

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE WILDCAT CANYON REGIONAL PARK BIKE TRAIL PROJECT

Date: January 15, 2026

To: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Interested Persons

RE: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Wildcat Canyon Regional Park Bike Trail Project

In accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) has determined that the proposed Wildcat Canyon Regional Park Bike Trail Project (project) will require preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The purpose of this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to provide an opportunity for the public, interested parties and public agencies to comment on the scope and proposed content of the EIR. This determination is based upon the criteria of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063 for an Initial Study and Section 15064 Determining Significant Effect, and for the reasons documented in the attached Initial Study.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

The District will conduct 2 public scoping meetings to inform interested parties about the project, and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide comments on the scope and content of the EIR. The public scoping meetings are scheduled for the following times:

January 27, 2026 (6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.) at the San Pablo Community Hall, in person (2450 Road 20 San Pablo, CA 94806)

February 10, 2026 (6:00pm to 7:00pm) virtual meeting

Please visit the following link to register to receive the zoom link. Or visit the project website at the QR code at the bottom of the NOP

https://ebparks.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hje2dAhYTx66bg1zloBbUw

PROVIDING COMMENTS ON THIS NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Written and/or email comments on the NOP should be provided at the earliest possible date, but must be received by **5:00 p.m. on March 13, 2026**. Please send all comments on the NOP via mail or email to:

Suzanne Wilson, Senior Planner
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
Oakland, CA 94605
E-mail: trailsdev@ebparks.org

FOCUS OF INPUT

Based on the results of an Initial Study (see attachment), the Park District anticipates that the EIR will focus analysis on the topics of air quality, biological resources, cultural and tribal cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, and transportation. See the attached Initial Study for detailed evaluation of the environmental issue areas identified in the Environmental Checklist (Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines). The EIR will also evaluate cumulative impacts, growth inducement, and alternatives to the project. The Park District encourages public input regarding the specific topics that should be covered in the EIR, as well as alternatives, cumulative impacts, growth inducement, and mitigation measures.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park at 5755 McBryde Avenue in the city of Richmond, approximately 0.25 mile east of Interstate 80. The proposed approximately 1.4-mile trail would be located in the western portion of the park north of Wildcat Creek Trail on the hillside near the intersection with the existing Mezue Road (Figure

1). Elevations of the project alignment range from 130 to 390 feet. The area proposed for the trail alignment is currently vacant and covered with grazed and weedy grasses along the hillside.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Park District proposes to construct a new 1.44-mile directional mountain bike only trail within Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. This new trail would relieve user pressure on existing trails and minimize conflict (actual and perceived) with other trail users. The trail would be designed for all bicyclist levels with beginner/intermediate hard (wooden or stone)- and soft (dirt)-surface bike-optimized trail features. The proposed trail would be used in the downhill direction only and progressively increase in difficulty level as riders make their way down the trail. The beginning portions of the trail would include rollers (continuous small bumps), berms, and other similar features that would be smaller and approachable, increasing in size and difficulty as riders continue down the trail alignment. Novice users would have the ability to exit the trail and connect with the existing Mezue Trail before the features exceed the riders’ abilities or comfort levels. Average trail width would be 36 to 48 inches with elevation change of approximately 500 feet for an average trail grade of 5 to 7 percent.

Leonard’s Trail would be closed to bikes, limiting use to hikers and equestrians, upon implementation of the project. This would direct bike use away from the nearby Santa Cruz Tarplant population and provide a corridor free of bikes to connect other trail users from Wildcat Creek Trail to San Pablo Ridge and Nimitz Way.

The project would address existing demand for biking trails at Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. Therefore, it is expected that the overall number of visitors to Wildcat Canyon Regional Park would increase modestly with implementation of the project. Further, it is anticipated that the project would redistribute users from other trails within Wildcat and Tilden Regional Parks to the proposed trail, resulting in decreased user demand on other trails within these parks. This redistribution of users would reduce user conflicts in the regional park.

Source: Adapted by Ascent in 2024.

For a more project information or a more detailed description of the project please see Section 2, Project Description, of the Initial Study at the QR code or the following URL: <https://www.ebparks.org/projects/wildcat-canyon-regional-park-wildcat-bike-trail>



Figure 1 Project Site

