be kept in a cool, moist, aerated environment, such as a bucket containing a damp sponge. Containers used for holding or transporting adults of these species shall not contain any standing water.</p>

DIAS RIDGE TRAIL

Mitigation	Description
	<p>If erosion control materials are used, only tightly woven fiber netting or non-binded materials (e.g., rice straw) shall be used for erosion control or other purposes at the project site to ensure that the red-legged frog does not get trapped. No plastic mono-filament matting shall be used for erosion control.</p> <p>Training will be provided to construction staff in order to inform workers of the presence of federally listed anadromous fish species (i.e. coho salmon and steelhead), California red-legged frogs, and northern spotted owl in suitable aquatic and upland habitats, and the necessity for implementing BMPs. This training will also identify boundaries of construction zones and identify proper disposal of construction debris and the proper response to fluid spills.</p>
Bio-7:	<p>Sudden Oak Death - Marin County is under quarantine regulations for Sudden Oak Death and the pathogen has been confirmed by laboratory analysis to occur in Samuel P. Taylor State Park, but not in Mount Tamalpais State Park or in any part of the project area.</p> <p>Integration of Sudden Oak Death BMPs into design plans will reduce impacts to a less than significant level.</p> <p>All project components impacting Sudden Oak Death host or carrier plants will follow the "Sudden Oak Death Best Management Practices in Zone of Infestation Regulated Areas, Assembled by the Management Committee of California Oak Mortality Task Force, 2002".</p>
Bio-8:	<p>Bio-8: The following avoidance and minimization measures are proposed to minimize the potential for harm, harassment, injury, or mortality of northern spotted owl:</p> <p>Project activities will be conducted outside of the spotted owl breeding season and between dawn and dusk, outside the daily foraging activity period.</p> <p>Removal of woodrat nests will be the minimum necessary to complete the project. Immediately prior to construction actions, the project area would be surveyed and any occupied woodrat nests would be avoided if feasible.</p> <p>Training will be provided to construction staff in order to inform workers of the presence of the federally listed northern spotted owl and the necessity for implementing BMPs. This training will also identify boundaries of construction zones and identify proper disposal of construction debris and the proper response to fluid spills.</p>
Cult-1:	<p>Cultural Resources, Protected Areas - Prior to the start of construction, a State Cultural Resource Specialist will review construction limits on the ground with the</p>

DIAS RIDGE TRAIL

Mitigation	Description
	State Representative assigned to the project and mark (e.g. with flagging and/or plastic mesh construction fencing) the avoidance area. Specifically, site CA-MRN-567H, new site 60131-01, and elements of Ranch M will be designated “off-limits” during all construction activities. Neither mechanical equipment nor workers on foot will be allowed within the site boundaries. A State Cultural Resource Specialist will review construction limits on the ground with the State Representative assigned to the project and mark (e.g. with flagging and/or plastic mesh construction fencing) the avoidance area prior to the start of construction. All grading activities for new trail construction or old trail restoration near the flagged areas will be specifically monitored by a qualified Cultural Resource Specialist or his/her designee.
Cult-2:	Cultural Resources, Discovery Provisions - In the event that previously unknown cultural resources are encountered during project construction by anyone, they will be treated in accordance with 36 CFR 800.13 (Protection of Historic Properties: Post-review discoveries). The archeological resource will be assessed for its eligibility for listing on the NRHP in consultation with the SHPO and the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (if it is an indigenous archaeological site) and a determination of the project effects on the property will be made. If the site will be adversely affected, a treatment plan will also be prepared, as needed, during the assessment of the site’s significance. Assessment of inadvertent discoveries may require archaeological excavations or archival research to determine resource significance. Treatment plans will fully evaluate avoidance, project redesign, and data recovery alternatives before outlining actions proposed to resolve adverse effects.
Cult-3:	Cultural Resources, Discovery Provisions - In the event that human remains are discovered, work will cease immediately in the area of the find and the project manager/site supervisor will notify the appropriate CDPR and NPS personnel. Protocols under federal law will apply for discoveries on federal land. For discoveries of native human remains on state land, these would be handled by CDPR in accordance with state burial laws. The find will be secured and protected in place. The Marin County coroner will be notified in accordance with §7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, and the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) will be notified within 24 hours of the discovery if the Coroner determines that the remains are Native American. If a determination finds that the remains are Native American and that no further coroner investigation of the cause of death is required, they will be treated in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Regulations at 43 CFR 10.4 (Inadvertent Discoveries).
Geo-1:	Erosion Control - Prior to project construction, CDPR will prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared. The SWPPP will identify all pollutant and sediment sources that may affect storm water discharges from the

DIAS RIDGE TRAIL

Mitigation	Description
	<p>construction sites, identify and implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control erosion and runoff, and reduce or eliminate these pollutants and sediments during construction and post-construction, and develop a maintenance schedule for post-construction BMPs.</p> <p>BMP erosion control methods include trail design strategies such as rolling grade dips and outsloping to encourage sheet flow across a trail surface. In wet areas measures may include surface reinforcing (e.g. cobbles in combination with geotextile or sheet drain materials), boardwalks, and drainage lenses. Other measures include locating new trails to avoid steep and/or erosive slopes. The BMPs established for post-construction erosion control will be assessed annually and maintained as needed for a period of three years following construction.</p> <p>Site-specific revegetation plans will utilize native species indigenous to the site for locations that are being rehabilitated. Quickly establishing vegetative cover on areas denuded from construction activities will minimize the potential for sediment production.</p> <p>Prior to the start of construction, training will be provided by a qualified biologist to construction staff in order to inform workers of the presence of federally listed species (e.g. Coho salmon, and steelhead) in area streams and the necessity for implementing BMPs. This training will also identify boundaries of construction zones and identify proper disposal of construction debris and the proper response to fluid spills.</p> <p>Implement Measure Haz-1 (see below).</p>
Haz-1:	<p>Hazardous Materials - Prior to the start of construction, the contractor will inspect all equipment for leaks and regularly inspect thereafter until equipment is removed from park premises.</p> <p>Prior to the start of construction, CDPR and/or NPS will prepare a Spill Prevention and Response Plan (SPRP) as part of the SWPPP and maintain a spill kit on-site throughout the life of the project. This plan will include a map that delineates construction staging areas, where refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment will occur. This plan will identify and employ best management practices (BMP) as appropriate and necessary to contain, collect and dispose of hazardous materials and sediment. This plan will also identify lawfully permitted or authorized disposal destinations outside of park boundaries.</p> <p>Refueling, lubrication, and equipment maintenance areas will be located at least 100 feet from any bodies of water, including but not limited to Redwood Creek.</p>

DIAS RIDGE TRAIL

Mitigation	Description
	<p>In the event of any spill or release of any chemical in any physical form at the project site or within the boundaries of Mount Tamalpais State Park or GOGA during construction, the contractor will immediately notify the appropriate staff (e.g., project manager, supervisor, or State Representative) and implement appropriate spill containment procedures, as identified in the SPRP and SWPPP.</p> <p>Equipment will be cleaned and repaired (other than emergency repairs) outside state and national park boundaries. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be contained and disposed of outside park boundaries, at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.</p>
Haz-2:	<p>Hazardous Materials - Prior to the start of construction, the contractor will develop a fire safety plan for NPS and CDPR approval. This plan will include the emergency calling procedures and any required employee training.</p> <p>Spark arrestors or turbo-charging (which eliminates sparks in exhaust) and fire extinguishers will be required for all heavy equipment.</p> <p>Construction crews will be required to park vehicles away from flammable material, such as dry grass or brush. At the end of each workday, heavy equipment will be parked over mineral soil, asphalt, gravel, or concrete to reduce the chance of fire.</p> <p>Fire suppression equipment (fire extinguishers, fire hoses, etc.) will be available and located on park grounds. CDPR staff will be required to have a State Park radio on site, which will allow direct contact with the CDF and a centralized CDPR dispatch center, to facilitate the rapid deployment of control crews and equipment in case of a fire.</p>
Hydro-1:	<p>Hydrology - The following measures will be included in the SWPPP for erosion control:</p> <p>Construction activities will not be planned during the rainy season, but if storms are anticipated during construction or if construction must occur during the rainy season (October 15 – April 15), “winterizing” will occur, including the covering (tarping) of any stockpiled soils and the use of temporary erosion control methods to protect disturbed soil.</p> <p>Temporary erosion control measures (BMPs) will be used during all soil disturbing activities and until all disturbed soil has been stabilized (recompacted, re-vegetated, etc.) in order to control soil and surface water runoff during construction activities. CDPR-approved BMPs, such as silt fences, weed-free fiber rolls, mulch or other applicable techniques will be utilized. Information on example BMPs can be found in the Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook for Construction, available on-line at <a href="http://www.cabmphandbooks.com">www.cabmphandbooks.com</a>.</p>

DIAS RIDGE TRAIL

<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Description</b>
	<p>Permanent BMPs for erosion control will consist of properly compacting disturbed areas and revegetation of appropriate disturbed soil areas with native species using seed collected locally, where possible. Only tightly woven fiber netting or non-binded materials (e.g., rice straw) shall be used for erosion control or other purposes at the project site to ensure that the California red-legged frog or other small animals do not get trapped. No plastic mono-filament matting shall be used for erosion control. If local native plant seeds are not available, a weed-free native mixture may be used with prior approval of the State's Representative.</p> <p>Final project design plans will include permanent BMP measures to be incorporated into the project.</p>
Noi-1:	<p>Noise - Construction activities will be limited to the daylight hours, Monday – Friday. If weekend or holiday work is necessary, no work will occur on those days before 8:00 a.m. or after 6 p.m.</p> <p>Stationary noise sources and staging areas will be located as far away from sensitive receptors as possible. If they must be located near sensitive receptors, stationary noise sources will be muffled to the extent feasible and/or, where practicable, enclosed within temporary sheds.</p>

Staff concurs with State Parks and NPS's determination and therefore, recommends that the Conservancy, as a responsible agency under CEQA, find that the project as mitigated will not have a significant effect on the environment as defined in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15382. Upon approval, staff will file a Notice of Determination for the project.