
Citizens' Advisory Committee

Memo-24-08

Meeting SP 24-01

March 25, 2024

To: Citizens' Advisory Committee
From: Jennifer Peth, Associate Open Space Planner
Subject: Presentation on the Llagas Creek Bridge and Day Use Area Project

REVENUE/COST

The total cost for the Llagas Creek Bridge and Day Use Area will be approximately \$1.3 million. The project will be funded in the amount of \$1,120,020 through the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Per Capita grant program.

BACKGROUND

Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve (Preserve) has been open to the public since 2004. Currently, there are over 12 miles of trail at the Preserve open to hiking, biking, and equestrian use and a 0.5-mile paved accessible trail called the Llagas Creek Loop Trail. Existing facilities include a staging area with parking for cars and horse trailers, accessible restroom, picnic tables, and an overflow gravel parking lot.

Year-round public access is currently limited to the area of the Preserve north of Llagas Creek. In addition to the facilities described above, the Authority's Open Access Days program has provided interim special-event public access south of Llagas Creek to the approximately 1,800-acre area southern portion of the Preserve known as the former Blair Ranch. Due to seasonally high waters of Llagas Creek, operational and public event access has been limited to dry periods of the year.

To facilitate future year-round public and operational access to Blair Ranch, in Fiscal Year 2018/2019, a bridge connection over Llagas Creek near the existing staging area and Llagas Creek Loop Trail was identified and approved as a priority capital improvement project by the Board through adoption of the Work Plan (R-18-44). Since that time, Staff has worked with a team of consultants to develop a plan for a new accessible interpretative day use area accessed via a new bridge crossing Llagas Creek to serve visitors for educational programming. Following site surveys, analysis, and initial project design and engineering, an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and adopted by the Board in March 2023 (R-23-20). A contract for construction of the project was approved by the Board in July 2023 (R-23-40). Construction was initiated by the contractor in August 2023.

DISCUSSION

The construction of the Llagas Creek Bridge and Day Use Area project is nearing completion. Staff will provide the Citizens' Advisory Committee an update on project construction status and schedule as well as an overview of the new features and public access amenities.

The public opening of the project is scheduled for Saturday, June 8, 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is informational only.