

Sierra Azul/Bear Creek Redwoods Master Plan Alternatives

December 5, 2006

Comparison of the Key Features of the Project Alternatives					
Alternative Component	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C	Other Alternatives Evaluated And Not Recommended	
Bear Creek Redwoods*					
65	Public Use (phased) (See item 66 for dog use)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/only the eastern area is open to hiking and equestrian use by permit only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim docent-led hiking tours west of Bear Creek Road (short term) Remove use permit system in the east area and also open west area to hiking and equestrian use after a new parking area is constructed (long term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B, plus provide interim docent-led equestrian tours west of Bear Creek Road (short term) Same as Alternative B (long term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowing multiple-use (including bicycles) may result in user conflicts given that Bear Creek Redwoods may likely be very popular among hikers and equestrians (many short loops, close to the urban center & mountain neighborhoods, adjacent to a horse stables); opening only the west area of Bear Creek Redwoods to bicycles is not desirable given the small acreage and inability to connect to regional trails or public roads with good line of sight and/or paved shoulders/bike lanes where bicycles can safely travel; Sanborn Skyline County Park Master Plan identifies a better multiple-use trail for this area to bring bicycles from the foothills to the ridge top.
66	Dog Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no dogs allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open east Bear Creek Redwoods to dogs on leash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open both the east and west areas of Bear Creek Redwoods to dogs on leash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening only certain trails to dog use versus entire areas is not preferred given the experience of poor compliance
67	Parking Areas (Staging/Restroom) BC04, near Alma College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue to offer approx 10-car permit parking area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove permit parking area once a new parking area is constructed; use site as parking area for special events only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove parking permit system; open parking area to general use; add new permanent restroom facility; clear roadside brush to improve line of sight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other sites not listed along Bear Creek Road are not feasible due to poor line of sight, extensive vegetation/trees; topography constraints
68	BC08, north of Presentation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gravel parking area for approx. 20-30 vehicles, 3-5 horse trailer parking area, and a permanent restroom facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gravel parking area for approx. 30-40 vehicles, 6-8 horse trailer parking area, and a permanent restroom facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other sites not listed along Bear Creek Road are not feasible due to poor line of sight, extensive vegetation/trees; topography constraints
69	BC02 – 1 Horse trailer parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/maintain existing space for 1 horse trailer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the 1-horse trailer parking space after a new parking area with horse trailer parking is constructed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other sites not listed along Bear Creek Road are not feasible due to poor line of sight, extensive vegetation/trees; topography constraints

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70	Summit & Bear Creek Roads (Old Christmas Tree Farm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After securing a trail connection to Summit Road, construct a 20-30 parking area with 2-5 horse trailer spaces and a permanent restroom at the intersection of Summit and Bear Creek Roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other sites not listed along Bear Creek Road are not feasible due to poor line of sight, extensive vegetation/trees; topography constraints
71	Interior Preserve Trails Roads and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrow certain existing roads to single-track (3-4 feet) that are not essential for patrol or maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B, plus implement seasonal trail/road closures on corridors that experience significant water flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
72	Trail connection from east Bear Creek Redwoods (Alma College area) to Summit Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with property owners/seek trail easements where possible to establish a trail connection between east Bear Creek Redwoods and Summit Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
73	Trail easement through Presentation Center Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement existing trail easement through Presentation Center lands to form a loop trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
74	Trail connection between upper and lower east Bear Creek Redwoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New trail connection to join the lower and upper trail systems on the east side of Bear Creek Redwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
75	Regional Trail Corridors Trail connection from east Bear Creek Redwoods to Moody Gulch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New trail connecting east Bear Creek Redwoods area and Moody Gulch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
76	Bear Creek Redwoods to Lexington Reservoir County Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no regional trail connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New connection from northern Bear Creek Redwoods, over the Highway 17 pedestrian bridge, to existing trail on Lexington Reservoir County Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
77	Bear Creek Redwoods to El Sereno Open Space Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no regional trail connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in partnership with Santa Clara County and San Jose Water Company to designate a trail connection from Bear Creek Redwoods to El Sereno 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

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78	Alma College Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/keep structures closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek funding and/or partnership opportunities to assess the feasibility of rehabilitating the chapel for potential future use and nomination on the historic register; retain shrines and other visual remnants to assist with the interpretation of the site; demolish remainder of structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proceed with demolition of all structures, including the chapel; restore site to natural conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retaining all structures or the majority of structures would be economically infeasible; the District does not normally retain dilapidated structures and would only consider rehabilitation if the structure is historically significant; only the chapel is considered to be potentially historically significant
79	Bear Creek Stables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/stables remains on a month to month lease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter into a long term lease with stables operators; include a Site and Management Plan as part of the lease agreement that addresses operator needs and environmental/use concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phasing out/removing the stables operation is not in the best interest of the community given the dwindling number of local horse stables on the Peninsula; with site improvements and best management practices, the stables can continue to operate with minimal impacts to the environment
80	Off-leash dog area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no off-leash dog area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate an off-leash dog area within the old vineyard site after constructing the adjacent parking area (refer to item 68) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate an off-leash dog area within the Alma College site after completing demolition plan and securing site for use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
81	Horse Trough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/no horse trough available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install a horse trough in the east area of Bear Creek Redwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
82	Resource Management Sudden Oak Death (SODs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue to monitor and map known cases of SODs, continue to implement Best Management Practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A, plus install SODs cleaning stations at each parking area, post educational information about the disease to help reduce its potential spread 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
83	Invasive/Exotic Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue to monitor, map, and treat invasive plants, particularly large patches and along road/trail corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative A, plus prepare an Invasive Management and Restoration Plan that includes invasive plant management techniques, priority areas for restoration, sources of funding/peoplepower, and a schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B, plus identify areas to target as mitigation sites for restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

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84	Bat Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue to monitor and map bat habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with local organizations, such as the Eagle Scouts, to establish bat houses to increase populations and relocate populations from dilapidated structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
85	Water Quality/Riparian Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a road and trail inventory and assessment to identify problematic road segments, erosion problems, and sources of creek sediment; implement repair and treatment recommendations including road repairs and decommissioning of poorly aligned/duplicate roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B, plus implement seasonal trail/road closures on corridors that experience high surface water flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
86	Road Crossings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After opening west Bear Creek Redwoods to public use, formalize a pedestrian crossing at BC04/BC05; remove roadside vegetation to increase line of sight; install pedestrian crossing signs and other caution devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After opening west Bear Creek Redwoods to public use and constructing a parking area off Summit Road, formalize a pedestrian crossing at the Bear Creek and Summit Road intersection; install pedestrian crossing signs and other caution devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other location along Bear Creek Road can accommodate a road crossing due to topography and poor line of sight
87	Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue offering docent-led hikes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer docent-led hikes that highlight and interpret the local mountain history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide signage/information for self-guided hikes at unique sites (e.g. Alma College area) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
88	Maintenance Roads and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change/continue routine maintenance, grading, minor repairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a road and trail inventory and assessment to identify problematic road segments, erosion problems, and sources of creek sediment; implement repair and treatment recommendations including road repairs and restoration of poorly aligned/duplicate roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Alternative B plus, prepare a Road Maintenance Plan that identifies all problem sites and includes a repair history and maintenance schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

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Project Area Wide Alternatives					
89	Satellite Field Office Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No change/no satellite field office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bear Creek Redwoods, Bear Creek Road corridor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cathedral Oaks area of Sierra Azul, along the Alma Bridge Road corridor between SA19 and SA21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Other locations, including Rancho de Guadalupe area are too remote or have few access options (i.e., in event of emergency, few roads lead into or out of the area)
90	Cultural and Historical Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No change/limit access to cultural sites; use best management practices when encountering potential artifacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuously update the District's cultural/historical resources inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prior to opening new trail alignments to use, recover and salvage transportable cultural resources and store for future public display 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None

* Alternatives for Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve are on a separate table and are numbered 1-64.

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