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PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**Lead Agency/
Applicant:**

East Bay Regional Park District

Project Title:

Garin to Pleasanton Ridge Public Access Project

Project Location:

33853 Palomares Road, in Unincorporated Castro Valley, Alameda County, CA 94552, and adjacent parcels

Project Proponent:

East Bay Regional Park District

Project Description: The proposed project would establish a regional trail connecting Garin and Pleasanton Ridge Regional Parks by enabling public access through the former Chouinard (33853 Palomares Road) and Owen properties. The East Bay Regional Park District (District) acquired the Owen property in 2011 and the Chouinard property in 2020. The Owen property was acquired for the purposes of expanding the boundary of Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park, providing public recreation, protecting natural resources, and preserving open space. The Chouinard property was acquired with the goals of expanding the boundary of Garin Regional Park and providing an opportunity to complete a portion of the Garin to Pleasanton Ridge Regional Trail identified in the District's Master Plan.

The proposed project would develop a new public trailhead and staging area at the Chouinard property, including removal of existing buildings and infrastructure at the property. The project would include construction of approximately one-half mile of new multi-use trail connecting the site to the existing Garin Regional Park trail network, realignment of a portion of the Stonybrook Trail, slope stabilization features and retaining walls along portions of the parking area and trail system, four seasonal tributary crossings, and installation of an at-grade pedestrian crossing of Palomares Road. The project would also provide public access along selected existing ranch roads within the Owen property. Trail construction, modification, and restoration activities would be implemented in accordance with the District's Trail Construction and Modification Best Management Practices. Construction is anticipated to occur within a single construction season and would take approximately four months to complete.

The District is the Lead Agency for the project. The District has prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) that has determined that although the proposed project could potentially affect the environment, there will not be any significant effects because design features, best management practices, and mitigation measures incorporated into the project will reduce potentially significant impacts to aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, and tribal cultural resources to a less than significant level. The District will provide this Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (Notice of Intent) to the public, responsible agencies, trustee agencies, the Alameda County Clerk-Recorder's Office, and the State Clearinghouse. The District will provide this Notice of Intent to the public by mailing it to the names and addresses of all organizations and individuals who have requested such notice in writing and local agencies with interest in the project.

Public Review Period: A 30-day public review period for the IS/MND will commence **September 14, 2026, and continue through October 13, 2026**. No public hearing on this matter will be held. Interested

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individuals and public agencies may submit written comments on the document, which must be received by the District no later than **5:00 PM on October 13, 2026**.

The District shall consider the IS/MND and all written comments received by the close of the comment period prior to deciding whether or not to adopt the IS/MND. If the District's Board of Directors determines based on the review of the IS/MND and comments received, that there is no substantial evidence that the project would result in a significant environmental impact and no formal protest of the proposed IS/MND is filed, the IS/MND will be considered for adoption at a Board meeting scheduled for December 15, 2026. It should be noted that adoption of an IS/MND does not constitute approval of the project under consideration. The decision to approve or deny the project will be made separately as required by the District.

Please send your comments to:

Kim Thai, Principal Planner
Planning, Trails, Cultural Resources, and GIS
East Bay Regional Park District
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
Oakland, CA 94605
Phone: 510-544-2320
Email: kthai@ebparks.org

Document Availability: The document will be available for review on the East Bay Regional Park District website: <https://www.ebparks.org/projects> and <https://www.ebparks.org/projects/future-planning/garin-pleasanton-ridge-regional-trail-public-access-project>. Copies of the IS/MND are available for review at the District's office at 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605, during normal working hours. Written comments on the draft IS/MND must be received by **5:00 P.M. on October 13, 2026**.

Neoma Lavalle

Signature

9/11/26

Date