

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Bowman Canyon Habitat Protection and Public Access Improvement Project

Lead Agency: Marin County Open Space

Contact Name: Kelly Hyde

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Project Location: Novato, Marin

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The proposed project would protect and enhance sensitive habitats and species while providing recreation opportunities on a sustainable network of fire roads and trails. This would be accomplished by reducing the overall road and trail footprint through a thoughtful process of decommissioning existing ranch roads in sensitive habitat, converting some ranch roads to trails, and relocating trails out of sensitive habitats. The areas where trails would be decommissioned and relocated away from sensitive habitats would be revegetated passively through natural recruitment supplemented by additional seeding and planting native shrubs. These actions would meet the project purpose and objectives by reducing environmental impacts, improving trail sustainability, and providing greater accessibility for all trail users.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Implementation of the proposed project has the potential to result in impacts to California red-legged frogs due to construction activities occurring within and adjacent potentially suitable non-breeding aquatic habitat. To reduce the potential for impacts, construction activities would occur during the dry season when of California red-legged frogs are not expected to be present. Additionally, the proposed project would implement seasonal restrictions to protect nesting birds. The nesting bird window would be January 1 to July 31 for this proposed project and surveys would be conducted within 7 days of the start of active ground-disturbing activities occur within general buffers.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

The proposed project area is made up of sensitive habitat types and contains several rare plant species. The preservation of these habitats and species were a priority to community stakeholders in the early planning stages. Project development was therefore informed by community input from a series of stakeholder meetings and field visits, which provided opportunities to provide feedback on project objectives, alignment options, and habitat protection. The MCOSD also engaged in ongoing coordination and stakeholder discussions throughout the project development process.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

The proposed project requires the following permits and approvals, which would be obtained prior to construction:

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, and the State of California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Fish and Game Code Sections 1062 – 1603: Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement

US Army Corps of Engineers, Clean Water Act Section 404, Nationwide Permit 42 – Recreational Facilities