



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-20-30  
Meeting 20-07  
April 6, 2020

#### AGENDA ITEM 4

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Resolution for funding from Santa Clara County for the Alpine Trail construction project in Coal Creek Open Space Preserve

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the General Manager to apply for Stanford Recreation Mitigation Funding from Santa Clara County and, if successful, enter into a funding agreement.

#### SUMMARY

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) has been invited by San Mateo County to apply for \$272,711 of funding for the Alpine Trail Project. San Mateo County is coordinating a joint application to Santa Clara County for projects in southern San Mateo County that qualify for mitigating the loss of recreational opportunities due to development on the Stanford University campus resulting from the approval of the 2000 Stanford General Use Permit (GUP). Alpine Trail is an important regional trail connection through Coal Creek Open Space Preserve for cyclists and hikers, connecting people from Stanford University in the valley to trail systems located within the Skyline area along the ridgeline and even further out to reach the Pacific Ocean. The Alpine Trail project is the primary component of MAA Portfolio #10: Re-open Alpine Road at Coal Creek.

#### DISCUSSION

The District is currently working on a crucial regional recreational trail connection in unincorporated San Mateo County that utilizes the alignment of the defunct Alpine Road to establish a regional hiking, cycling, and equestrian trail. Alpine Road is an old road alignment owned by San Mateo County that extends approximately 2.3 miles through Coal Creek Open Space Preserve and adjacent private lands.

Santa Clara County has made \$5,242,711 available for projects that mitigate the loss of recreational opportunities for existing or new Stanford residents and facility users due to development on the Stanford University campus resulting from the approval of the 2000 Stanford General Use Permit (GUP). To alleviate the loss of recreational opportunities, mitigation measures were adopted in the 2000 GUP Environmental Impact Report that requires Stanford to improve parks and dedicate trail easements.

The current funding available is from prior projects for which Santa Clara County previously declared its intent to fund; however, some of those projects were either not implemented or were

implemented without using the funding. The remaining funding is currently being made available to San Mateo County jurisdictions located in proximity to Stanford University. On March 14, 2018, the District's Board of Directors approved Option Two (2) for the Upper Alpine Road Trail Project, which repurposes and repairs the road failures to a six-foot wide trail and constructs a new, six-foot wide trail through the central section. The Board also directed the General Manager to pursue partnership and funding opportunities for this project with the County (R-18-19). Through those outreach efforts, San Mateo County has agreed to include a request for \$272,711 in its coordinated joint application to Santa Clara County.

On April 2019, San Mateo County and the District entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) formalizing a partnership and establishing a process to build a trail on the old roadbed and for negotiating a potential transfer of property rights to the District for the long-term management and maintenance of the Alpine Trail (R-19-19).

District staff is working with various consultants to develop construction documents, prepare environmental review documents, and complete regulatory permit applications for the project. Staff has advanced the design to 65%, and now has robust construction cost estimates. The consulting engineer estimates the total construction cost at \$2.88 million, including a 15% contingency. The project will address several large roadbed issues, including a failed 220-foot long by 48-inch culvert, a fill-slope failure requiring a retaining wall, and several failed or actively failing stream crossing culverts as part of the road-to-trail conversion. By completing this work, the project also will reduce the risk of sediment input to Corte Madera Creek, which is a tributary in the San Francisquito Creek watershed. A second phase, which will be constructed by a District special projects crew, will reroute a temporarily-built bypass segment.

Administrative requirements for this funding include quarterly invoicing if expenses are greater than \$1,000, as well as submission of twice-yearly progress reports to Santa Clara County. The District will also commit to providing a plaque that acknowledges the grant permanently affixed in a prominent location along the trail. Additionally, the District will give credit to Santa Clara County in project-related materials and present the Project at a Santa Clara County Board meeting within three months of project completion. Upon project completion, the District will commit to opening Alpine Trail to the public and take responsibility for its ongoing maintenance and operation. If ownership is transferred to another entity, the receiving agency must commit to these same provisions. The grant agreement will be valid for five years from the date of execution, with the possibility of an extension.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

This funding opportunity has the potential for a positive impact of \$272,711 toward completion of the Alpine Trail project. Design, environmental review and permitting are projected at \$530,000 for Phase 1. Construction costs for Phase 1 are estimated to be \$2.88 million. Phase 2 total costs are estimated at \$250,000. Grand total project costs are estimated at \$3.66 million.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW**

This report was not previously reviewed by a committee.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act

**CEQA COMPLIANCE**

Applying for funding is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

**NEXT STEPS**

Pending Board approval, staff will apply for Stanford Recreation Mitigation Funding with Santa Clara County in conjunction with the joint application coordinated by San Mateo County for construction of the Alpine Trail for \$272,711.

After Santa Clara County makes a formal commitment to allocate funding for the Alpine Trail, the General Manager will enter into a project agreement with Santa Clara County to receive Stanford Recreation Mitigation Funding.

Attachment(s)

1. Resolution approving submission of a funding application to Santa Clara County for the Alpine Trail.

Responsible Department Head:

Michael Jurich, Land and Facilities Department

Prepared by:

Brian Malone, Assistant General Manager

Contact person:

Brian Malone, Assistant General Manager

## RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA  
REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT APPROVING SUBMISSION OF A FUNDING  
APPLICATION TO THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA FOR STANFORD RECREATION  
MITGATION FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$272,711 FOR COSTRUCTION OF  
ALPINE TRAIL AND ENTER INTO A PROJECT AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE THE  
FUNDING FROM THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Santa Clara has made available \$5,242,711 to fund bicycle and pedestrian projects as well as park projects in the southern part of San Mateo County in proximity to Stanford University (Stanford) from the loss of recreational opportunities associated with development at Stanford resulting from the approval of the 2000 Stanford General Use Permit (GUP); and

**WHEREAS**, the funding must be expended for projects dedicated to new or expanded recreational opportunities, that serve existing or new Stanford residents and Stanford facility users, and that are supported by their governing bodies; and

**WHEREAS**, the former Alpine Road has experienced a series of slides and floods which have damaged the road beyond repair, but the old roadbed is suitable for construction of a new regional trail; and

**WHEREAS**, the future Alpine Trail would create a 2.3-mile regional trail for bicyclists, hikers, and equestrians connecting the valley to the skyline area, including trail connections to the Bay Area Ridge Trail and to trail systems within multiple open space preserves, San Mateo County Parks, and State Parks; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alpine Trail project was one of the top 25 Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District projects identified through the public vision plan process, and the public voted in favor of Measure AA bond funding in 2014 to fund the top 25 projects including Alpine Trail; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of San Mateo and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District have signed a memorandum of understanding, which contemplates the District leading the construction of the trail along the former San Mateo County Road alignment with County of San Mateo assistance, and with the County of San Mateo eventually transferring the underlying property rights to the District so that the District can manage Alpine Trail after it is constructed; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to providing regional trail connections, the Alpine Trail project would also prevent sediment from entering Corte de Madera Creek where it could cause potential environmental damage; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Alpine Trail connects public roads and trails to currently accessible sections of Alpine Road managed by the County of San Mateo and the Town of Portola Valley that connect directly to the Stanford campus; and

**WHEREAS**, the total construction cost of phase I of the project is estimated at \$2.38 million and the District seeks grant funding of \$272,711 from the County of Santa Clara for the Alpine Trail to address alternative mitigation resulting from the loss of recreational opportunities due to development resulting from Stanford’s 2000 General Use Permit; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District**

1. Authorizes the General Manager, or designee, to:
  - a. Submit an application package for Stanford Recreation Mitigation Funding to the County of Santa Clara in conjunction with the joint application coordinated by the County of San Mateo for construction of the Alpine Trail in a total amount of \$272,711; and
  - b. Enter into a Project Agreement with the County of Santa Clara to receive Stanford Recreation Mitigation Funding, after the County of Santa Clara makes a formal commitment to allocate funding for recreation improvements for the Alpine Trail.
2. The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has or will have sufficient funds to complete and, following completion, to operate and maintain the Alpine Trail.
3. Agrees to provide any funds beyond the grant funding provided by the County of Santa Clara necessary to complete the project.

\* \* \* \* \*

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, at a special meeting thereof, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:**  
**NOES:**  
**ABSTAIN:**  
**ABSENT:**

**ATTEST:**  
Secretary  
Board of Directors

**APPROVED:**  
President  
Board of Directors

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**  
General Counsel

I, the District Clerk of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors

of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District by the above vote at a meeting thereof duly held and called on the above day.

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Jennifer Woodworth, District Clerk