

ARANA GULCH MASTER PLAN FINAL EIR ADDENDUM

Prepared for
City of Santa Cruz

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INTRODUCTION

This Addendum to the Final EIR is prepared after review of a letter from an attorney on behalf of the California Native Plant Society and the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club received at the Planning Commission public hearing on July 6, 2006. This Addendum, along with the Addendum issued on June 6, 2006, the previously issued proposed Final EIR (May 2006) and the Draft EIR (February 2006) on the Arana Gulch Master Plan, constitute the full Final EIR if the City of Santa Cruz certifies the Final EIR as complete and adequate under CEQA. This Addendum merely clarifies Mitigation Measure BIO-2(a) of the Draft EIR regarding seasonal wetlands. Recirculation of the EIR is not required because: 1) no new significant impact has been identified or would result from the revised mitigation measure; and 2) the severity of an environmental impact would not be increased. As stated in Section 15088.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, recirculation is not required "when the new information added to the EIR merely clarifies or amplifies or makes insignificant modifications in an adequate EIR."

The CEQA Guidelines (Section 15126.4) state "Formulation of mitigation measures should not be deferred until some future time. However, measures may specify performance standards which would mitigate the significant effect of the project and which may be accomplished in more than one specified way." A number of mitigation measures identified in the EIR will be necessary at a future date. The recommended jurisdictional wetland delineation is a further clarification of wetlands analyses and mapping that has already occurred at the project site. Mitigation Measure BIO-2(a), as revised, would ensure success of the mitigation and ensure that no significant impacts to wetlands would occur. The results of a jurisdictional wetland delineation would not result in any new significant impacts not already identified in the EIR, and any necessary trail realignment would be minor enough that new significant impacts would not result. Seasonal wetlands in the vicinity of the trail have already been mapped and are shown in Figure 4.2-1 of the Draft EIR. The trail has been sited to avoid any wetlands, but the exact location of the wetlands can occur with a jurisdictional delineation as recommended in the revision to Mitigation Measure BIO-2(a) and the final design of the trail, which has not yet occurred, can ensure that such wetlands are avoided.

Any changes to the text of the Draft or Final EIR are shown below with underlining, and any deleted text is shown with strikeouts (e.g. ~~strikeouts~~).

The following text on Page 4.2-40 of the Draft EIR is deleted as follows:

~~If there would be fill of seasonal wetlands due to construction of the new trail within the wetland area, a verification of the wetland jurisdictional delineation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would be required, and adequate mitigation for such fill would also be required.~~

Mitigation Measure BIO-2(a) is revised as follows on page 2-5 of the Draft EIR, page 4.2-40 of the Draft EIR, and page 271 of the Final EIR:

Mitigation BIO-2(a): ~~Following preparation of detailed design for the Creek View Trail, the trail alignment and the small seasonal wetlands at the southern end of Arana Gulch that are in the vicinity of the trail alignment should be staked to verify if the trail alignment would have a direct impact on seasonal wetlands. To the maximum extent feasible, the final Creek View Trail alignment should avoid direct impacts to these scattered seasonal wetland areas. If the paved, multi-use trail cannot be realigned to avoid direct wetland impacts due to the need to maintain an ADA-compliant gradient, the City shall ensure completion of a jurisdictional delineation of the wetlands that could be directly impacted, with verification by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). If the wetland is~~

~~determined to be a jurisdictional wetland, and based on the Corps and any other regulatory requirements, the impacted seasonal wetland areas within the Arana Gulch property shall be replaced within Arana Gulch at a 2:1 ratio, or at a ratio determined necessary by the regulatory agency, or agencies. This effort shall be under the guidance of a qualified botanist.~~

The City shall complete a jurisdictional wetland delineation pursuant to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and California Coastal Commission criteria for any seasonal wetlands that could be impacted by the Creek View Trail alignment. If any of the seasonal wetlands are determined to be jurisdictional wetlands pursuant to California Coastal Commission or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers criteria, the trail shall be designed, under the guidance of a qualified botanist, to avoid the jurisdictional wetland.