

**Department of
Conservation and
Development**

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**Contra
Costa
County**



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July 23, 2026

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code and the "Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970" as amended to date, this is to advise you that the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development, Community Development Division, has prepared an initial study evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the following project:

- 1. Project Title:** Lower Wildcat Creek Restoration Project
- 2. County File Number:** County File No. 25-31
- 3. Lead Agency:** Contra Costa County
Department of Conservation and Development
30 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553
- 4. Lead Agency Contact Person:** Syd Sotoodeh, Senior Planner
(925) 655-2877
syd.sotoodeh@dcd.cccounty.us
- 5. Project Location:** Along Wildcat Creek between approximately 500 feet west of Richmond Parkway to 6th Street in the unincorporated North Richmond area of Contra Costa County and the City of Richmond. (Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 408-170-058, 408-170-064, 408-170-066, 408-170-067, 409-300-CCC, 409-300-XXX, 409-300-036, 409-311-001)
- 6. Applicant:** Contra Costa County Public Works Department; Flood Control and Water Conservation District
255 Glacier Drive, Martinez, CA 94553
Contact: Christina Kelleher (925) 313-2161

7. Description of Project:

The purpose of the Lower Wildcat Creek Restoration Project (Project) is to restore flood conveyance capacity of an approximately 4,500-foot stretch of lower Wildcat Creek to restore fish passage within that reach, and to enhance the vegetated riparian habitat. This will be accomplished by removing excess sediment and vegetation so that water can move more freely through the low-flow channel and adjacent high-flow floodplain of the creek. The Project consists of the following elements:

- Remove excess sediment and debris from select reaches of the creek. Within the creek's previously excavated low-flow channel, recently accumulated sediment which has deposited to depths up to approximately 2-6 feet and debris jams or other obstructions that impede fish passage and/or flows will be removed. Within the north floodplain between the low-flow channel and the trail, silt and other recent deposits will be excavated up to approximately 1-5 feet where necessary to improve flood capacity.
- Remove vegetation and trees, predominantly willows, that have spread onto the northern floodplains beyond established maintenance zones of the riparian forest that flanks the established low-flow channel. The Project will promote a shift of species in the riparian corridor to ecologically desired native species with lower hydraulic roughness that do not significantly impede stream flows. This will be done by removing willows that trap sediment, and planting tree species that allow sediment to flow through. Trees growing in the channel that block the flow of the creek will also be removed.
- Install several small drainage swales within the floodplain to help return water back to the creek's low-flow channel and reduce the formation of unwanted secondary low-flow channels on the floodplain. Where they connect to the low-flow channel, these drainage swales will create habitat alcoves that add ecological value and help to reduce fish stranding following high-flows. Several other channel stabilizing measures are proposed to prevent a secondary low-flow channel from forming on the unshaded floodplain.
- Create in-stream habitat features for fish, including two log habitat structures that also help to retain baseflow within the low-flow channel and fish resting pools.
- Enhance the adjacent riparian corridor habitat through removal of invasive plants and installation of native vegetation.
- Increase the level of flood protection from approximately 700-800 cubic feet per second (cfs) to approximately 1,130 cfs in the Project reach.

8. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The Project is in a highly urbanized area of Contra Costa County and the City of Richmond where surrounding land uses include residential, light industrial, and Park and Recreation. The site includes Wildcat Creek, tributary to the San Pablo Bay. Adjacent lands that are part of the Project include the floodplain, riparian canopy, and seasonal wetlands associated with Wildcat Creek, the District corporation yard, and the Wildcat Creek Trail (managed by East Bay Regional Park District).

9. Determination:

An Initial Study for the proposed project identified potentially significant impacts in the environmental area of air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards & hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, noise, and tribal cultural resources.

Environmental analysis determined that measures were available to mitigate potential adverse impacts to insignificant levels. As a result, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(c), 21064.5, and Article 6 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15071) the MND describes the proposed project; identifies, analyzes, and evaluates the potential significant environmental impacts, which may result from the proposed project; and identifies measures to mitigate adverse environmental impacts. Mitigations identified in this document designed for the proposed project will ensure that the project will not cause a significant impact on the environment.

Prior to adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration, the County will be accepting comments on the Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration during a 30-day public comment period.

The initial study/draft mitigated negative declaration may be reviewed at the Contra Costa County Public Works Department, 255 Glacier Drive, Martinez, during normal business hours, or viewed online at the following link: <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/4841/Public-Input>. All documents referenced in the reference index can be provided upon request.

Public Comment Period – The period for accepting comments on the adequacy of the environmental document will **begin July 23, and extend to August 21, 2026**. Any comments should be submitted in writing to the following:

Christina Kelleher
Contra Costa County Public Works Department
255 Glacier Drive
Martinez, CA 94553
Christina.Kelleher@pw.cccounty.us

The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will be considered for adoption at a meeting of the County Board of Supervisors on September 15, 2026. To confirm the Board date, please contact Christina Kelleher at Christina.Kelleher@pw.cccounty.us or directly at 925-313-2161.

Sincerely,



Syd Sotoodeh
Senior Planner
Department of Conservation & Development

attach:Figure 1: Project Location
Figure 2: Project Site Overview Map

cc: County Clerk's Office (2 copies)
Adjacent Occupants and Property Owners

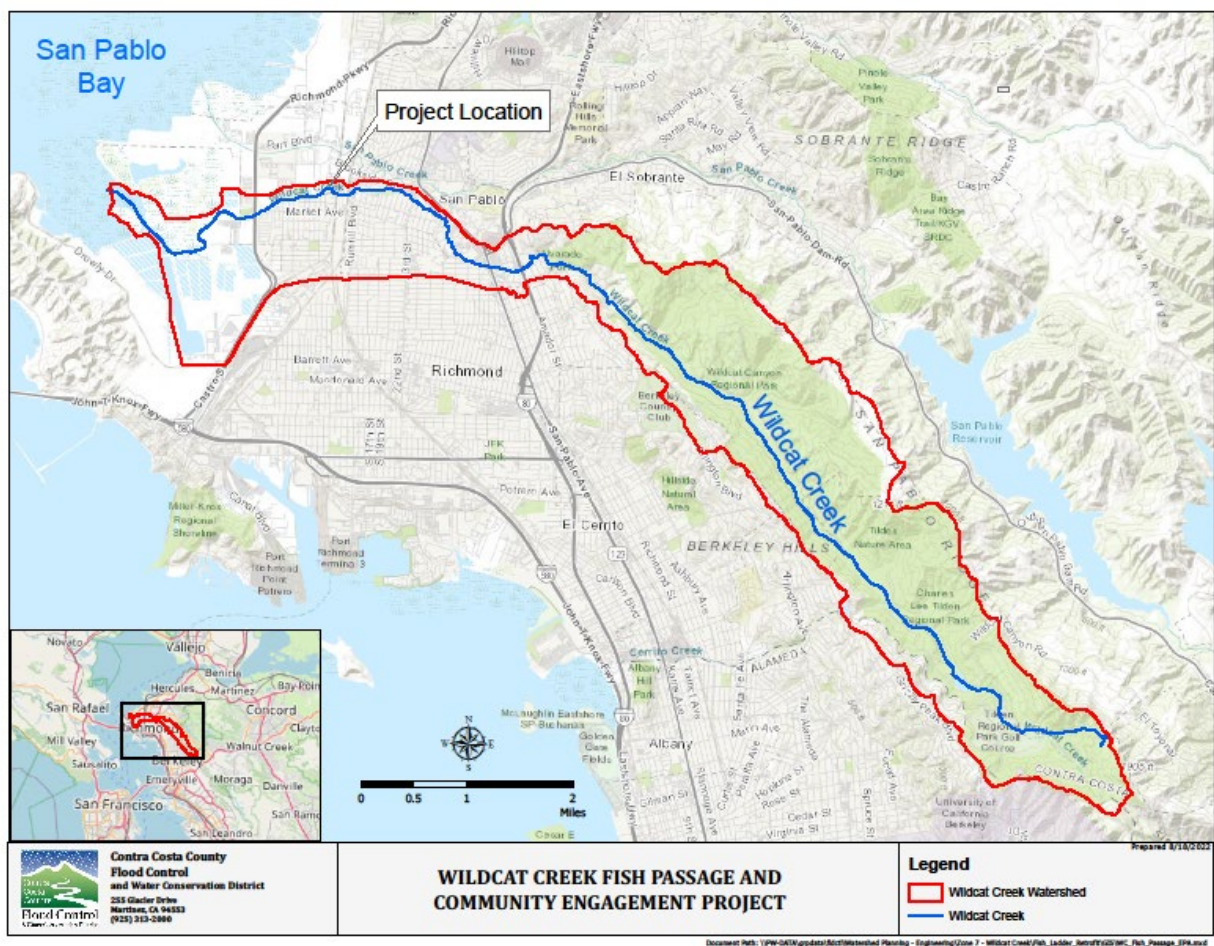


Figure 1: Regional Project Location

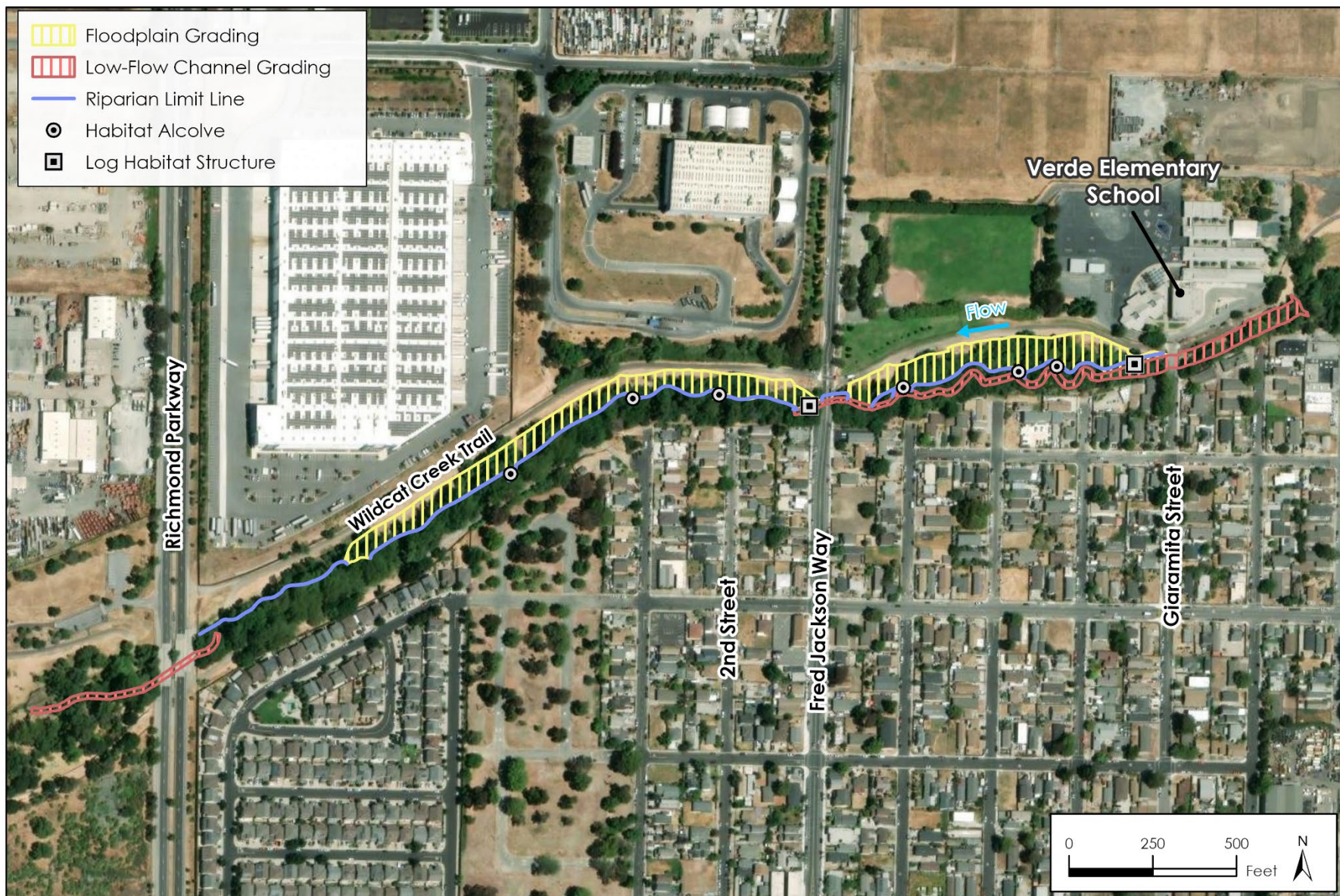


Figure 2: Project Site Overview Map