



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO** 250 Hamilton Avenue, 5th Floor
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(650) 329-2441

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE: Baylands Trail Replenishment Project

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located at 2775 Embarcadero Road (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 008-06-002) in the City of Palo Alto, California 94303 in Santa Clara County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed Palo Alto Baylands Trail Replenishment Project (project) entails the replenishment and repair of the surface of the trail leading from the parking lot east of Embarcadero Road west to the Lucy Evans Baylands Interpretive Nature Center. The project is located within the Baylands Nature Preserve, a 1,940-acre open space tract of marshland that is owned by the City of Palo Alto (City). The project site includes: a portion of the San Francisquito Creek Trail, a gravel parking lot that would serve as a staging area, and a portion of Embarcadero Road.

The raised trail connecting Embarcadero Road to Baylands Interpretive Nature Center is prone to flooding due to seasonal inundation and weather impacts. The project would add four 4-inch layers of aggregate totaling at least 12-inches to the existing 12.5-foot-wide trail. The additional layers will result in about a 9-foot path width along the top of the trail. The additional aggregate will extend from the far side of the access path to the Nature Center to the western edge of the road pavement of Embarcadero Road, roughly 250 feet.

NAME OF PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: City of Palo Alto

NAME OF PERSON OR GROUP CARRYING OUT PROJECT: City of Palo Alto, Public Works Engineering

EXEMPT STATUS (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
- ☒ Categorical Exemption: 15301 (modification to existing facility)
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (Public Resources Code section 21080.66; AB 130)

**REASONS WHY
PROJECT IS EXEMPT:**

This is to advise that the City of Palo Alto (Lead Agency) intends to carry out the project described above to address season flooding impacts to an existing trail. The project includes modifications to an existing facility, modifying the trail only within the bounds of the existing developed trail. The project and methods are customized to avoid and minimize impacts to tidal marsh vegetation and associated wildlife, and to avoid placement of Bay fill. The repair will be performed by a small crew with approximately two crew members using small construction equipment and hand tools only.

The complete administrative record is available at:

City of Palo Alto, Planning Division, 250 Hamilton Ave, 5th Floor, Palo Alto, California 94301

PROJECT PLANNER: Claire Raybould

- IF FILED BY APPLICANT:**
- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding. ☐ Yes
 - 2. Declare if a Notice of Exemption has been filed by the public agency approving the project ☒ N/A

DocuSigned by:
Claire Raybould
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Signature (Public Agency)

Claire Raybould, AICP, Manager, Current Planning
Title

8/11/2026
Date