



CITY OF REDDING

777 CYPRESS AVENUE, REDDING, CA 96001

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

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Northeast Crossing Trail Project Use Permit Application UP-2020-00350

SUBJECT

Use Permit Application UP-2020-00350, by the City of Redding Community Services Department, for construction of the Northeast Crossing Trail project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Northeast Crossing Trail (NEXT) is an active transportation project specifically designed to reduce vehicle miles traveled and promote non-motorized commuting in the Northeast Quadrant of Redding. This new trail connection benefits the economically disadvantaged communities northwest of Interstate 5 (I-5) by providing non-motorized alternative access to goods and services in the Hilltop Drive and Dana Drive retail and commercial areas and beyond.

The NEXT project proposes to construct a permeable paved trail in the open space corridor along Boulder Creek, generally located west of I-5. The project will connect the existing State Route (SR) 299 bike path through the Caltrans right-of-way with the Highland Park neighborhood subdivision at the northern terminus of Mill Valley Parkway. The scope of work includes the construction of 2,900 linear feet of paved trail, a single-span pedestrian bridge over Boulder Creek, LED safety lighting, 0.40 acres of native restorative planting. Work will involve vegetation removal, vegetation trimming, earthwork (cut and fill), and trenching. A use permit is required to allow encroachment into the regulatory 100-year floodplain of Boulder Creek for trail construction.

The 10-foot-wide paved trail will be constructed with a pervious polymerized crushed aggregate pavement on City-owned land and in the Caltrans right-of-way. Approximately 2,500 feet of the pathway will be constructed on existing City and Caltrans utility-access roads. The remaining 400 feet of pathway will be constructed over Boulder Creek and in a sparsely vegetated area north of the creek.

Safety lighting, electrical conduit, and interpretive signs will be installed along the pathway. A drinking fountain may also be installed near the wastewater treatment ponds. Traffic bollards will be installed at each end of the pathway to prevent vehicle access. The project includes 0.40 acres of native restorative planting and installation of an irrigation system. The planting palette will incorporate 60 native trees, including Oak and Western Redbud.

A prefabricated 80 foot long and 10 foot wide single-span pedestrian bridge will be constructed across Boulder Creek. Concrete abutments will be constructed on the north and south sides of the creek beyond the top of the creek bank. Construction of the bridge will not require work within the jurisdictional waters of Boulder Creek, and channel modification is not proposed.

The project is anticipated to be built in 2020 and 2021, and would take one season to construct.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site an abandoned wastewater treatment facility located south of SR 299 and north of the Highland Park neighborhood subdivision. The existing Bethel Church campus and vacant residential land is located adjacent to the east while I-5 borders the property to the west. The property and surrounding area consists of blue oak-foothill pine woodland interspersed with annual grassland and urban development. Boulder Creek, which is tributary to Churn Creek approximately 1 mile to the southeast, traverses the property which also contains the abandoned detention ponds as well as seasonal wetlands and a barren access road.

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 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 there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.**
- 2. The Mitigated Negative Declaration, with its supporting documentation, 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. Construction activities on the banks of Boulder Creek shall be limited to a work window of June 1 to October 31 or during a period when the segment of Boulder Creek within the BSA is not flowing.

MM-BIO 2. Within 7 days prior to the onset of construction activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys for western pond turtle and turtle nests. If these species or their nests are observed during the pre-construction survey, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will be contacted and work within that area will be avoided until an appropriate course of action is established. If western pond turtle or their nests are not observed during the pre-construction survey, then construction activities may begin. If construction is delayed or halted for more than 7 days, another pre-construction survey will be conducted.

MM BIO-3. If western pond turtle or turtle nests are encountered during construction and could be harmed by construction activities, work will stop in the area and the City will notify CDFW. Upon authorization from CDFW, a qualified biologist may relocate the individual(s) or nest the shortest distance possible to a location containing habitat outside of the work area.

MM BIO-4. 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-5. 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 study area to locate maternity colonies and identify measures to protect colonies from disturbance. The preconstruction survey will be performed no more than 14 days prior to the implementation of construction activities. If a maternity colony is located within or adjacent to the study area, a disturbance free buffer shall be established by a qualified professional to ensure the colony is protected from project activities.

MM BIO-6. If vegetation removal or construction activities will occur during the nesting season for birds or raptors (typically February 1 through August 31), a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey 7 days before construction activities begin. If nesting birds or raptors are found, 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. If construction activities cease for a period greater than 7 days, additional preconstruction surveys will be required.

PUBLIC REVIEW DISTRIBUTION

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

- State Clearinghouse (if necessary)
- 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

- () Draft document referred for comments March 26, 2020.
- () 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.



Lily Toy, Planning Manager

MARCH 24, 2020

Date

LT:kr

Attachments:

- Location map
- Initial Study
- Mitigation Monitoring Program
- Comments and Response to Comments (if any)



	GIS DIVISION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT	LOCATION MAP UP-2020-00350 CITY OF REDDING 901 COLLEGE VIEW DRIVE / 500 DAVIS RIDGE ROAD AP# 116-180-006 / 117-070-028	MTG. DATE:
	DATE PRODUCED: MARCH 10, 2020		ITEM:
			ATTACHMENT: