



County of Santa Cruz

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131

KATHLEEN MOLLOY, PLANNING DIRECTOR

www.sccoplanning.com

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

SCH #: 2019029054

NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, the following project has been reviewed by the County Environmental Coordinator to determine if it has a potential to create significant impacts to the environment and, if so, how such impacts could be solved. A Negative Declaration is prepared in cases where the project is determined not to have any significant environmental impacts. Either a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is prepared for projects that may result in a significant impact to the environment.

Public review periods are provided for these Environmental Determinations according to the requirements of the County Environmental Review Guidelines. The environmental document is available for review at the County Planning Department located at 701 Ocean Street, in Santa Cruz. You may also view the environmental document on the web at www.sccoplanning.com under the Planning Department menu. If you have questions or comments about this Notice of Intent, please contact Stephanie Hansen of the Environmental Review staff at (831) 454-3112.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs or activities. If you require special assistance in order to review this information, please contact Bernice Shawver at (831) 454-3137 to make arrangements.

PROJECT: San Vicente Redwoods

APP #: 181146

APN(S):

Main Tract: 058-011-01, 058-011-10, 058-011-11, 058-022-04, 063-011-01, 063-011-09, 063-031-02, 063-071-01, 080-011-03, 080-011-06, 080-011-09, 080-011-10, 080-011-12, 080-011-14, 080-011-36, 080-011-37, 080-011-38, 080-011-39, 080-011-41, 080-011-42, 080-021-05, 080-021-07, 080-331-01, 080-331-02

Laguna Tract: 062-101-01, 063-101-09

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project consists of two main components: 1) the approval and implementation of the proposed San Vicente Redwoods Public Access Plan, and 2) the construction and operation of an approximately 38-mile multiple use trail system over approximately 8,500 acres and a parking area in the San Vicente Redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The trail system and the parking area (with approximately 90 parking spaces) would be developed in phases. The proposed trails would be available for: hiking, biking, horse riding, dog walking (on-leash only), small group gatherings, as well as nature observation.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site, comprised of the main tract and Laguna Tract properties, is located in the Santa Cruz Mountains in unincorporated Santa Cruz County. The main tract is located north of Highway 1, east of Swanton Road, south of Jamison Creek Road, and west of Empire Grade. The Laguna Tract is located north of Smith Grade, east of Pine Flat Grade, south of Ice Cream Grade and west of Empire Grade in the Bonny Doon planning area of Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz County is bounded on the north by San Mateo County, on the south by Monterey and San Benito counties, on the east by Santa Clara County, and on the south and west by the Monterey Bay

and the Pacific Ocean. Santa Cruz County is bounded on the north by San Mateo County, on the south by Monterey and San Benito counties, on the east by Santa Clara County, and on the south and west by the Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

APPLICANT/OWNER: Land Trust of Santa Cruz County for Peninsula Open Space Trust

PROJECT PLANNER: Randall Adams

EMAIL: Randall.Adams@santacruzcounty.us

ACTION: Negative Declaration with Mitigations

REVIEW PERIOD: February 12, 2019 through March 29, 2019

This project will be considered at a public hearing before the Zoning Administrator. The time, date and location have not been set. When scheduling does occur, these items will be included in all public hearing notices for the project.



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KATHLEEN MOLLOY, PLANNING DIRECTOR

<http://www.sccoplanning.com/>

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project: San Vicente Redwoods

APPLICATION #: 181146

APN(S):

Main Tract: 058-011-01, 058-011-10, 058-011-11, 058-022-04, 063-011-01, 063-011-09, 063-031-02, 063-071-01, 080-011-03, 080-011-06, 080-011-09, 080-011-10, 080-011-12, 080-011-14, 080-011-36, 080-011-37, 080-011-38, 080-011-39, 080-011-41, 080-011-42, 080-021-05, 080-021-07, 080-331-01, 080-331-02

Laguna Tract: 062-101-01, 063-101-09

Project Description: The project consists of two main components: 1) the approval and implementation of the proposed San Vicente Redwoods Public Access Plan, and 2) the construction and operation of an approximately 38-mile multiple use trail system over approximately 8,500 acres and a parking area in the San Vicente Redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The trail system and the parking area (with approximately 90 parking spaces) would be developed in phases. The proposed trails would be available for: hiking, biking, horse riding, dog walking (on-leash only), small group gatherings, as well as nature observation.

Project Location: The project site, comprised of the main tract and Laguna Tract properties, is located in the Santa Cruz Mountains in unincorporated Santa Cruz County. The main tract is located north of Highway 1, east of Swanton Road, south of Jamison Creek Road, and west of Empire Grade. The Laguna Tract is located north of Smith Grade, east of Pine Flat Grade, south of Ice Cream Grade and west of Empire Grade in the Bonny Doon planning area of Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz County is bounded on the north by San Mateo County, on the south by Monterey and San Benito counties, on the east by Santa Clara County, and on the south and west by the Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean. Santa Cruz County is bounded on the north by San Mateo County, on the south by Monterey and San Benito counties, on the east by Santa Clara County, and on the south and west by the Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

Owner: Peninsula Open Space Trust and Sempervirens Fund

Applicant: Land Trust of Santa Cruz County

Staff Planner: Randall Adams, (831) 454-3218

Email: Randall.Adams@santacruzcounty.us

This project will be considered at a public hearing before the Zoning Administrator. The time, date and location have not been set. When scheduling does occur, these items will be included in all public hearing notices for the project

California Environmental Quality Act Negative Declaration Findings:

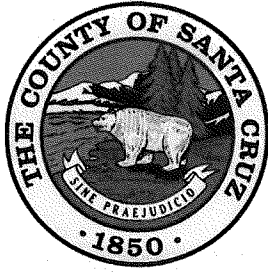
Find, that this Negative Declaration reflects the decision-making body's independent judgment and analysis, and; that the decision-making body has reviewed and considered the information contained in this Negative Declaration and the comments received during the public review period, and; on the basis of the whole record before the decision-making body (including this Negative Declaration) that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment. The expected

environmental impacts of the project are documented in the attached Initial Study on file with the County of Santa Cruz Clerk of the Board located at 701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor, Santa Cruz, California.

Review Period Ends: March 29, 2019

Date: _____

STEPHANIE HANSEN, Environmental Coordinator
(831) 454-3112



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CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) INITIAL STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Date: December 11, 2018 **Application Number:** 181146
Project Name: San Vicente Redwoods **Staff Planner:** Randall Adams

I. OVERVIEW AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

APPLICANT: Land Trust of Santa Cruz County will oversee the construction of trails and implementation of the San Vincente Redwoods Public Access Plan.

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Main tract: | 058-011-01 | 063-031-02 | 080-011-12 | 080-011-41 |
| | 058-011-10 | 063-071-01 | 080-011-14 | 080-011-42 |
| APN(s): | 058-011-11 | 080-011-03 | 080-011-36 | 080-021-05 |
| | 058-022-04 | 080-011-06 | 080-011-37 | 080-021-07 |
| | 063-011-01 | 080-011-09 | 080-011-38 | 080-331-01 |
| | 063-011-09 | 080-011-10 | 080-011-39 | 080-331-02 |
| Laguna Tract: | 062-101-01 | 063-101-09 | | |

OWNER: Peninsula Open Space Trust and Sempervirens Fund own the property. The Save the Redwoods League holds the Conservation Easement.

SUPERVISORAL DISTRICT: 3

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site, comprised of the main tract and Laguna Tract properties, is located in the Santa Cruz Mountains in unincorporated Santa Cruz County. The main tract is located north of Highway 1, east of Swanton Road, south of Jamison Creek Road, and west of Empire Grade. The Laguna Tract is located north of Smith Grade, east of Pine Flat Grade, south of Ice Cream Grade and west of Empire Grade. As shown on Figure 1, the project site is in the Bonny Doon planning area of the *County of Santa Cruz General Plan and Local Coastal Program*.

Santa Cruz County is bounded on the north by San Mateo County, on the south by Monterey and San Benito counties, on the east by Santa Clara County, and on the south and west by the Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

SUMMARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project consists of two main components: 1) the approval and implementation of the proposed San Vincente Redwoods Public Access Plan, and 2) the construction and operation of a parking area and multiple use trail system in the San Vicente Redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains. As shown on

Figure 2, the project site is composed of multiple parcels (and APNs) in two separate areas that make up approximately 8,500 acres: 1) the main tract, an 8,160-acre property is located between the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) Ben Lomond Conservation Camp off of Empire Grade to the north and the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Cotoni-Coast Dairies property (part of the California Coastal National Monument) off of Highway 1 to the south, and 2) the Laguna Tract, a 373-acre property located to the southeast of the main tract and adjacent to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW's) Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve.

The proposed San Vicente Redwoods Public Access Plan would provide a phased program for public access on the property for recreation, research, and education. The proposed San Vicente Redwoods Public Access Plan includes goals, policies, and implementation strategies, as well as design and maintenance guidelines, and construction protocols to ensure resource protection.

The proposed parking area would include roads for access and circulation, parking for vehicles and bicycles, and access features such as gates, restroom building with vault toilets, trailheads, and storage. The conceptual trail alignment would be located on a combination of newly constructed trails and existing timber harvest roads on the main tract and would be located on existing informal trails on the Laguna Tract. The proposed trails would be available for: hiking, biking, horse riding, dog walking (on-leash only), small group gatherings, as well as nature observation. Areas to be closed to public access were identified based on review of sensitive biotic resources, erosion risk, water resources and potential hazards, and the plan for public access was developed in consultation with ecologists and wildlife biologists. The conceptual trail alignment was prepared through an iterative process including field review by professional trail designers, civil engineers, biologists, and archaeologists, and reviewed by a geotechnical engineer.

The proposed San Vicente Redwoods Public Access Plan would be implemented in multiple phases as shown on Figure 2. The first phase would include the construction of the parking area with up to 50 parking spaces, 8.4 miles of trails on the main tract that would be easily accessible from the parking area, and 1.5 miles of trails on the Laguna Tract to form a connecting loop to the existing adjacent trails in CDFW's Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve. The second phase would include 9.3 more miles of trails on the main tract and up to 40 more parking spaces. The third phase would include 16.5 more miles of trails on the main tract. Subsequent phases would include 2.3 more miles of trails near previously built trails on the main tract. The phase one trails would occur over a one-year period, while phases two and three would occur over separate and subsequent three-year periods.