

**CITY OF REDDING**

777 CYPRESS AVENUE, REDDING, CA 96001

P.O. BOX 496071, REDDING, CA 96049-6071

**MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**  
**Use Permit Application UP-2019-01782**  
**Caldwell Park Expansion Project**

***SUBJECT***

Use Permit Application UP-2019-01782, by the City of Redding Community Services Department, for construction of the Caldwell Park Expansion Project.

***PROJECT DESCRIPTION***

The City of Redding Community Services Department (City) proposes an expansion and public-access improvement project at Caldwell Park. The City anticipates the use of a Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization grant to fund the project. A use permit is required to allow encroachment into the regulatory 100-year floodplain of the Sacramento River for public art and access improvements. Park expansion consists of two areas: Caldwell Park, west of the Market Street Bridge; and Caldwell Park, east of the Market Street Bridge.

Improvements at **Caldwell Park West** include:

- Expanding the skate park, installing a shade structure, and installing lights
- Constructing a wall ball court at the Teen Center
- Installing a shaded outdoor exercise equipment center
- Replacing the existing restroom with a new ADA-compliant restroom
- Installing a lighted multipurpose athletic court
- Renovating the existing trail access and event space
- Installing a paved pathway from the event space to the River Trail
- Installing a public art piece near the River Trail
- Planting approximately 20 native trees and shrubs

Improvements at **Caldwell Park East** include:

- Installing a bicycle park
- Expanding the existing parking lot
- Constructing a classroom structure
- Constructing a shade structure
- Installing an event zone and food truck parking zone
- Installing lights, signs, drinking fountains, public art, benches, and native shade trees
- Constructing maintenance/storage buildings
- Installing a bouldering/climbing area
- Installing a bioswale for stormwater treatment
- Installing fencing at the bike park

The bike park would consist of a paved low-maintenance pump track, tot track, perimeter skills trail with various features and rock elements, and flow and jump lines. The park would utilize prefabricated features such as wood deck over steel framed jump lips. Safety lighting will be installed on the north side of the River Trail in Caldwell Park East. The lighting will be less than 1.0 lux, downward facing, and directed at the areas intended for illumination.

The project would take one season and is anticipated to be constructed in 2020. Construction would consist of grading; excavation; trenching; vegetation trimming and removal; paving; planting; as well as sign, light, drinking fountain installation, and structure installation. The project design incorporates the use of standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent erosion and sediment transport, high visibility fencing/flagging for avoidance areas, and standard conservation measures for vegetation and species impact avoidance.

### ***ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING***

The project is located on the north bank of the Sacramento River, on each side of the Market Street Bridge, on the north side of the Sacramento River Trail. State Route 273 bisects the park. The Federal Emergency Management Agency 100-year floodplain inundates approximately 10.5 acres of the greater park area. Caldwell Park totals approximately 70 acres of resource lands owned by the City. These lands include a total of 0.8 mile of Sacramento River frontage and paved trails, with valley foothill riparian, valley oak woodland, open grassland, barren, urban, and landscaped vegetation communities. Vegetation includes willow, Fremont Cottonwood, valley oak, foothill pine, poison oak, tree of heaven, and blackberry, as well as other ornamental and ruderal species. Caldwell Park west is an existing landscaped park, and Caldwell Park east is a largely undeveloped area with a paved parking lot and a restroom. Historic land uses for the Caldwell Park area include use by Native Americans, ranching, and gravel operations. The Sacramento River Trail, which runs through both park areas, serves as both a nonmotorized commute route and a recreation facility for walking, jogging, and cycling.

### ***FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION***

The City of Redding conducted an Initial Study (attached), which determined that the proposed project could have significant environmental effects. Subsequent revisions in the project proposal create the specific mitigation measures identified below. The project, as revised and as agreed to by the applicant, avoids or mitigates the potentially significant environmental effects identified, and the preparation of an environmental impact report will not be required. There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the City, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment. If there are substantial changes that alter the character or impacts of the proposed project, another environmental impact determination will be necessary.

The project includes measures to mitigate potentially significant impacts of associated with biological resources.

Prior to approval of the project, the lead agency may conclude, at a public hearing, that certain mitigation measures identified in the Mitigated Negative Declaration are infeasible or undesirable. In accordance with CEQA Section 15074.1, the lead agency may delete those mitigation measures and substitute other measures which it determines are equivalent or more effective. The lead agency would adopt written findings that the new measure is equivalent or

more effective in mitigating or avoiding potential significant effects and that it, in itself, would not cause any potentially significant effect on the environment.

- 1. Based on the whole record (including the Initial Study and any supporting documentation) and the mitigation measures incorporated into the project, the City of Redding has determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is appropriate. All potentially significant impacts would be reduced to less than significant.**
- 2. The Mitigated Negative Declaration, with its supporting documentation, fully incorporated herein, reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the lead agency, which is the City of Redding.**

### ***DOCUMENTATION***

The attached Initial Study documents the reasons to support the above determination.

### ***MITIGATION MEASURES***

**MM BIO-1.** If vegetation removal or construction activities will occur during the nesting season for birds (February 1 through August 31), a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey 7 days before construction activities begin. If nesting birds are found, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will be notified and consulted. An appropriate buffer, as determined by CDFW and the qualified biologist, will be placed around the nest until the young have fledged.

**MM BIO-2.** If an active raptor nest is found, no construction activities shall occur within 250 feet of the nest unless a smaller buffer zone is approved by CDFW. Construction may resume once the young have left the nest or as approved by the qualified biologist and CDFW.

**MM BIO-3.** To the extent practicable, removal of large trees with cavities shall occur before bat maternity colonies form (i.e., prior to March 1) or after young are volant (i.e., after August 15).

**MM BIO-4.** If construction (including the removal of large trees) occurs during the bat non-volant season (March 1 through August 15), a qualified professional shall conduct a pre-construction survey of the project site to locate maternity colonies and identify measures to protect colonies from disturbance. The pre-construction survey will be performed no more than 14 days prior to the implementation of construction activities (including staging and equipment access). If a maternity colony is located within or adjacent to the project site, a disturbance-free buffer shall be established by a qualified professional to ensure the colony is adequately protected from project activities.

### ***PUBLIC REVIEW DISTRIBUTION***

Draft copies or notice of this Mitigated Negative Declaration were distributed to:

- Shasta County Clerk
- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Redding
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Redding
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Redding
- California Native Plant Society, Shasta County
- Shasta Environmental Alliance
- All property owners within 300 feet of the property boundary

***PUBLIC REVIEW***

- (x) Draft document referred for comments October 29, 2019.
- ( ) No comments were received during the public review period.
- ( ) Comments were received but did not address the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration findings or the accuracy/completeness of the Initial Study. No response is necessary. The letters are attached.
- ( ) Comments addressing the findings of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and/or accuracy or completeness of the Initial Study were received during the public review period. The letters and responses follow (see Response to Comments, attached).

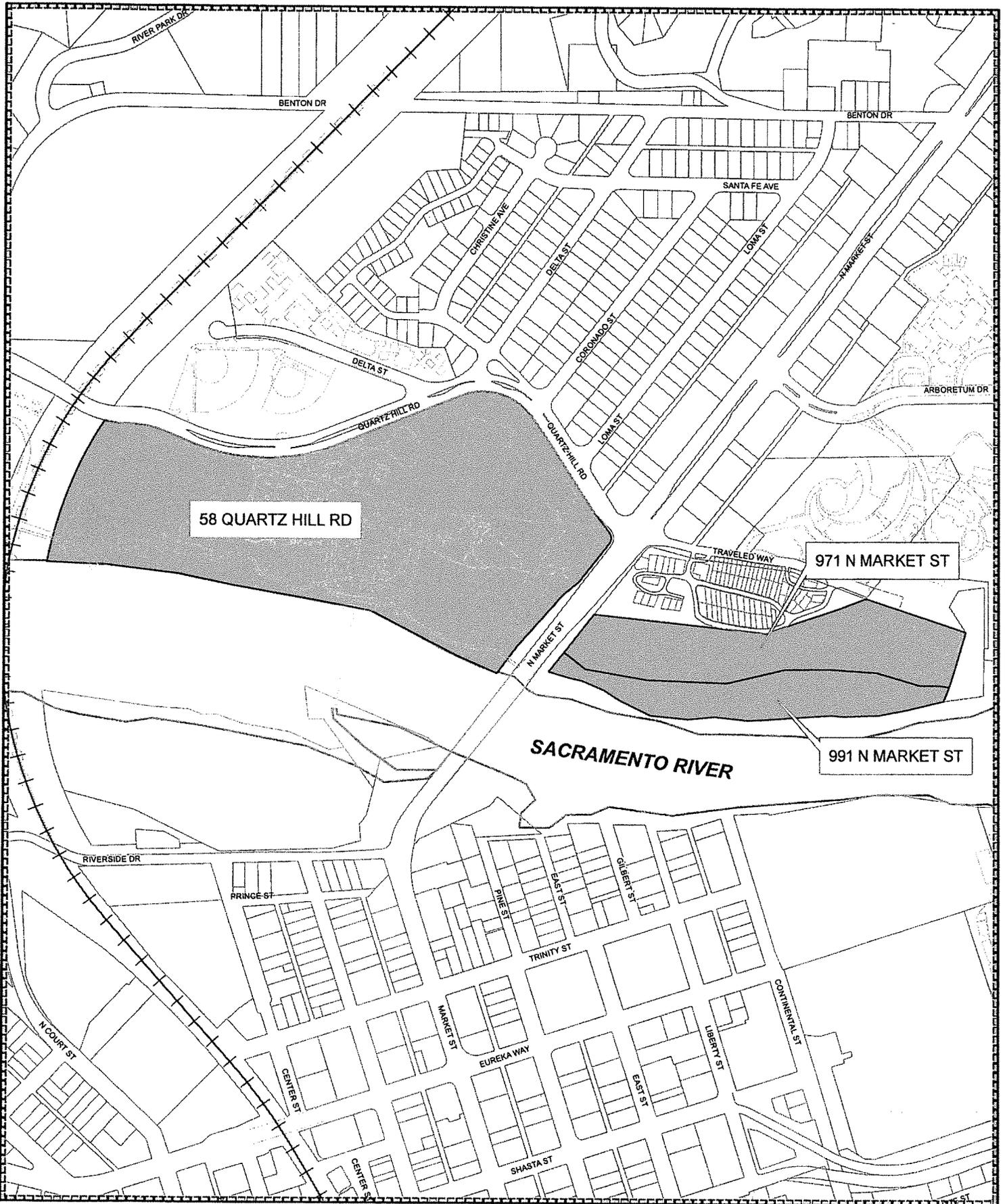
**Copies of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Initial Study, documentation materials, and the Mitigation Monitoring Program may be obtained at the Planning Division of the Development Services Department, City of Redding, 777 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA 96001. Contact: Senior Planner, Linda Burke, (530) 225-4027.**

  
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Lily Toy, Planning Manager

10/28/2019  
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Date

Attachments:

- A. Location map
- B. Initial Study
- C. Mitigation Monitoring Program
- D. Comments and Response to Comments



**GIS DIVISION**  
 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

DATE PRODUCED:  
 OCTOBER 28, 2019

0 200 400 Feet

**LOCATION MAP**

UP-2019-01782  
 CITY OF REDDING

971, 991 NORTH MARKET ST & 58 QUARTZ HILL RD  
 AP# 112-300-005, -006 & 112-140-006

MTG. DATE:

ITEM:

ATTACHMENT: