



BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL

TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Peter J. Kampa, General Manager

DATE: August 9, 2022

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 6E: Adoption of a Resolution Adopting the Mitigative Negative Declaration for the Groveland Community Services District Trail Improvements Project

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends the following action:

I move to adopt Resolution 36-2022 approving the Mitigative Negative Declaration for the Groveland Community Services District Trail Improvements project.

BACKGROUND:

Groveland CSD proposes to install approximately 2.5 miles of 12-foot-wide trails for pedestrian recreational use. The trail will begin at the existing baseball field located near the Groveland CSD offices. From there, the trail goes south and west past the Mary Laveroni Park, and ultimately terminate on Deer flat Road. Two pedestrian bridges are proposed to be installed over the creek to accommodate the trail. Other trail improvements consist of trail lighting, signage, benches, kiosks, railings, retaining walls, stairs and trash receptacles. The Project also includes improvements to Mary Laveroni Park, consisting of new restrooms, a walking loop, a small amphitheater, benches, trash receptacles, transit shelter, picnic benches and related improvements. The proposed Project will provide increased recreational opportunities within the District and will improve existing facilities.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

The proposed Project consists of the following:

- Construction and operation of approximately 2.5 miles of 12-foot-wide concrete paths and dirt trails for pedestrian recreational use. The trail will begin at an existing baseball field located approximately 1400 feet north of the Groveland CSD Offices. The trail will continue south and southeast where it will intersect with another new trail alignment. From there, the trail goes south and west past the Mary Laveroni Park (where the trail will intersect with the Park and will also continue westward). The trail continues west where it will meet the Jefferson Mine Trail Loop. Light posts will be installed along the trail every 150 feet.
- Construction and operation of two pedestrian bridges along the trail. The pedestrian bridges will span across the entire creek bed to avoid impacts to the creek. An approximately 65-foot long bridge will be installed approximately 1,100 feet north of the

Groveland Yosemite Gateway Museum. The second pedestrian bridge will be approximately 30-feet long and will be installed approximately 300 feet northwest of the Groveland Yosemite Gateway Museum. This pedestrian bridge will provide access to/from the trail and Mary Laveroni Park.

- The trail will also include the construction of:
 - Kiosks
 - Benches
 - Trash Receptacles
 - Wayfinding Signage
 - Lights
 - An approximately 40 linear feet retaining wall adjacent to the 65 linear feet bridge on the east side of the creek
 - An 18" drainage culvert adjacent to the retaining wall
 - 3,400 linear feet of chain link fence throughout the entire path
 - Safety Rails on the inner side of the trail along the creek
- Improvements to Mary Laveroni Park:
 - 1/3 mile Walking Loop (ADA compliant)
 - Outdoor Adventure Play and Team Building Course
 - Amphitheater
 - Trailhead Flex Court
 - Creekside Nature Trail and Demonstration Gardens
 - Picnic and Events Plaza
 - New restrooms
 - New Sidewalks
 - New Benches
 - New Trash Receptacles
 - Planters along Main Street
 - New Transit Shelter with benches and trash receptacle
 - Replacement of Picnic Benches

- Property cleanup and associated improvements

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Project is subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other regulatory environmental requirements. Groveland's Project Engineer (AM Consulting Engineers) retained the services of Crawford & Bowen Planning, Inc. to prepare the required CEQA documentation and associated studies. The full CEQA document is not included in this printed agenda packet and can be received in paper on request. A link to the CEQA document is provided below:

- [Mitigated Negative Declaration \(MND\) for the GCSD Trails and Park Improvements Project](#)

Crawford & Bowen Planning, Inc. prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) which analyzed all environmental topics from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G checklist. The Project CEQA document processing will include a public meeting (today) and review/adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). In accordance with CEQA, the MND was noticed in *The Union Democrat* on July 8, 2022 and the document was circulated to the State Clearinghouse. The required 30-day review period was from July 8, 2022 to August 8, 2022.

Once the public meeting occurs and the MND is adopted, Groveland CSD's consultants will file a Notice of Determination with the County Clerk's Office and with the State Clearinghouse.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The project cost is estimated to cost approximately \$5.5 million dollars. Groveland CSD is seeking funding for the proposed Project from multiple funding sources, such as the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and Active Transportation Program (ATP). The Project is estimated to be funded in full via grants and for this reason, there are no anticipated fiscal impacts.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution 36-2022
2. [CEQA Document and Attachments](#) (by hyperlink only)
3. [Notice of Determination](#)
4. [Notice of Intention to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 36-2022

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT TO ADOPT THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Groveland Community Services District (the “Board” and “District”, respectively) has received and reviewed the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, including the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration with appendices, and supporting information sources (collectively, the “draft MND”), together with the staff report and any comments received and responded to during the public review and hearing process (collectively, the “Environmental Record”) for the proposed construction and operation of the District’s trail improvements project (the “Project”), as described in the draft MND; and

WHEREAS, the District is the lead agency for purposes of environmental review of the Project under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq., and the State “Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act”; and

WHEREAS, the Project could, without mitigation, have resulted in a potential impact to certain areas of environmental concern, including Biological Resources and Cultural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the District has prepared mitigation measures to address and mitigate all potential environmental impacts to a “less than significant” level, which is a part of the Environmental Record reviewed and considered by the District; and

WHEREAS, the District has incorporated the mitigation measures described in the initial study for the Project (“Initial Study”) as conditions of approval by the District; and

WHEREAS, with the exception of the potential impacts stated above, there are no other potentially significant environmental impacts resulting from the Project; and

WHEREAS, the District submitted a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration to the State Clearinghouse (#2022070128) and distributed it to those agencies which have jurisdiction by law with respect to the Project; and placed the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration concerning the Project in the *Union Democrat* for publication on July 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration with appendices and supporting information sources were duly noticed for 30-day public review and comment from July 8, 2022 to August 8, 2022, as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, the District received no written comments in response to the draft MND; and

WHEREAS, a hearing concerning the District’s intent to adopt a final MND and MMRP was duly noticed and held on August 9, 2022, at which time any interested parties were afforded an opportunity to be heard in addition to the public review and comment period referenced above as part of the Environmental Record; and

WHEREAS, the District has considered, prior to adoption of the final MND, the Environmental Record in support of the final MND.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board finds, determines and resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. The Board adopts the foregoing recitals as true and correct.

SECTION 2. The Board finds that the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration reflect the independent judgment of the District as the lead agency for the Project.

SECTION 3. The Board finds that it has independently reviewed and considered the Environmental Record, including the Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, as a final Mitigated Negative Declaration, prior to adopting the final Mitigated Negative Declaration.

SECTION 4. On the basis of the Environmental Record as the whole record before the Board, including the Initial Study and any comments received, the Board finds, in its independent judgment and analysis, that there is no substantial evidence the Project will have a significant effect on the environment.

SECTION 5. The Board confirms that the mitigation measures described in the Initial Study, have been incorporated into the Project and adopts a Mitigated Negative Declaration, as the final Mitigated Negative Declaration, which documents are a part of the Environmental Record before the Board for the Project.

SECTION 6. The Board approves and adopts the findings set forth herein, and the Mitigated Negative Declaration, based on the Environmental Record.

SECTION 7. Groveland CSD staff is authorized and directed to cause a Notice of Determination concerning the adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project to be filed in the office of the Tuolumne County Clerk and with the Office of Planning and Research in accordance with CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines.

This foregoing resolution is hereby approved and adopted at a regular meeting the Board of Directors of the Groveland Community Services District held on the 9th day of August, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Spencer Edwards, Board President

ATTEST:

Rachel Pearlman, Board Secretary