
Use and Management Committee

Memo-21-01

Meeting SP 21-01

February 25, 2021

To: Use and Management Committee
From: Lucas Shellhammer
Subject: Informational Item: Public Access Capital Improvement Project Updates

REVENUE/COST

Staff will provide updates on the Authority's active public access capital improvement projects, including an overview of the projected multi-year budgets for each.

BACKGROUND

The Authority is currently developing design documentation for three public access projects at Authority preserves including: Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve Public Access Project; Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve Llagas Creek Bridge & Day-use Area; and, Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Heart's Delight Trail Improvements Project. Included in these project scopes are regulatory permitting and environmental compliance.

Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve Public Access Project

<https://www.openspaceauthority.org/conservation/current-projects/coyote-ridge-open-space-preserve.html>

Planned public access at the preserve will include a parking and gathering area accessible by Malech Road, a nearly 7-mile trail network, and a staging area with restrooms, trailhead, and interpretive features and signage. Visitors will be able to climb nearly 1,400 feet in elevation through grasslands up to the ridgeline for sweeping views of Santa Clara Valley and spring wildflower displays. Access to the ridgeline will complete a nearly 3-mile segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. The project will include amenities to support education and interpretation, while protecting sensitive habitats and natural communities.

Previous public meetings include October 26, 2017 and November 14, 2019 Use & Management Committee; July 27, 2020 Citizens' Advisory Committee; August 27, 2020 Board of Directors.

Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve Llagas Creek Bridge & Day-use Area Project

<https://www.openspaceauthority.org/conservation/current-projects/rancho-ca%C3%B1ada-del-oro-open-space-preserve.html>

The planned project will connect the existing Llagas Creek Loop Trail to a new day-use-area via a newly installed bridge over Llagas Creek. Once across the bridge, visitors will find themselves in an enclosed grassland area, nearly surrounded by riparian woodlands. From here, visitors could continue to over 5

miles of existing ranch roads, providing seasonal access to rolling grasslands, blue oak woodlands, and mixed oak savannah in the preserve's backcountry.

Previous public meetings include April 26, 2018 Joint Use & Management / Citizens' Advisory Committee; July 23, 2020 Board of Directors; July 27, 2020 Citizens' Advisory Committee.

Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Heart's Delight Trail Improvements Project

<https://www.openspaceauthority.org/conservation/current-projects/coyote-valley-open-space-preserve.html>

Planning and design will identify opportunities for improvements to the Heart's Delight Trail to stabilize the trail surface and provide new day-use areas for visitors, including those with mobility impairments. Additional trailside amenities are planned to include seating with learning stations for individual and small group use supporting education and interpretation.

Previous public meeting includes October 26, 2018 Joint Use & Management Committee / Citizens' Advisory Committee.

DISCUSSION

Staff will provide the Committee and the public with information on scope, schedule, budget, and funding strategies for these Authority public access projects.

For each capital improvement project, Staff will be providing an overview of:

- Project goals
- Project scope of work and planning/design updates
- Project budget and funding strategy
- Project schedule

RECOMMENDATION

This item is informational, and no action is required but Staff will seek feedback from the Committee.