Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

A notice, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code 21,000, et sec.) that the following project when implemented will not have a significant impact on the environment.

File	TAZ	APN(s)	Date
N/A	N/A	Varies: Complete list on file with Parks Dept.	11/02/06

Project Name	Project Type
Coyote Creek Parkway County Park Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and Master Plan (Integrated Plan)	Regional Parks Master Plan
Owner	**Applicant**
Santa Clara County	Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department

Project Location

Coyote Creek Parkway County Park is a 15-mile linear parkway located between Hellyer Avenue and Hwy. 101 intersection in San Jose and Cochrane Road and Malaguerra Road intersection in Morgan Hill.

Project Description (attach additional pages as necessary)

The Coyote Creek Parkway County Park (the Parkway) is a linear park on either side of Coyote Creek, beginning at the base of Anderson Dam near Morgan Hill and continuing north to Hellyer County Park in San Jose. It is 15 miles long, includes 1,692 acres of land, and is operated by the Santa Clara County Parks Department.

The Parkway was conceived in the 1960s when both the City of San Jose and the County began acquiring lands adjacent to Coyote Creek for use as parkland. A 1972 Coyote Creek Park Master Plan formalized a long-rage vision for Coyote Creek as both a natural and recreational corridor to be maintained and enhanced. In 2003, the Parks Department completed a Department-wide Strategic Plan that called for integrated recreation and resource management planning for all County Parks, including Coyote Creek Parkway County Park.

The following needs necessitated this planning effort.

- ❑ Need to develop a resources management plan to preserve and enhance natural resources within the Parkway.
- ❑ Need to develop a systematic approach to public/private lands interface along the Parkway perimeter, because the rural lands that once served as buffers have almost completely disappeared and new suburban uses are planned.
- ❑ Need to meet increasing demand for basic recreation, including multi-use trails, large group picnic areas, and sites for unique recreational uses.
- ❑ Need to coordinate with changes in SCVWD practices for water distribution and management of stream flow in Coyote Creek.
- ❑ Need to coordinate with federal and state agencies' efforts to develop recovery plans for threatened and endangered species that occur in the Parkway.

To address these needs, the Parks Department developed the *Coyote Creek Parkway County Park Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and Master Plan* (the Integrated Plan). The primary objective of the Integrated Plan is to balance the long-term resource management of the Parkway corridor with recreation use. The Integrated Plan follows a two-tiered approach for managing Parkway resources and developing facilities. The first tier encompasses immediate actions and clearly delineated and determined future actions within the existing boundaries of the Parkway. The second tier addresses long term plans for expansion of the Parkway and realignment of trails and recreational facilities out of sensitive habitats. For additional details and a concise list of actions included in the project, see the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Coyote Creek Parkway County Park Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and Master Plan, Chapter 2 – Project Description.

The full text of the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration may be viewed at the following locations: Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Dept. Offices, 298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos, County Parks Dept. website a www.parkhere.org, Santa Clara County Clerk Recorder's Office, 70 West Hedding Dr. San Jose, Morgan Hill Library at 17575 Peak Ave, Morgan Hill, San Jose Public Library, Santa Teresa branch, at 290 International Circle, San Jose, 95119 A printed copy is also available upon request.

Purpose of Notice

The purpose of this notice is to inform you that the County Parks & Recreation Department has recommended that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be approved for this project. County Parks & Recreation Department Planning staff has reviewed the Initial Study prepared for the project, and based upon substantial evidence in the record, finds that the proposed project could not have a significant event on the environment.

Action is **tentatively scheduled** on this proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration before the **County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors** on **January 9, 2007** in the Board Chambers, **70 W. Hedding, San Jose**. If the Mitigated Negative Declaration is adopted, the decision may be protested upon filing an appeal with the Parks & Recreation Department's Administration Office at 298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos, CA. It should be noted that adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration does not constitute approval of the project under consideration. The decision to approve or deny the project will be made separately by the Board of Supervisors.

Review Period: 30 days **Begins:** November 6, 2006 **Ends:** December 5, 2006

Public comments regarding the correctness, completeness, or adequacy of this Mitigated Negative Declaration are invited and must be received on or before the close of the public review period. Such comments should be based on specific environmental concerns. Written comments should be addressed to the **Elish Ryan, Park Planner, County of Santa Clara, Department of Parks and Recreation, Administration Offices, 298 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032, (408) 355-2236.** Oral comments may be made at the meeting noted above. A file containing additional information on this project may be reviewed at the Parks Department's Administration Offices. When requesting to view this file, please refer to project title appearing at the top of this form.

Responsible Agencies and Other Agencies sent copy of this document

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Dept. of Fish & Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries, California Dept. of Toxic Substances, California Dept. of Transportation, City of San Jose, City of Morgan Hill, Santa Clara County Planning Dept. Santa Clara Valley Water District, State Clearing House

Basis for Mitigated Negative Declaration Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Department has reviewed the initial study for the project and, based upon substantial evidence in the record, finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case since the mitigation measures have been added to the project.

This finding is based on the following considerations (See Note below):

See the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for those measures necessary to mitigate or avoid **significant** environmental effects that are included in this project.

Mitigation Measures are required for the following environmental impact areas: Sewage/Water Quality, Biological Resources, Air Quality, Noise, Historical/Archaeological

Note: *Those measures necessary to mitigate or avoid* ***significant*** *environmental effects are* ***identified in the Initial Study.*** *A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan must be adopted for measures to mitigate significant impacts at the time the Mitigated Negative Declaration is adopted, in accord with the requirements of Section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code.*

Prepared by:

Elish Ryan, Park Planner
Santa Clara County Parks

signature _____ date 11-2-06.

Approved by:

Lisa Killough, Director
Santa Clara County Parks

signature _____ date 11/2/06

10/31/06

FOR CLERK-RECORDER FILING STAMP

FILE NO.

For CLERK-RECORDER USE ONLY

POSTED ON _____ THROUGH _____
In The Office Of The County Clerk-Recorder
Brenda Davis, County Clerk
BY _____, DEPUTY