

**CITY OF PACIFICA
OPEN SPACE & PARKLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**December 16, 2015
6:00 – 7:30 P.M.
Police Department Conference Room
2075 Coast Highway**

CALL TO ORDER:

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Approval of Order of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2015 (distributed to OSPAC with Agenda)

COMMUNICATIONS:

Oral Communications:

This portion of the agenda is available to the public to address the Committee on any issue within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee that is not on the agenda

CONSIDERATION ITEMS:

- 1. Milagra Battery Trail Project – review and comment on CEQA/NEPA documentation prepared for the project. Recommended Action: Receive report and provide comments.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 2. Article in the Pacifica Tribune to promote trail of the month**
- 3. Portola Anniversary**
- 4. Ways in which the Open Space & Parkland Advisory Committee can contribute to the economy of the City**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- 5. Update by GGNRA/GGNPC**

COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS:

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Changes made to OSPAC resolution and Planning Department process guide that reflect Council action.**

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS (tentative):

- **2016 –Pedro Point Trail and route update**
- **Information on Sanchez Adobe Master Plan implementation efforts**
- **GGNRA dog regulations**
- **Preservation Award**

ADJOURNMENT:

THE CITY OF PACIFICA WILL PROVIDE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR DISABLED CITIZENS UPON AT LEAST 24 HOUR ADVANCE NOTICE TO THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE (738-7301). IF YOU NEED SIGN LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE OR WRITTEN MATERIAL PRINTED IN A LARGER FONT OR TAPED, ADVANCED NOTICE IS NECESSARY. ALL MEETING ROOMS ARE ACCESSIBLE TO THE DISABLED.



Scenic Pacifica
Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

OPEN SPACE AND PARKLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE Staff Report

DATE: December 16, 2015

ITEM: 1

APPLICANT: Christine FitzGerald, PE, AICP, National Park Service (NPS), Community Planner for San Mateo County

LOCATION: Milagra Battery Trail is located east of the Connemara residential development (accessed from Connemara Drive between 711 and 731 Oceana Blvd.) and located along the southern edge of 34 acres of the Connemara Conservation Easement.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: NPS is proposing to replace a series of informal social trails with one multi-use trail approximately 2,000 feet long and 6 feet wide constructed of base rock and compacted aggregate trail tread. The project would complete a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail which is a 350 mile trail system around the region.

NEPA STATUS: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) lead agency is NPS. Project is exempt from NEPA pursuant to Categorical Exclusions C (11) and (17).

CEQA STATUS: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency is the City of Pacifica. Project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c).

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED APPROVALS: National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Coastal Conservancy Board

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive report and provide comments.

PREPARED BY: Kathryn Farbstein, Assistant Planner, City of Pacifica

Background: The location of the proposed consolidated trail is along the southern edge of a 34-acre Conservation Easement Dedication Property established in 2007 as a result of an agreement between O'Brien homes and the NPS. O'Brien Homes developed two commercial spaces (711 and 731 Oceana Blvd.) and 23 single-family detached condominium dwellings on the property just west of the proposed consolidated trail. As part of the development project, O'Brien Homes dedicated land to NPS for the Conservation Easement. The Conservation Easement provides NPS with the ability to maintain the trail system and manage resources.

In 2007, NPS initiated consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for proposed management actions within the Conservation Easement. USFWS issued a biological opinion (BO) for the effects of the Connemara Conservation Easement Dedication and Development Project on Milagra Ridge on the endangered mission blue butterfly, San Bruno elfin butterfly, and San Francisco garter snake and the threatened California red-legged frog. NPS obtained a Priority Conservation Area Grant with a 3:1 match in 2013. The following year, this segment of the proposed trail was selected for Bay Area Ridge Trail designation. In 2015, the NPS reinitiated consultation with the USFWS to modify the project description and several conservation measures.

Existing Conditions: An existing parking lot of 10 spaces designated for GGNRA access is located at the end of Connemara Drive, which currently provides access to the existing social trails and would continue to provide public access to the Milagra Battery Trail upon completion. Existing conditions in the project area include: several social trails that are steep and deeply eroded; several informal entry and exit trails to neighborhoods, and the adjacent Oceana High School; and illegal dirt bike jumps.

Project Description: The Milagra Battery Trail project will replace a trail in Lower Milagra Ridge, San Mateo County, between the Connemara residential development, and the NPS property and trail system on Milagra Ridge. The trail would consolidate existing informal social trails into one trail along the southern edge of the 34 acres of Conservation Easement Dedication Property.

NPS trail crew proposes to build a 5 to 6 foot wide multi-use trail with a maximum running slope between 10-15% and maximum cross slope of 5%. The trail would be unpaved, and constructed with base rock and compacted aggregate trail tread. The alignment avoids sensitive species and habitat areas. Post and cable fencing along the trail will reduce off trail use. The consolidated trail will result in one trail that trail crews can continue to maintain. Following construction, volunteer and staff support will assist with revegetating the trail corridor.

Environmental Review: NPS selected a consultant, ESA to prepare the necessary environmental documents that are attached to this staff report. Pursuant to NEPA and the CEQA, NPS and the City of Pacifica are preparing a joint impact assessment to analyze the potential environmental effects of the construction of the Milagra Battery Trail. Impacts from the project are anticipated to be minor or less, which would not require the preparation of an Environmental Statement (EIS NEPA) or Environmental Impact Report (EIR CEQA).

NPS has determined, on the basis of the impact assessment, park interdisciplinary review, public input, and the information in the project record, that this project is Categorically Excluded from further NEPA analysis in accordance with NPS Director's Order 12 (DO-12), Section 3.3:

- C.11 Minor trail relocation, development of compatible trail networks on logging roads or other established routes, and trail maintenance and repair.
- C.17 Construction of fencing enclosures or boundary fencing posing no effect on wildlife migrations.

The City of Pacifica has determined, on the basis of the impact assessment, City of Pacifica staff review, public input, and the information in the project record, this project is Categorical Exempt from further CEQA analysis in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Categorical Exemption, Section 15301:

(Class 1) operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing structures or facilities not expanding existing uses. The following criterion under Class 1 is applicable to the project:
(c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities.

Discussion: The draft CEQA/NEPA Environmental Compliance, Categorical Exemption/Categorical Exclusion document is available for public comment through **December 24, 2015**.

Action Requested: Members of OSPAC can provide oral comments during the meeting or provide written comments by mail to GGNRA by the deadline as described in the document.

Attachment:

1) Categorical Exemption/Categorical Exclusion Approval (previously distributed link to OSPAC via email)