




DATE: August 10, 2016

MEMO TO: MROSD Board of Directors

FROM: Stephen E. Abbors, General Manager 

SUBJECT: Proposed Prospect Road Parking Area (Net Canopy) Safety Structure at Fremont Older Open Space Preserve

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The Fremont Older Parking Area Public Safety Improvement Project (Attachment 1) includes design, permitting and construction of a net canopy structure to protect Preserve visitors and vehicles from errant golf balls entering the parking area from the adjacent Saratoga County Club golf course. Staff, with the assistance of a licensed landscape architect, has completed the necessary design and permitting to solicit bids to construct the safety structure. Staff presented the structure design to the Planning and Natural Resources (PNR) Committee and the community on July 11, 2016. Previously, the PNR Committee received an informational presentation on the proposed design and construction of a safety structure on October 21, 2014 (R-14-128). The Board approved the contract for the canopy design and related construction administration on January 14, 2015 (R-15-11). The purpose of this memorandum is to preview the final structure design and construction schedule and to prepare the Board for their upcoming consideration of a necessary Use and Management Plan Amendment and award of contract to proceed with construction. The Board will be asked to consider both items at the same time for expediency given that the project will soon be ready for construction. Funds for this project are included within the Board-approved Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget and Action Plan.

## **FINAL STRUCTURE DESIGN**

The recommended horizontal safety netting structure design (Attachment 2) includes sixteen (16) 15-foot high steel posts installed along the perimeter of the parking area with a mesh golfing netting strung horizontally taut between the posts, creating a 7,150-square foot protective netting surface. The ability to locate the posts at key points along the boundary of the parking area would allow the netting structure to avoid several large oak trees and their canopies. A section of 15-foot tall vertical mesh golf netting will also be attached to the steel posts on the southern edge of the parking area to ensure complete protection from low trajectory golf balls.

As part of the permit approval process for this structure, District staff has worked closely with the Santa Clara County Fire Marshall Office to develop a comprehensive ongoing maintenance plan to ensure the structure does not pose a fire safety hazard. Once the structure is installed, as part of the permit conditions for construction, the District will be required to comply with the following maintenance requirements:

- Monthly scheduled blowing events, or as needed per inspections;
- Bi-weekly inspections during fire season;
- Daily District ranger patrols through parking area;

- Response to emergency issues within parking area by the resident District ranger;
- Annual inspections to ensure adequate distance from overhanging vegetation and top of the safety netting structure
- As needed, removal of overhanging limbs to provide adequate distance and clearance

The netting system has been designed to be retractable to allow for easy access, cleaning, and maintenance of the net structure to help the District meet these maintenance requirements.

Finally, there is an existing standard District pipe gate (Gate FO01) located on Prospect Road at the Preserve property line that is currently kept open, in part for ease of passage for in-holding residents that live further down on Prospect Road. In order to keep the parking area with the new canopy structure secure when the Preserve is closed and allow residents to easily open and close the gate for their access, I will be recommending that Gate FO01 be replaced with an automated gate as part of this Project.

## **BOARD APPROVALS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The Planning and Natural Resources Committee met on July 11, 2016 at the Prospect Road Parking Area to receive an informational presentation on the project and to consider forwarding a recommendation to amend the Preserve's Use and Management Plan to the full Board. Several members of the public attended, asking specific questions related to the design of the structure and indicating overall support of the project. Committee members inquired about impacts of the structure on wildlife and the necessity and timeline of the Use and Management Plan Amendment. Based on staff's consultation with both the designer and with maintenance staff from a local golf course that has a similar protective net structure, the likelihood for potential bird entrapment would be infrequent. However, given the existing trees around the parking area, the net structure would need to be regularly monitored. District staff would be prepared to carefully remove any trapped birds during routine check-in of the net structure. A Use and Management Plan amendment is necessary given that the proposed horizontal safety netting structure would result in a new physical structure at the Preserve. If the permitting process proceeds as anticipated, this amendment and the award of contract for construction will be bought to the Board for consideration as one agenda item in September to increase efficiency by streamlining Board review time.

### **Prospect Road Parking Area Safety Structure Tentative Schedule:**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Date</b>
PNR Committee and Community Meeting – Present plan and proposed construction schedule	July 11, 2016
Bid Release (pending permit issuance)	August 2016
Bid Opening	September 2016
Board Meeting – approval of Use and Management Plan Amendment and Construction Contract	September 2016
Prospect Road Parking Area Safety Structure Construction <i>Parking area will need to be closed for duration of construction</i>	October/ November 2016
Anticipated re-opening of Prospect Road Parking Area	November 2016



Attachments:

1. Prospect Road Parking Area Site Map
2. Prospect Road Parking Area Safety Structure Perspective View





## : Prospect Road Staging Area, Fremont Older Open Space Preserve

-  MROSD Preserve
-  Prospect Road Staging Area

This map was used by G.Lausten  
for the October 21, 2014  
PNR Committee Meeting.

Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District  
(MROSD)



Feet

0 50 100

October, 2014





PERSPECTIVE VIEW TO EAST

PARKING PROTECTION STRUCTURE  
Fremont Older Open Space Preserve