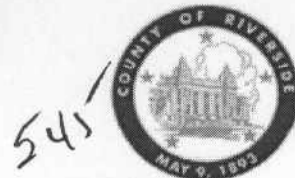




SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



FROM: Regional Park & Open-Space District

SUBMITTAL DATE:  
12/3/04

SUBJECT: Adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Environmental Assessment No. Parks 1001 and Approval of the Improvements to the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area in the City of Riverside – District I

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board:

1. Adopt the De Minimus finding that there is no evidence that this project will have an adverse impact on wildlife resources;
2. Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Environmental Assessment Parks 1001; and
3. Approve the proposed improvements to the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area.

BACKGROUND:

The Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District proposes to add improvements to the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area by extending the Santa Ana River Bike Trail for 4.5 miles through the area, paving the access road from Arlington Avenue to the Hidden Valley Nature Center, installing a bathroom at the trail head east of the Nature Center, and adding a picnic area/interpretive site with a boardwalk and observation blind.

(continued on page 2)

Departmental Concurrence

*Paul Frandsen*

452-Adoption of Mitigated Negative Declaration for EA No 1001 & Approval of Improvements to HDV

Paul Frandsen, General Manager

FINANCIAL DATA N/A

Current F.Y. Total Cost: \$  
 Current F.Y. Net County Cost: \$  
 Annual Net County Cost: \$

In Current Year Budget:  
 Budget Adjustment:  
 For Fiscal Year:

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30   
 Requires 4/5 Vote

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

*A. Jeffrey*

County Executive Office Signature

Dep't Recomm.:  Consent  Policy   
 Per Exec. Ofc.:  Consent  Policy

300P DEC 12 11:02  
 2004 DEC 13 10:17  
 OFFICE EXECUTIVE

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | District: | Agenda Number:

ATTACHMENTS FILED  
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

13.1

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Environmental Assessment No. Parks 1001 and Approval of the Improvements to the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area in the City of Riverside

The trail portion of the project will add a new section of the Santa Ana River Bike trail, which will eventually extend from the San Bernardino Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. The paving of the park access road, and the addition of a rest room, trail head, and picnic area will increase the usability of both the new bike trail and the existing Hidden Valley Wildlife Area. The analysis and findings contained in the attached Initial Study for Environmental Assessment No. Parks 1001 support the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

The availability of Environmental Assessment No. Parks 1001 was advertised in the Press-Enterprise. A Notice of Intent to issue a Mitigated Negative Declaration and a copy of the Environmental Assessment were mailed to a number of agencies and neighbors of the project area. The public review period extended from September 17 through October 18, 2004.

The Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District received two letters concerning this project. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) said they had reviewed the project and determined that the project was not regionally significant and, therefore, SCAG did not have any comments. The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District commented that construction projects may require coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity.

The Environmental Assessment identified one issue that required further study. The District hired a cultural resources consultant to determine the significance and evaluate the canals located on the property that were used to bring water to a historic hydro-electric plant located outside the Wildlife Area. The consultant determined that, except in one area, this project would not have a significant impact on the cultural resource. In one place where the bike trail crosses a small drainage area, the current alignment could impact the resource. As recommended by the Consultant, the District will seek to reroute the trail to avoid impacts. If that is not feasible, the construction methods and practices shall be designed in consultation with a cultural resources specialist to minimize impacts.

This document has been advertised and received public comment in accordance with County Ordinance, CEQA Guidelines, and California law.