NOTICE OF DETERMINATION 21-2026-180

FROM: Marin County Parks and Open Space District
1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 275, San Rafael, CA 94903
www.parks.marincounty.gov (415) 473-6387

TO: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ Marin County Clerk
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 234
San Rafael, CA 94903

FILED
NOV 03 2026
SHELLY SCOTT
MARIN COUNTY CLERK
BY: O. Lobato, Deputy

Date: November 3, 2026

CEQA Lead Agency: Marin County Open Space District

State Clearinghouse Number: 2026061011

Project Title: **Buck Gulch Falls Creek Restoration and Trail Improvement Project**

Project Applicant: Marin County Open Space District

Project Location (include county): Ignacio Valley Open Space Preserve, Novato, Marin County

Project Description: The purpose of the Buck Gulch Falls Creek Restoration and Trail Improvement Project (Project) is to implement MCOSD's Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) to provide the public with a safe multi-use trail system to enhance the visitor experience, reduce the environmental impacts on sensitive resources by reducing sedimentation and erosion, and establish a sustainable system of roads and trails that meet design and management standards and would provide safe year-round access along the trail alignment. An additional purpose of the proposed project is to implement the Marin County Parks Inclusive Access Plan (IAP) to the greatest extent feasible, given the existing topography of the project area. The Project will meet this purpose by constructing two recreational bridges to cross Arroyo de San Jose Creek on the Spyglass and Buck Gulch Falls trails; improve conditions along nearly 2,240 feet of existing trail including realigning nearly 850 feet of trail segments away from eroding streambanks, installing one puncheon and one boardwalk over unnamed ephemeral streams along the trail, change use of the Buck Gulch Falls Trail from hiker/equestrian only to hiker only use, installing four fill slope walls to retain the trail alignment near the waterfall viewing area, and install new fencing and signage at the waterfall viewing area; decommissioning and restoring nearly 850 feet of trail; and restoring nearly 19,500 square feet of eroding streambank and riparian area along Arroyo de San Jose Creek. These actions would meet the Project purpose and objectives by eliminating the need to cross Arroyo de San Jose Creek by unimproved rock ford crossings and thereby remove recreational access through the creek, which will result in reduced trail erosion and sedimentation that could adversely impact water quality and listed aquatic species and their habitats and would improve visitor safety. The Project will also improve in-stream, riparian, and upland habitats along Arroyo de San Jose Creek through the project area, enhance habitat protection and ecological conditions for listed species, provide safe and sustainable year-round all-abilities access along Spyglass Trail and Buck Gulch Falls Trail leading to Buck Gulch waterfall consistent with the IAP, and improve trail safety and visitor experience consistent with the RTMP policies, applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs), and trail design standards.

Determinations: This is to advise that the Lead Agency through the Marin County Open Space District Board of Directors has approved the above-described project on **November 03, 2026** and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project.

1. The project [☐ will ☒ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
   ☒ A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigations measures [☒ were ☐ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations [☐ was ☒ was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [☒ were ☐ were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

Certification: This is to certify that the final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at the Marin County Parks and Open Space District administrative office located at 1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 275, San Rafael, CA 94903.

Signature: Chris Chamberlain **Date:** November 03, 2026

Chris Chamberlain, Director and General Manager
Marin County Parks and Open Space District

POSTED 11/3/26 TO 12/3/26

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife

2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

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RECEIPT NUMBER:
21 — 11/03/2026 — 180

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER *(If applicable)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
MARIN COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT		11/03/2026

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER
Marin	

PROJECT TITLE

BUCK GULCH FALLS CREEK RESTORATION AND TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
MARIN COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT		(415)473-6387

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
1600 LOS GAMOS DR #275	SAN RAFAEL	CA	94903

PROJECT APPLICANT *(Check appropriate box)*

☑ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	$4,227.50	$	0.00
☑ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	$3,043.75	$	3,043.75
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	$1,437.25	$	0.00

☐ Exempt from fee
- ☐ Notice of Exemption (attach)
- ☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	$850.00	$	0.00
☐ County documentary handling fee		$	
☐ Other		$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☑ Other **TOTAL RECEIVED** $ 3,043.75

SIGNATURE	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
X O. Lobato	MARIN COUNTY CLERK; O. LOBATO, ARCC SUPERVISOR

ORIGINAL - PROJECT APPLICANT | COPY - CDFW/ASB | COPY - LEAD AGENCY | COPY - COUNTY CLERK | DFW 753.5a (Rev. 01012026)