

May 5, 2011

Residents of the Project Vicinity  
Interested Individuals and Organizations

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the  
Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail - Middle Bar Segment

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), we enclose a copy of the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail - Middle Bar Segment Project. The Notice of Intent describes the project's elements and its objectives and summarizes the proposed actions to mitigate potentially adverse environmental affects of the project.

The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration are available for review at the EBMUD Mokelumne Watershed and Recreation office, 5883 East Camanche Parkway, Camp Seco, CA 95226. The public review period for the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration begins May 9, 2011 and concludes on June 9, 2011.

Questions about the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail - Middle Bar Segment Project may be directed to Kent Lambert, Manager of Watershed & Recreation, at 209-772-8340.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Sykes

RGS:rl

Enclosures



**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
for the  
Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail - Middle Bar Segment**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail - Middle Bar Segment

**LEAD AGENCY:** East Bay Municipal Utility District

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

Calaveras County

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The proposed project will establish the MCCT Middle Bar segment located on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada in Calaveras County in Central California at an elevation range of approximately 600 to 1100 feet. Approximately half of the trail will be constructed on existing fire roads and primitive abandoned roads. The remainder of the trail segments will be constructed with a small trail dozer and/or work crews on undeveloped ground. Brushy vegetation will be cleared to a width ranging from 5- 12 feet along the trail alignments and the constructed trail width will be 2-5 feet. Work crews using hand tools will be utilized and District staff will also use a Trail Cat dozer where feasible. The proposed trail segment with adjoining river access spurs will be a single loop and leaves the potential for establishing a link to another MCCT segment to the east in the future. The proposed work is planned to start in Summer 2011 and the in-service date for the trail segment is anticipated to be in Fall/Winter 2012.

**SCHEDULE:** Key milestones for project implementation are summarized as follows:

Initiate construction	Summer 2011
Complete construction	Fall/Winter 2012

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

The proposed project has the potential to degrade the quality of the environment (unanticipated discovery of cultural/historical resources and soil erosion during trail construction). The implementation of mitigation measures described in Sections V (Cultural Resources) and VI (Geology and Soils) will reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION has been prepared.

**ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION:**

Mitigation Measure V-1. Should cultural resources be uncovered while conducting activities associated with the proposed project, all work shall temporarily cease until a qualified archaeologist can assess the findings and an appropriate course of action can be determined in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Mitigation Measure V-2. In the event of the accidental and un-anticipated discovery or recognition of any human remains, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until:

The coroner of the county in which the remains are discovered is contacted to determine that no investigation of the cause of death is required, and

If the coroner determines the remains to be Native American:

- The coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours.
- The Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the most likely descended from the deceased Native American.
- The most likely descendant may make recommendations to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation, for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods.

Where the following conditions occur, the landowner or his authorized representative shall rebury the Native

American remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.

1. The Native American Heritage Commission is unable to identify a most likely descendant or the most likely descendant failed to make a recommendation within 24 hours after being notified by the Commission.
2. The descendant identified fails to make a recommendation, or
3. The landowner or his authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the descendant, and the mediation by the Native American Heritage Commission fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS / REVIEW:** The Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study are available for review at:

- East Bay Municipal Utility District, 375 – 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland, CA 94607
- East Bay Municipal Utility District, 5883 East Camanche Parkway, Campo Seco, CA 95226
- Calaveras County Library, 1299 Gold Hunter Road, San Andreas, CA 95249
- Amador County Library, 530 Sutter Street, Jackson, CA 95249
- Mokelumne Hill Branch (Calaveras County), P.O. Box 282, 8328 Main Street, Mokelumne Hill, CA 95245

In accordance with Section 15073 of the State CEQA Guidelines, this Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for public review for 30 days from: 5/9/11 through 6/9/11. Written comments must be submitted no later than close of business 5/26/11. Please address written and email comments to:

Name: Mr. Chris Swann, Ranger Supervisor  
Address: 5883 East Camanche Parkway  
Valley Springs, CA 95252

Phone No.: 209-772-8258  
Email: cswann@ebmud.com

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

04-27-11

