

## May 8, 2014 Workshop Summary

### **Introduction**

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (District) and Sonoma County Regional Parks (Parks) are currently evaluating the site's natural resources, recreational opportunities, and the requirements of the conservation and trail easement in order to record the trail easement alignment.

Site and assessment studies and preliminary CEQA are being done over the summer of 2014. The information gathered will be used to define the trail alignment and staging area locations minimizing impacts on the sites natural and agricultural resources. A release of the preliminary CEQA document is intended for the winter of 2014. And a Board of Directors Hearing for the final trail alignment and staging area locations is intended for the summer of 2015.

### **Outreach**

The workshop was promoted and advertised through several methods, including:

- Direct mailing to neighbors along the Estero
- Direct mailing to Public Meeting attendees from 2010
- Email announcement to Public Meeting attendees from 2010
- Public Meeting Notice Flyers posted at the Post Office of: Bodega, Valley Ford, Bodega Bay, & Tomales

### **Public Meeting Format**

The evening began with a half-hour Open House, during which participants were encouraged to view displays depicting conservation easements and existing conditions of the site.

The presentation opened with a welcome to the community and acknowledged project questions and concerns by asking participants to first speak out and be heard. These statements and questions were recorded on flip charts before proceeding on to the presentation.

A presentation was given by the District and Parks that included the project background and limitation and opportunities of the trail easement. A brief description of the preliminary CEQA studies being completed and the timeline to complete the recording of the trail easement location was also included.

The bulk of the meeting time was preserved for an extended question and answer period, and was recorded using flip charts.

An overview of those questions and answers have been summarized.

### **Participation and Results**

Over 30 stakeholders and members of the public attended the meeting. A variety of stakeholder groups were represented, including residents, local land owners, various public agencies, and representatives of specific user groups.

#### Concerns and Response Summary

- Kayaking/ canoeing access concerns
  - Trespassing

- Increase litter
- Boaters in distress
- Boaters fires on the beach
- Environmental impacts of boaters
- Liability of landowners
- Kayak race day user event numbers
- District and Parks Response
  - Possible solutions
  - Boating access is a goal of the specified easement
  - Staging area to boat launch is approximately one-third of mile
  - Monitoring
    - By both park staff
    - Trained volunteers
  - Park Ranger presence
  - Enforcement (possibilities)
    - rules and signage
    - permit to kayak
    - training on rules and safety to acquire permit
    - Can work with boater groups to reinforce appropriate trail/launch use
  - Parks has extensive experience with water recreation and boat management
  - Part of the project will be adaptive management to see what is needed for land protection/security.
- Research road crossing on Marin County side, who owns that access point, is it public right of way.
  - Response
    - County will research and communicate answer to the public
- Concern about funding ongoing monitoring in perpetuity
  - Response
    - Site will be fee-based
    - We have funds for planning the trail. Other funds will be obtained for subsequent phases
- Adequate CalTrans sight lines?
  - Response
    - Will be doing a traffic study
    - Low usage anticipated (what does this mean?)
    - Unlikely to require turn lane
- Operations
  - Hours of operation
  - Number of parking spaces users
  - What is the trail alignment
  - Will there be camping

- What amenities will there be
- Will dogs be allowed
- Response
  - Operations to be determined with further studies yet to be completed
  - Adaptive management
  - “low usage” anticipated (looking at similar trails within County Parks system)
  - Adaptive management – adjust to fit the needs of the site
  - Build in phases
  - Monitor use
  - Trails limited to pedestrian use