



Culver CITY

PLANNING DIVISION

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9770 CULVER BOULEVARD, CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA 90232-0507

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

LEAD AGENCY: City of Culver City Telephone: (310) 253-5710

DATE: July 18, 2003

 X Los Angeles County Clerk
ATTN: Environmental Filing
12400 Imperial Highway, Suite 2001
Norwalk, CA 90650

 x Governor's Office of Planning & Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

PROJECT:

Title: Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Ballona Creek and Trail Focused Special Study Strategic Plan

Location: Ballona Creek Corridor from Washington Boulevard to Emporia Avenue (Approximately 4 miles)

Description:

In 1996, Culver City adopted its General Plan, which called for the preparation of the Ballona Creek and Trail Focused Special Study (Strategic Plan) with a goal of determining whether there is potential for enhancing the Creek's use as a recreation resource, while recognizing its primary function as a flood control channel. In 2001, the California State Coastal Conservancy agreed to fund the preparation of this study. After an intensive public outreach and engagement effort with the citizens of Culver City and various stakeholder organizations the Draft Strategic Plan was completed in July of 2003. The Draft Strategic Plan details the planning effort behind developing an enhancement plan for Culver City's portion of Ballona Creek and provides a description of proposed improvements and project phasing. The Draft Strategic Plan envisions a number of short-, mid-, and long-term improvements to Ballona Creek corridor. The Concept Plan proposes extensive landscaping on the tops of both banks, the continued use of the north bank trail for bike and pedestrian travel, a new south bank trail, several new transitional ramps that would provide trail access, enhancement of an existing and provision of new overlooks, a waterside trail and inflatable dams to create pooled water along a new low flow channel.

The Strategic Plan is divided into four phases to be implemented when the necessary grant funding is received. The phases include elements that can be implemented in the short-term, even though they may be subject to additional design considerations, feasibility, engineering, or property acquisition. The short-term, Phase I improvements include:

- a. Remove existing public fencing at property line fencing along the entire north bank of the Creek and install a new eight-foot-high, wrought iron fence along property lines.
- b. Install an irrigation line between the new fence and the edge of the trail or access road above the top of the bank.
- c. Install trees and other native plantings between the path and the new fence.

- d. Design and install trail head improvements including wrought iron fencing, gates, benches, and water fountains while providing for clear access by emergency, patrol, and maintenance vehicles to the maintenance roads and trail system.
- e. Remove the low chain link gates at path entries in favor of removable bollards.
- f. Install identification and directional signage at key entry points to the path system.
- g. Install low-level bollard lighting between the fence and the path system.
- h. Coastal access signage.

Future and long-term phases of the Strategic Plan are conceptual and additional evaluation of the feasibility of some of the concepts will be required before they can be evaluated under CEQA. As such, this Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is structured to address those Strategic Plan elements that can be implemented in the short term (Phase I), and to identify additional study requirements for future phase (long-term) concepts.

COMMENT PERIOD: The review period of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) begins on **July 21, 2003, and ends August 19, 2003**. Written comments must be received by **5:00 p.m.** on the last day of the review period and addressed to:

Susan Yun, Associate Planner
City of Culver City Planning Division
9770 Culver Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90232-0507

The following public meetings will be held by City Commissions to provide recommendations on the Draft MND and Draft Strategic Plan to the Culver City City Council:

August 12, 2003, Tuesday, 7 p.m.: Cultural Affairs Commission / Parks and Recreation Commission

August 13, 2003, Wednesday, 7 p.m.: Planning Commission

At this time, it is anticipated that the City Council of the City of Culver City will hold a *Public Hearing* on Monday **September 22, 2003**, at 7:00 p.m., to consider adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration. Notification will be provided if this schedule changes.

Copies of the documentation can be reviewed in the Planning Division Office, City Hall, Second Floor, 9770 Culver Boulevard, Culver City, CA 90232-0507, Culver City Julian Dixon Library (4975 Overland Avenue); and online at www.culvercity.org. City Hall business hours are 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday, except alternate Fridays. Please telephone in advance to assure staff availability at 310/253-5710. Public Meetings and Public Hearings are held in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers, at this same address (handicapped accessible location).




Susan Yun, Associate Planner

Date