

CITY OF SARATOGA

City Hall • 13777 Fruitvale Avenue • Saratoga • CA • 95070



PUBLIC NOTICE

INTENT TO ADOPT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION CITY OF SARATOGA

Project Name/Description: The Quarry Park Master Plan. The Project includes establishment of a new 64-acre park at the site of a former gravel quarry in a mountainous area of western Santa Clara County. The proposed park would include hiking trails, a boardwalk trail, picnic areas, staging areas, recreational facilities, event space, a grassy meadow as well as implementation of measures to achieve habitat restoration and historic preservation goals. Additionally, the proposed Project would allow for the City of Saratoga to increase its acreage of open and recreational space and eventually provide a connection to the existing Skyline-to-the-Sea trail.

The City has performed environmental review on the project in conformance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. Environmental review consisted of preparation of an Initial Study to examine the nature and extent of any adverse effects on the environment that could occur if the project is approved and implemented. Based on the review, the City has prepared a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for this project. An MND is a statement by the City that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment based on protective measures (mitigation measures) included in the project.

The public is welcome to review this draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration. The Public comment period begins on **April 30, 2014** and ends on **May 29, 2014**. The Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration and reference documents are available on the City's website at www.saratoga.ca.us/quarrypark. The documents are also available for review Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am-5:00 pm and alternate Fridays from 8:00 am-5:00 pm at the City of Saratoga Public Works Department at 13777 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070.

For additional information, please contact Shaheen Sarwari, Office Specialist in Public Works Department, phone and fax (408) 868-1239 ssarwari@saratoga.ca.us.

Please provide your comments on the Initial Study and Negative Declaration by **May 29, 2014**.


John Cherbone, Public Works Director

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a Potentially Significant Impact, as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Forestry Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology & Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology & Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population & Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities & Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

Determination:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Signature

John Cherbone

Printed Name

4/29/14

Date

For

CITY OF SARATOGA

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY / NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, Public Review Period: April 30, 2014 through May 29, 2014 AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Project Title	The Quarry Park Master Plan
SCH Number	To Be Assigned
Applicant	City of Saratoga Public Works Department
Location	Approximate address; 20996-21398 Congress Springs Road, APN 503-48-045 and 517-32-001
Project Description	The Project includes establishment of a new 64-acre park at the site of a former gravel quarry in a mountainous area of western Santa Clara County. The proposed park would include hiking trails, a boardwalk trail, picnic areas, staging areas, recreational facilities, event space, a grassy meadow as well as implementation of measures to achieve habitat restoration and historic preservation goals. Additionally, the proposed Project would allow for the City of Saratoga to increase its acreage of open and recreational space and eventually provide a connection to the existing Skyline-to-the-Sea trail.
Review Period	April 30, 2014 to May 29, 2014
Public Meetings	The Saratoga Parks and Recreation Commission will discuss the project and accept comments on the Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration at its regular meeting scheduled for May 13, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in Joan Pisani Community Center, 19655 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070.
Comments	Comments on the Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration must be received prior to the conclusion of the review period stated above. Public testimony will be accepted at the public meeting noted above. You may forward your written comments on the project to Shaheen Sarwari, Office Specialist in Public Works Department, phone and fax (408) 868-1239 ssarwari@saratoga.ca.us .
For More Information	The draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for viewing at the City of Saratoga Public Works Department 13777 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070 (open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am-5:00 pm and alternate Fridays from 8:00 am-5:00pm). The document is also available on the City website at www.saratoga.ca.us/quarrypark . For questions regarding the project or to review a copy of the draft Initial Environmental Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration please contact Shaheen Sarwari, Office Specialist in Public Works Department, by email at ssarwari@saratoga.ca.us .
Signed	John Cherbone Public Works Director

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # 2014042093**Project Title:** Quarry park Master Plan Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration

Lead Agency: The City of Saratoga Public Works Department Contact Person: Shaheen Sarwari, Office Specialist
 Mailing Address: 13777 Fruitvale Avenue Phone: (408) 868-1239
 City: Saratoga Zip: 95070 County: Santa Clara

Project Location: County: Santa Clara City/Nearest Community: Saratoga
 Cross Streets: State Route 9 and Toll Gate Road Zip Code: 95070
 Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____ " N / _____ " W Total Acres: _____
 Assessor's Parcel No.: 503-48-045 and 517-32-001 Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____
 Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 9 Waterways: _____
 Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: Saratoga Elementary

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP Draft EIR NEPA: NOI Other: Joint Document
 Early Cons Supplement/Subsequent EIR EA Final Document
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ Draft EIS Other: _____
 Mit Neg Dec Other: _____ FONSI

Local Action Type:

General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other: _____

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ Transportation: Type _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Mining: Mineral _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Power: Type _____ MW _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Educational: _____ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Recreational: Passive Use Public park Other: _____
 Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

Aesthetic/Visual Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation
 Agricultural Land Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/Universities Water Quality
 Air Quality Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater
 Archeological/Historical Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian
 Biological Resources Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading Growth Inducement
 Coastal Zone Noise Solid Waste Land Use
 Drainage/Absorption Population/Housing Balance Toxic/Hazardous Cumulative Effects
 Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation Other: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

GP designation - Open Space - Outdoor Recreation (OS-OR), Zoning - Residential Open Space (R-OS), w/ (AP/OS) Overlay

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

The Project includes establishment of a new 64-acre park at the site of a former gravel quarry in a mountainous area of western Santa Clara County. The proposed park would include hiking trails, a boardwalk trail, picnic areas, staging areas, recreational facilities, event space, a grassy meadow as well as implementation of measures to achieve habitat restoration and historic preservation goals. Additionally, the proposed Project would allow for the City of Saratoga to increase its acreage of open and recreational space and eventually provide a connection to the existing Skyline-to-the-Sea trail.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date April 30, 2014 Ending Date May 29, 2014

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>PlaceWorks</u>	Applicant: <u>City of Saratoga Public Works Department</u>
Address: <u>1625 Shattuck Avenue Suite 300</u>	Address: <u>13777 Fruitvale Avenue</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Berkeley/CA/94709</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Saratoga/CA/95070</u>
Contact: <u>Kyle Simpson</u>	Phone: <u>(408) 868-1245</u>
Phone: <u>(510) 848-3815</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 4/29/14

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Saratoga Quarry Park Master Plan Initial Study

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This Initial Study was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines to review the Saratoga Quarry Park Master Plan (the Project). The Project includes establishment of a new 64-acre park at the site of a former gravel quarry in a mountainous area of western Santa Clara County. The proposed park would include hiking trails, a boardwalk trail, picnic areas, staging areas, recreational facilities, event space, a grassy meadow, as well as implementation of measures to achieve habitat restoration and historic preservation goals. Additionally, the proposed Project would allow for the City of Saratoga to increase its acreage of open and recreational space and eventually provide a connection to the existing Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail. This environmental document provides an assessment of the potential impacts caused by the physical changes resulting from the Project.

A. Regional and Local Setting

The Project site is located in western Santa Clara County approximately 50 miles south of San Francisco and 27 miles east of the City of Santa Cruz (see Figure 1, Regional Location, and Figure 2, Project Vicinity). The site is approximately 2 miles southwest of the downtown village area. The Project site is bordered to the north by California State Route (SR) 9, to the east and south by privately held single-family parcels, and to the west by the San Jose Water Company lands. Additionally, near the midpoint between the village area of Saratoga and the Project site lies the Hakone Gardens, which is recognized as one of the oldest Japanese-style residential gardens in the Western Hemisphere.

B. Existing Site Character

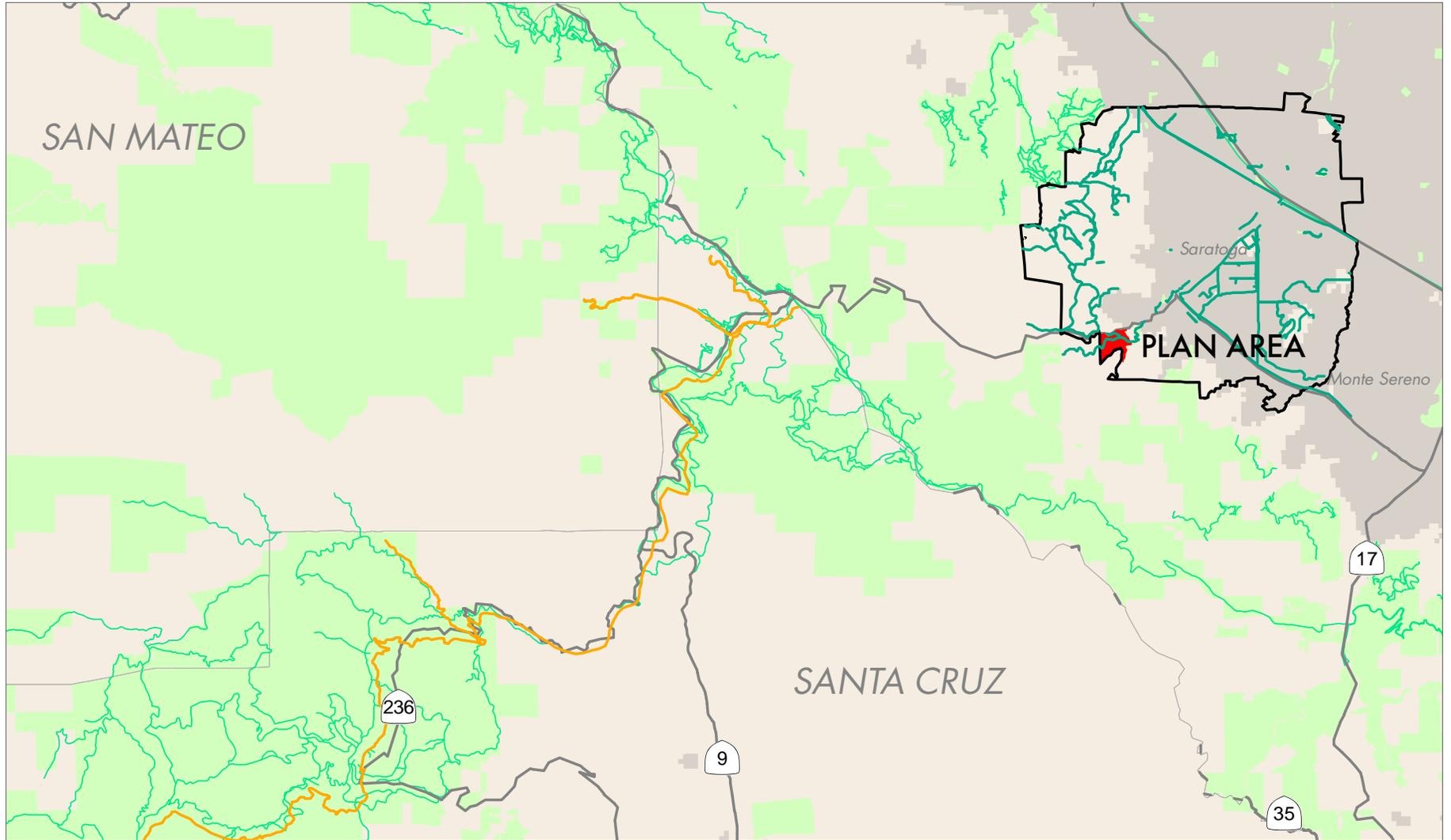
Informally known as the Congress Springs Quarry Properties, the Project site is comprised of two adjoining parcels. Located on a 64-acre parcel in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the Project site was used for limestone and later gravel quarrying. Evidence of the quarry is present on the site today, including the loading structure which remains in place. Following the closure of the quarry in the 1960s, the site was used for recreation purposes. Site improvements, including stonework, picnic tables, BBQ pits, and sitting areas, remain in place today although they have not been maintained. While a significant amount of remediation has been done on the site, including hillside rehabilitation with multiple graded pads and benches to reduce the steep grades of the quarry face, in addition to the remnants of past human use, the site currently has several distinct natural habitats. These habitats include broad-leaved upland forest, mixed native/non-native woodland, Northern coastal scrub, riparian forest, and wetlands.

C. Policy Setting

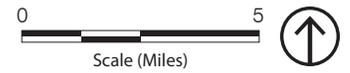
1. County

a. Countywide Bicycle Plan (2007)

The Santa Clara Valley Transit Agency (VTA), the public transit agency that serves Santa Clara County, adopted the Santa Clara Countywide Bicycle Plan (CBP) in August 2008 to guide development of bike facilities within the county by identifying cross-county bicycle corridors and other projects of countywide or inter-city significance. The CBP was prepared in order to establish bicycling as a safe and viable alternative mode of transportation. In the city of Saratoga, the plan identifies seven of the County's 24 roadway bicycle corridors and one of the County's 10 separate path/trail corridors, which all provide direct bicycle connections to the surrounding jurisdictions.

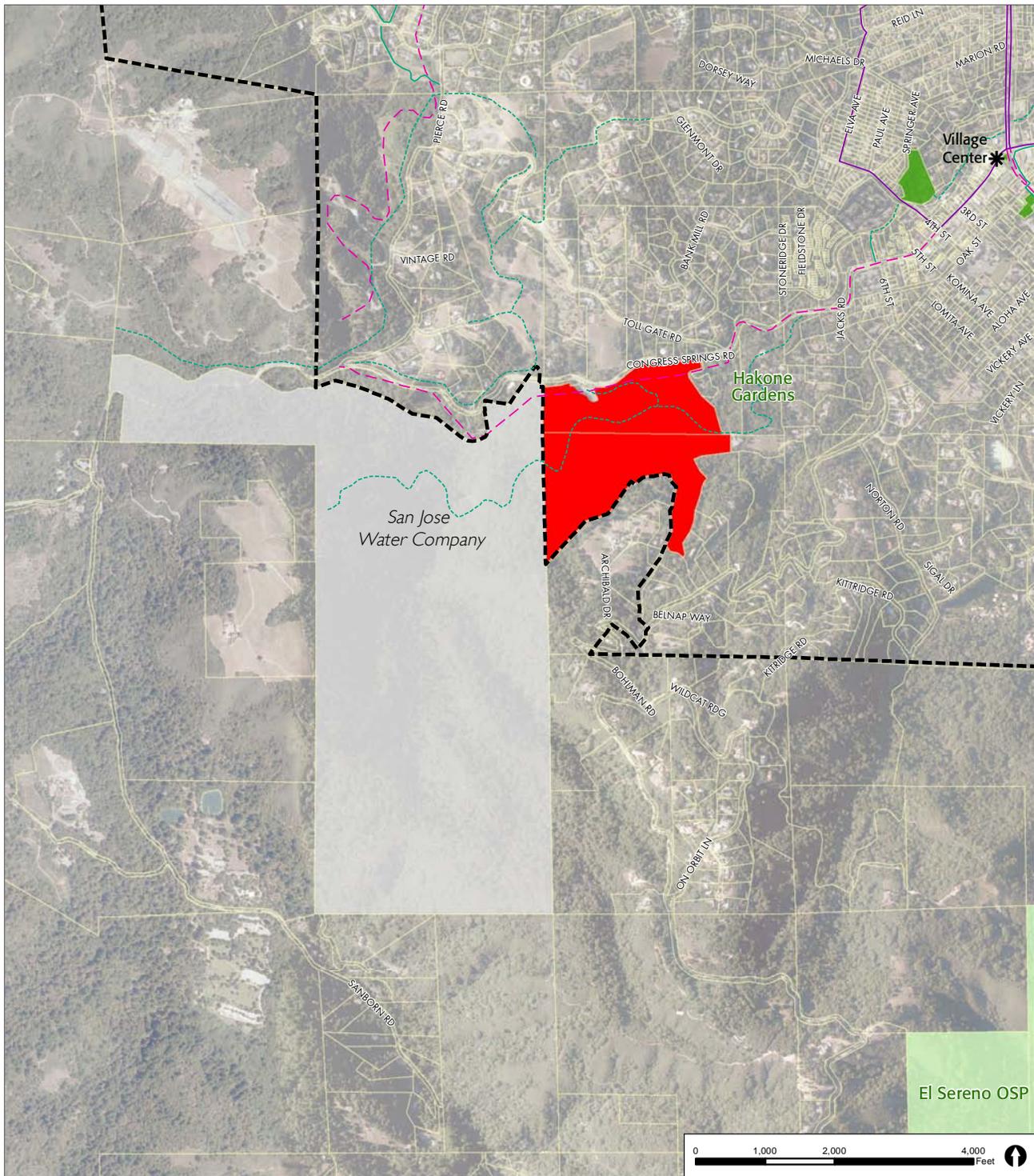


Source: City of Saratoga; Santa Clara County; Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, 2012; Conservation Lands Network, 2012; PlaceWorks, 2013.



- Plan Area Boundary
- Saratoga City Limit
- City of Saratoga Trails
- Skyline to the Sea Trails
- Other Trails

Figure 1
Regional Location



Source: City of Saratoga; Santa Clara County; Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, 2012; Conservation Lands Network, 2012; PlaceWorks, 2013.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| Administrative Boundaries | City of Saratoga Trails | Santa Clara County Trails |
| ■ Plan Area | — Existing | — Existing |
| Saratoga City Limit | - - - Potential | - - - Planned |
| City of Saratoga Bicycle Facilities | Parks and Open Space | |
| — Existing | ■ Saratoga Parks | |
| - - - Planned | ■ Regional Parks | |

Figure 2
Project Vicinity

b. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) is a non-enterprise special district that serves parts of Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz counties in order to form a continuous greenbelt of permanently preserved open space by linking public parklands. As a member of Bay Area Open Space Council, the MROSD participates in cooperative efforts, including Bay Trail, Ridge Trail, and Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail, which are regional Bay Area trails running across the District's jurisdiction. The MROSD's basic policy document includes goals and policies that relate to open space land preservation and management, inter-agency relationships, and public involvement. MROSD's Saratoga Gap and Fremont Older Open Space Preserves are located in the vicinity of Saratoga.

2. City

a. Annexation of the Site into the City Limits of Saratoga

In 2011, the City of Saratoga purchased the site from Santa Clara County with a conservation easement and joint-funding from Santa Clara County and MROSD. Santa Clara County sold all of the land, except for 1.69 acres, to the City of Saratoga because the land was considered surplus to the County and valuable to the City. In April 2013, the City of Saratoga adopted a resolution approving the annexation of the Congress Springs Quarry Parcels to the City of Saratoga.

b. City Of Saratoga General Plan

Prior to the Project site's annexation into the city limits of Saratoga, the site, which was within the City's Sphere of Influence (SOI) but not the city limits, was designated Hillside Open Space (OS-H) and was within a Residential Open Space (ROS) Prezone, which is used for parcels that lie outside the city boundary and have been prezoned as either Hillside Residential (HR) or Residential Open Space (ROS) for planning purposes. Upon adoption of the resolution (City of Saratoga Resolution 13-016) which officially incorporated the site into the city limits of Saratoga, the City amended the property's land use designation to Open Space-Outdoor Recreation (OS-OR) to be consistent with the City's intent to create a city park on the property.

i. *Open Space and Conservation Element (2007)*

The Open Space and Conservation Element document describes the existing parks and open space resources in the city of Saratoga. Additionally, it describes the City's goal to maintain and increase the amount of parkland and recreational areas according to its park standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents. According to the proposed Quarry Park Master Plan, the City's vision is to develop a comprehensive trail network "that provides [the community with] open space linkages for greater access to recreation activities and natural resources within and beyond city limits." The Open Space and Conservation Element also includes a map of existing trail easements and proposed trails.

ii. *Circulation and Scenic Highway Element Update (2010)*

The City of Saratoga's Circulation and Scenic Highway Element Update was completed to: (1) improve transportation options for multiple users; (2) promote a healthy and active community for residents by providing alternative transportation opportunities for bicyclists and pedestrians; and (3) be a responsible partner in developing regional transportation solutions. As part of the update, the document describes the existing conditions of bicycle facilities, which are categorized into three different classes: Bike Paths and Trails (Class I), Bike Lanes (Class II), and Bike Routes (Class III).

c. Saratoga Municipal Code

i. *Zoning (Chapter 15)*

The Zoning chapter of the Saratoga Municipal Code serves to implement the General Plan designations described above. It defines zones and contains the zoning map and development standards for all zones. Upon annexation of the Project site, the pre-zone R-OS (Residential Open Space) was applied. According to the Section 15-02.010, the purpose of the R-OS zone is “[t]o preserve hillside and mountainous land in its natural condition through the establishment of dedicated open space areas, and through environmentally sensitive low density residential use” and “[t]o promote those uses which support and enhance a rural character and preserve important resources such as forests, natural vegetation, watersheds, animal habitat, scenic beauty, recreational areas, open space and public access thereto.” One of the permitted uses within the R-OS zone is related to public park uses, which allows for public parks, trails, and open space.

ii. *Parks and Recreation (Chapter 11)*

The Park and Recreation chapter of Saratoga’s Municipal Code defines acceptable and prohibited activities within City parks and recreational facilities. The chapter sets forth general regulations and permit requirements for special recreation activities, including sports and group uses. In order to preserve and prevent incidents of fire and loss of parkland, the chapter specifically states that use of tobacco is prohibited in recreational areas, which are defined as any outdoor area that is open to the public for recreational purposes. This includes parks and trails.

D. Required Permits and Approvals

The proposed Project would require, but may not be limited to, the following approvals from the City of Saratoga. This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is intended to serve as the environmental document for these actions, and any other approvals that may be required:

- Building Permit

Additionally, development of the proposed project would require entitlements from the following resource agencies:

- San Francisco Regional Water Quality Board (Region 2)
- U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Transportation

E. Project Characteristics

Quarry Park would be developed as a passive use facility, emphasizing the Project site’s natural and historic features, connections to adjacent open space, and opportunities for resource-based outdoor recreation and education. In order to protect the site’s resources and reduce management concerns, the park would primarily be a day-use only facility. Additional use restrictions include: restrictions on all-terrain vehicles; leash rules for dogs; and bans on smoking, alcohol, and open fires on the proposed Project site. The following is an overview of the components of the proposed Project.

1. Use Areas

Park features are organized around four programmatic use areas, as shown on Figure 3, Use Areas: (1) The Quarry Floor, which includes the lower entry station and adjacent historic loading structure; (2) the Lower Terrace, which



Source: PlaceWorks, 2014.



- 1. The Quarry Floor
- - -** 2. Lower Terrace
- 3. Upper Terrace
- 4. The Overlook
- *** Picnic Areas
- · -** Property Line

Figure 3
Use Areas

includes the mid-level event space and associated picnic areas, and (3) the Upper Terrace, which includes a grassy meadow and group picnic areas, and (4) the Overlook.

a. The Quarry Floor

The lower use area, or The Quarry Floor, would be located at the base of the hillside, adjacent to Saratoga Creek. Approximately 0.8 acres in size, it would include a welcome station, including informational signage and restrooms, and the historic loading structure. Pending structural evaluation, the loading structure may become an open-air museum and event space with a useable roof amenity area. An information kiosk and sufficient seating would be incorporated into the plaza, along with a public composting restroom. A grand staircase that is 10-feet-wide and built into the hillside would connect from the plaza up to the Lower Terrace event space via the roof of the loading structure. The Park entrance from SR 9 and the upper parking area are also located in this use area.

b. Lower Terrace

The Lower Terrace includes an event space for special events as well as the restoration of historic picnic areas and furniture. Located just up the hill from the loading structure, the 0.2 acre event space could be rented as a venue for small weddings and special functions. A small, temporary staging or catering area would be located adjacent to the open space for use during special events. There would be approximately ten picnic tables, four located in the historic picnic area with the rest scattered in the nooks around the cleared event space.

c. Upper Terrace

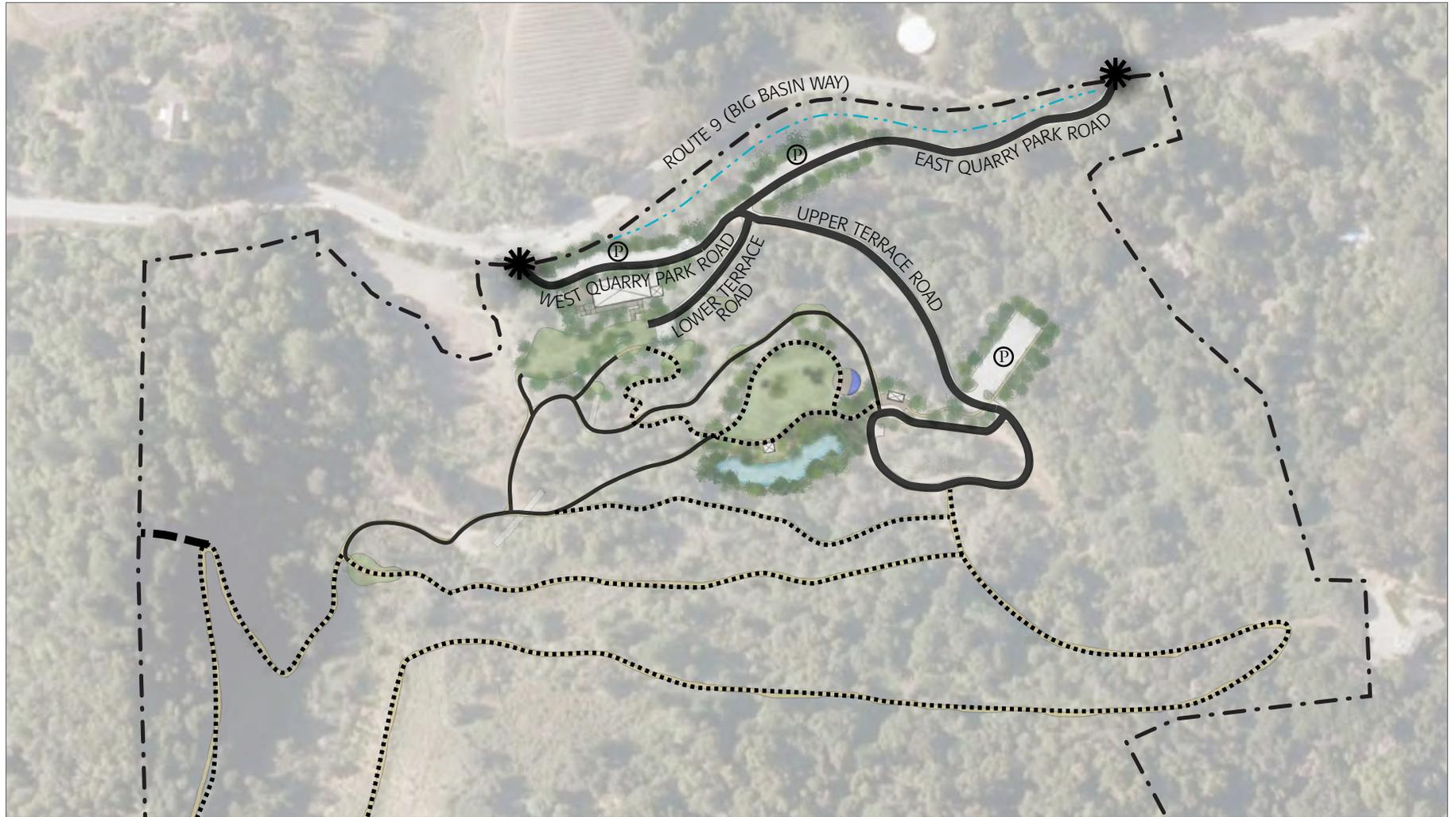
The Upper Terrace, located south of the Lower Terrace, is approximately 2.0 acres in size, and includes a staging area, grassy meadow, pond, and numerous amenities such as a drop-off circle that supports school buses, two accessible parking spots, restroom facilities (composting toilets), a drinking fountain, garbage and recycling receptacles, solar lighting, and informational signage. The grassy meadow could either be a maintained lawn or a planted meadow that requires minimal maintenance. Around the perimeter of the grassy meadow would be a group picnic area with a shade structure, small picnicking nooks, and a natural playground. The group picnic shelter would be large enough to support 50 people with an overhang to provide shade, and the natural playground would be comprised of elements (i.e., logs, boulders, etc.) that create “nature” play opportunities. An observation platform is cantilevered over the pond edge and serves as a learning station with seating areas and opportunities for interpretation and education.

2. Circulation and Access

Figure 4, Circulation, shows the components of the circulation plan for the proposed Project.

a. Access

Access to the proposed park would be gradually improved through the different phases of implementation. During the initial phase the only access to the park would be at the western end of the park providing access to the West Quarry Park Road, which is a two-way road that connects from this access point to the base of the roads that connect to the Lower Terrace and Upper Terrace. In the third phase, an additional access point at the location of the existing eastern bridge could be opened in the future, along with the East Quarry Park Road. With this complete, Quarry Park Road could be converted to a one-way road with an entrance at the western access point and an exit at the eastern access point.



Source: PlaceWorks, 2014.

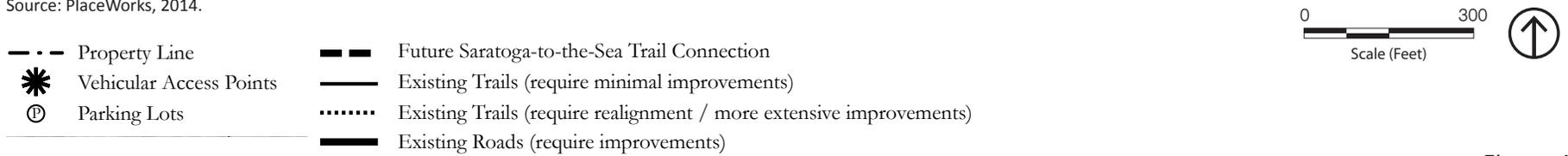


Figure 4
Circulation

b. Vehicular

The following is a description of the roads proposed as a part of development of the proposed park. All vehicular roads would be open for pedestrian use.

- **West Quarry Park Road.** The main entrance road would begin at the western access point off of Route 9 and run parallel to Saratoga Creek along the northern boundary of the site, connecting with the junction of the Upper Terrace and Lower Terrace Roads. This road would be at least 20-feet wide to allow for two-way traffic, and would provide access to between 40 and 50 parking spaces.
- **Eastern Quarry Park Road.** This road would be a continuation of the main entrance road that connects to the eastern egress point. This one-way road would be at least 12-feet wide.
- **Upper Terrace Road.** The road to the Upper Terrace would connect from the main entrance road to the upper parking lot and drop-off area. The grade of this road is approximately 17-percent, and would be paved per City of Saratoga Roadway Standards. The existing road would be improved as a 14-foot wide two-way road, with the exception of the drop-off loop which will be a one-way road.
- **Lower Terrace Road.** The road that connects up to the Lower Terrace would only be open during special events for ADA drop-off and parking, as well as catering/service vehicle access. The grade of this road is approximately 16 percent, and would be paved per Santa Clara County Roadway Standards. The road would be accessible to pedestrians and equestrians.
- **Service Roads.** Service roads include existing roads that would be used primarily as trails but occasionally by vehicles for future trail construction, on-going trail maintenance, and emergency services. Bollards would be located at the entrance of these roads to prevent the public from driving on them.

c. Parking

The Master Plan provides for a total of 100 to 130 parking spaces at three different locations within the proposed park. From the main entrance road off of SR 9, between 40 and 50 perpendicular parking spaces would be provided. Until the parking area off of the eastern entrance road is constructed this area may also accommodate some equestrian trailer parking. The inclusion of horse trailer parking would displace some of the 40-50 parking spaces. If 4 to 5 equestrian trailer spots were provided approximately 20 regular parking spaces would be displaced. The upper parking lot would have capacity for approximately 40 cars. Development of the parking area off of the eastern access point would add 40 more spaces and would include the potential to provide some equestrian trailer parking. Similar to the parking area accessed from the main entrance road, the inclusion of 4 to 5 equestrian trailer parking spaces would displace 20 regular parking spaces. If equestrian trailer parking is provided at the parking area off of the eastern access road, equestrian trailer parking would not be provided at the parking area off of the main road.

The drop-off loop proposed as a part of the Project would be equipped with four Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking stalls to provide direct access to the Upper Terrace's welcome station and restroom, adjacent to the grassy meadow and pond. Two ADA parking stalls would be provided at the Lower Terrace. Finally ADA accessible drop off zones would be located at the Quarry Floor welcome station adjacent to the historic loading structure, at the Lower Terrace event space at the end of the road with a hammerhead turn-around, and at the Upper Terrace welcome station as a pull-off lane long enough for a school bus on the drop-off loop.

d. Trails

The Project would provide 2.5 miles of trail. With the exception of approximately 1,200 linear feet of newly developed trail, all of the trails will use existing road alignments. Due to the steep grades and short trail lengths, the site is

not well suited to mountain biking and therefore it would not be permitted. Equestrian use is limited by short trail length, safety and environmental hazards, and lack of regional connections. However, there is a proposed future trail connection from the main entrance to the equestrian trails located northwest of the Park. This connection would require equestrians to travel along the southern side of SR 9 to a road crossing that links to the City's easements on the northern side of the street. The Park may include equestrian trailer parking along East Quarry Park Road to provide staging for the future trail connections. Should additional equestrian trail connections to the Park be established, designated internal trails will be opened for equestrian use in order to facilitate regional connectivity.

The park's hiking trails would be part of a greater regional trail network and specifically part of the future Saratoga-to-the-Sea Trail (currently the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail). A conceptual alignment for a potential future trail from the site is envisioned to connect west through the San Jose Water Company property to the trails at Sanborn Park and ultimately to the existing Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail. A trail connection from the Project site east to Saratoga Village is also envisioned, potentially through the Hakone Garden property and along SR 9.

As a result of steep grades and other geographic constraints, not all trails would be ADA accessible. Trail accessibility information, would be posted on all trail signage as well as the proposed park's circulation map. The staging areas and visitor contact points with kiosks and restrooms would be connected to parking lots and vehicle drop-off areas with ADA compliant paths.

3. Habitat Enhancements and Natural Resource Management

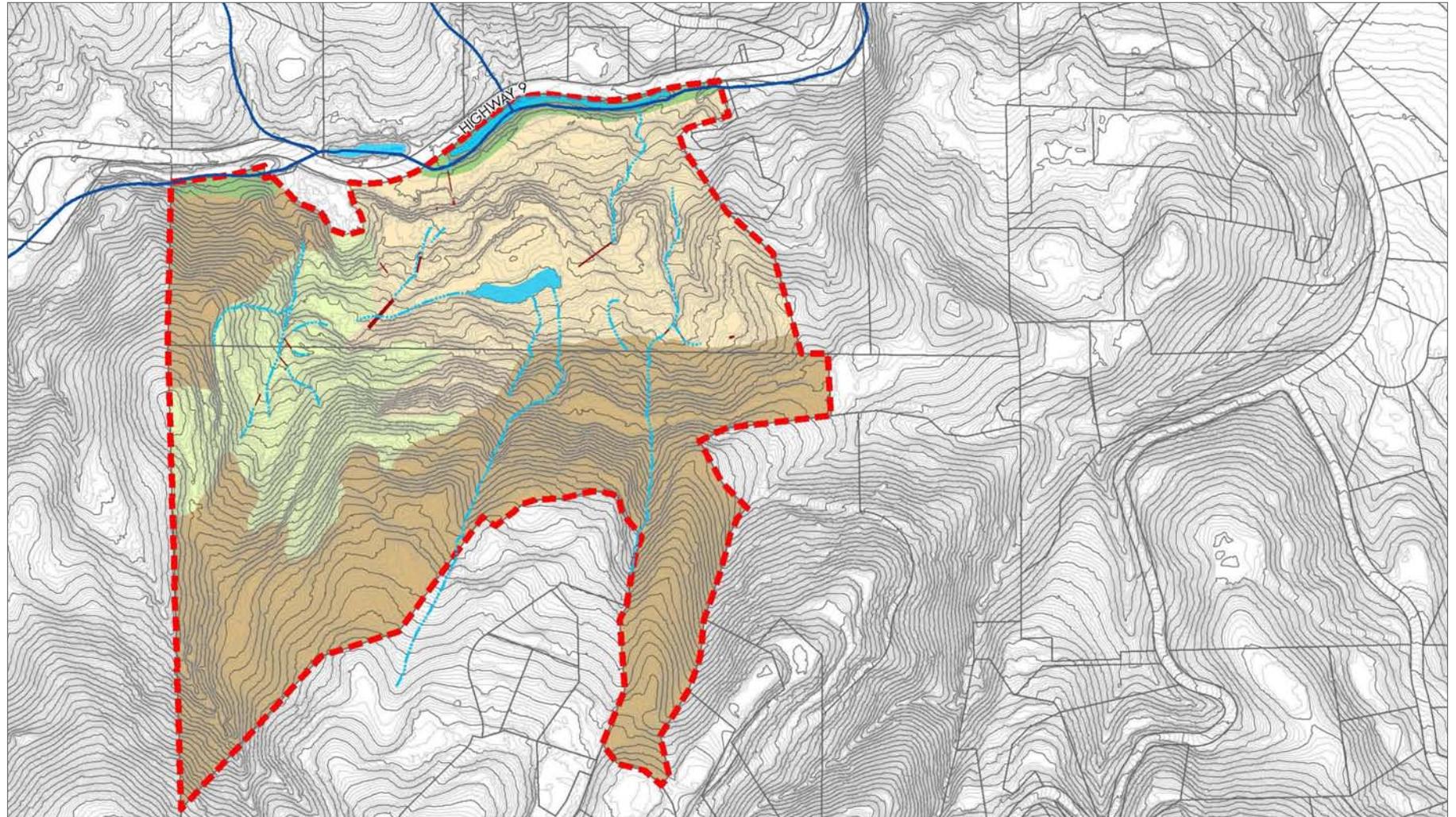
Habitat restoration would be focused on the riparian zone along Saratoga Creek and at the pond on the site. The distribution of habitats on the Project site is shown on Figure 5, Dominant Biotic Habitats, from the proposed Master Plan. Park-wide efforts involve the removal of invasive species and the revegetation of native plants.

The on-site pond would be improved to enhance habitat and aesthetic resources. Improvements would include:

- Widening the pond by relaxing the bank on the downhill side, this may require relocating the existing road, and revegetating the slope with low growing native plants that would not impede pond views.
- Creating a deep area on the uphill side (away from trails) for improved habitat.
- Constructing an observation platform.
- Limiting trails and access to the trail on downhill side of the pond.
- Providing signage and split-rail fencing to reduce intrusion into the pond and revegetated area.
- Maintaining open-water area.
- Minimizing encroachments within 100-foot riparian setback, mitigating when necessary.

Chapter 7 of the proposed Master Plan provides natural resource management guidelines that focus on protecting and enhancing native vegetation. These guidelines emphasize protecting the relatively intact areas of native vegetation, controlling and working to eradicate highly invasive exotic plants, and encouraging the spread and natural succession of native communities on the site. These Guidelines address the following categories;

- Riparian buffers.
- Protection of special status species habitat.
- Invasive species control.
- Revegetation.
- Erosion control.



Source: HT Harvey Associates, 2013; PlaceWorks, 2014.

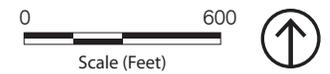


Figure 5
Dominant Biotic Habitats

Finally, conservation measures for preventing impacts to the park's biological resources are provided in Appendix A of the proposed Master Plan.

4. Utilities

The utilities and infrastructure requirements for the Park would be limited to water supply for drinking fountains in the Upper Terrace and at the lower level entry plaza, as well as electricity for lighting at bathrooms. Water for drinking fountains would be provided at the welcome station in The Quarry Floor, as well as near the drop-off loop in the Upper Terrace. A water supply would also be provided at the catering area of the Lower Terrace. Additionally, a permanent irrigation system may be installed in limited areas, such as for the grassy meadow or around staging areas. Water for all areas would be provided via a connection to the existing 16-inch water main which runs along SR 9. The water supply needed for establishing new plantings would also be provided by this water source, unless on-site water supplies are determined to be a feasible irrigation source. Restrooms, located at the Quarry Floor and Upper Terrace, would be designed with composting toilets or a pump-out plumbing system, thus avoiding the need for water and/or a connection to a sanitary sewer service. Lighting for restrooms would be powered by solar electricity. Water supply and electricity required for the loading structure, should it be improved as a public facility, and would be provided via connections to the main water line along SR 9 and the existing utility poles on the property.

5. ADA Access

As discussed above, some of the proposed trails would be ADA accessible and some of the parking spaces provided would be ADA accessible. Additionally, the staging areas, visitor contact points with kiosks and restrooms, would be connected to parking lots and vehicle drop-offs with ADA compliant paths.

6. Historic Preservation

Given the historic significance of the quarry as a major contributor to the local economy, the proposed master Plan recommends preservation of the remaining elements of the quarry. Some of the existing features that would be restored as a part of the proposed project would include the historic loading structure, picnic tables, BBQ pits, sitting areas, and stonework landscaping.

In the event that archeological resources are discovered during the development of the Project site, the standard conditions of approval including halting work in the vicinity of the discovery pending evaluation by a qualified archeologist in the case of buried archeological deposits, and evaluation by the county coroner and the Native American Heritage Commission in the event that native American human remains are discovered would be in place.

7. Interpretive Program

Chapter 6 of the proposed Master Plan describes the proposed interpretive program component of the Project, which includes an overarching theme that ties together numerous elements that relate directly to the Park's cultural and natural history. According to the proposed Master Plan, "An interpretive theme is a succinct, central message that is aimed at connecting visitors to the significant recreational, natural, and cultural resources of the park. The theme provides a point of view for presenting information through various interpretive media. The unifying theme that integrates all of the Park's historical and ecological features is 'Saratoga Quarry Park: A Treasure Trove'."

8. Signage

The proposed Project would include the provision of informational, wayfinding, and interpretive signage. Informational signage would be located at park entrances and would include information including park hours of operation,

and park regulations. Wayfinding signage would be located at trail intersections and would only provide directional information. Interpretive signs would be located near historic sites including the historic loading structure and the pond. These signs would provide information on the Project site's history and natural features.

9. Design Guidelines and Policies

Chapter 5 of the proposed Plan, included as part 1 of Appendix A of this Initial Study, establishes design guidelines addressing development of the proposed Project. This chapter includes descriptions of the vision for each of the major components of the proposed park. Taking this approach lends the guidelines to help with the implementation of the vision for the Project while allowing for flexibility and innovation later in the development process. The guidelines include recommendations for adequate drainage infrastructure and erosion-mitigation strategies to extend the life of trails and avoid disturbing the surrounding landscape. Additionally, this chapter provides guidance on the design of onsite parking, staging areas, roads, trails, picnic areas, the natural playground element, the event space, plantings on the site, signage, furnishings and materials, and accessibility.

10. Project Phasing

Implementation of the Saratoga Quarry Park Master Plan has been divided into the three phases. The components of each of these phases are described below and shown in Figure 6, Phasing. The schedule of implementation for each phase would be determined based on available funds.

a. Phase 1

The Phase 1 improvements described below are anticipated to be constructed as one project, with a construction period of approximately 6-12 weeks.

i. Staging Area

In the first phase, the Quarry Floor staging area would be the existing gravel driveway (western entrance) and parking lot adjacent to the loading structure. The parking lot would provide parking for 40 to 50 vehicles and require only minor improvements to ensure proper drainage. A bioswale would be constructed around the northern perimeter of the parking area to capture and treat stormwater prior to reaching Saratoga Creek.

ii. Trail Network

As discussed above, the proposed trail network is comprised of mostly existing roads and trails that vary in condition from good to poor. While some roads and trails are in good shape, and require minimal work, other trails would need to be realigned with drainage crossings and/or retaining walls installed to stabilize the trail and prevent erosion. In Phase 1, approximately 0.45 miles of existing roads will be improved as trails. In addition, approximately 0.25 miles of future vehicular roads will be opened for pedestrian access.

iii. Habitat Restoration

In the first phase habitat restoration would include planting native trees and shrubs to buffer the parking area from the Saratoga Creek corridor. Additional drainage elements and planting may be required as conditions from permitting agencies require.



Source: PlaceWorks, 2014.

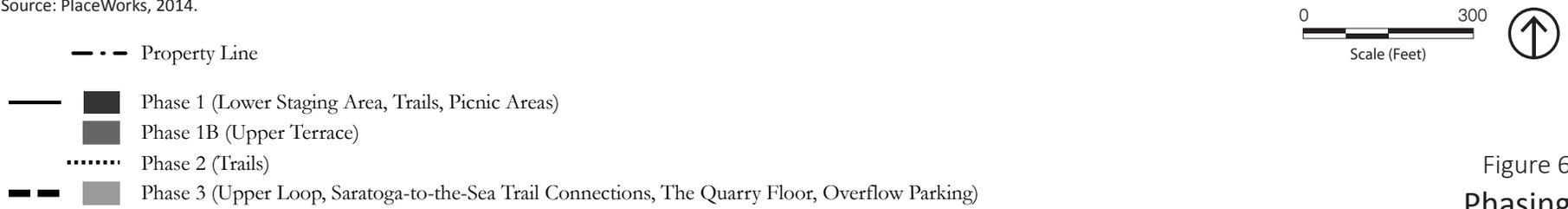


Figure 6
 Phasing

iv. Signage and Site Furniture

Signage recommended for opening the Park includes an entry sign on SR 9, a welcome kiosk with a trail network map and interpretive signage. Hazard signage at the loading structure, at steep drop-offs next to trails, and at the existing stairs should be installed prior to allowing the public onto the property. Directional signage and “End-of-Trail” signage is also recommended.

v. Historic Picnic Area Improvements

The site furniture, stone walls and steps, and barbeque pits require restoration that would be done in the first phase.

b. Phase Two

The second phase would involve construction of the Upper Terrace use area, which includes the upper parking lot and staging area, the road connecting up the hill to these spaces, the pond restoration and overlook platform, and the grassy meadow with the large group picnic structure and natural play feature. Additionally, the Lower Terrace event space, including the road up to the area, the ADA parking spaces, and the trails connecting the space to the Upper Terrace would be formalized in phase two. Interpretive elements and signage not installed during the first phase would be included in phase two, except for the loading structure, which is anticipated to be a component of phase three. Phase Two improvements may be constructed as one or more projects, and are anticipated to require construction periods of approximately 8 to 12 weeks.

c. Phase Three

The third phase would include four separate projects that could be implemented simultaneously or consecutively, with anticipated construction periods of 8 to 12 weeks. The prioritization order would be determined based on funding and public interest/demand. Projects reserved for the third phase include the following: constructing the Saratoga-to-the-Sea trail connection to the San Jose Water Company property to the west; implementing the upper loop trail; renovation of the loading structure and constructing the adjacent welcome station, restrooms, and stairs connecting to the Lower Terrace event space. (Additional assessment of the loading structure as well as siting and design for all structures would be conducted prior to any improvements); converting Quarry Park Road into a two-way road with another means of egress-ingress, using the existing access point in the northeast corner of the property, which would require moving a utility pole, replacing a culvert, and the possible reconstruction of the bridge structure (pending assessment); adding parking along East Quarry Park Road, perpendicular if the road is two-way and diagonal if it is one-way, and designating space for equestrian trailer parking if feasible; adding diagonal parking along the eastern portion of the lower road, and designating space equestrian trailer parking if feasible. Opening the East Quarry Park Road and existing bridge/access point for public access would provide an additional egress point and allow circulation along West Quarry Park Road to be converted to a one-way road.

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

1. **Project Title:** Saratoga Quarry Park Master Plan
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** City of Saratoga
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Shaheen Sarwari, Office Specialist, (408) 868-1239
4. **Project Location:** State Route 9, City of Saratoga (APN 503-48-045 and 517-32-001)
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:**
City of Saratoga, Public Works Department
13777 Fruitvale Avenue
Saratoga, CA 95070
6. **General Plan Land Use Designation:**
Open Space - Outdoor Recreation (OS-OR)
7. **Zoning:** Residential Open Space (R-OS)
8. **Description of Project:**
Please see pages 1-17 of this Initial Study
9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:**
Please see page 1 of this Initial Study
10. **Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required:**
None

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a Potentially Significant Impact, as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Forestry Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology & Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology & Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population & Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities & Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

Determination:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

For

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

I. AESTHETICS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*

While the City of Saratoga does not have officially designated scenic vistas, the Open Space and Conservation Element of Saratoga’s existing General Plan does note that undeveloped and agricultural lands are valuable scenic open spaces and that the preservation of these spaces with their scenic views and undisturbed wildlife habitat is essential for the preservation of the City’s rural character. Additionally, the General Plan’s Circulation and Scenic Highway Element notes that Sanborn Road and Bohlman Road/Montevina Road, which are both proximate to the Project site, are designated as County Scenic Roadways. Sanborn Road, which is located to the west of the Project site, is surrounded by dense tall trees on both sides that limit long-range views of the site from this roadway. For this reason, the proposed Project would not adversely affect views from this County designated Scenic Roadway. Bohlman Road/Montevina Road is slightly closer to the Project site than Sanborn Road; however, the topography of the area in addition to the significant amount of vegetation surrounding this roadway would severely limit views of the Project site from this road. While some views of the site may be possible from certain points on this road, as described above, the proposed Project would not entail structures with the potential to substantially alter these views. Moreover, the Project would include landscaping which would beautify the proposed park, habitat enhancement strategies which would serve to protect natural scenic resources, and historic preservation measures included as a part of the Master Plan would preserve the historic elements of the site which contribute to its scenic value. As result, the proposed Project would have a *less-than-significant* impact with respect to substantial adverse effects on a scenic vista.

b) *Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?*

As shown on Figures 3 and 4, SR 9 runs along the northern border of the Project site. SR 9 is designated by the California Scenic Highway Mapping System as an official State scenic highway from the Santa Cruz County line to the Los Gatos city limit. This means that the portion of SR 9 adjacent to the Project site is designated as an official State scenic highway.¹

¹ California Department of Transportation, California Scenic Highway Mapping System, http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/, accessed March 25, 2014.

The proposed Project would entail the development of a public park on the site of a former gravel quarry. As described in the Project Description above, the proposed Project does not include the construction of structures with the potential to make a substantial adverse impact on the scenic resources that exist on the site. Future structures on the site would be open, shelter-type structures designed for shading and rain protection. The structures would be low, open canopy structures ranging in height from 12 feet to 22 feet tall. As such, they would not block views in the area. Additionally, the proposed Project would include landscaping, restoration of natural habitats as well as preservation and restoration of historical resources on the Project site. During the construction of the park, the presence of machinery and active construction would have temporary impacts on the views of the site from SR 9. However, vegetation between SR 9 and the parking areas within the Project site would serve to reduce potential visual impacts. Moreover, were this vegetation removed in the future given the elevation of the road is slightly higher than the proposed parking area, the topography of the site would also serve to minimized long term impacts. Therefore, while there may be temporary impacts to the visual resources as seen from SR 9 during the construction period, long-term implementation of the Quarry Park Master Plan, for the above reasons, would not substantially damage scenic resources within a State scenic highway and a *less-than-significant* impact would result.

c) *Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?*

As described in chapter 3 of the proposed Master Plan, the existing visual character of the Project site is characterized by a contrast of relatively pristine natural resources, portions of the site that have undergone restoration, and re-vegetation from the past quarry use, as well as the historical resources that remain on the site. As described above, the proposed Project includes planning for natural resources management, habitat restoration, as well as historic preservation. Although the Project site had been used for recreational uses in the past, the site has not been actively used by the public for recreation; however, due to the minor nature of the changes proposed in conjunction with the elements of the Project which would reduce potential impacts to the visual character of the Project site, potential impacts would be minimized, resulting in a *less-than-significant* impact.

d) *Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?*

Because the site would not be open during nighttime hours, the only lighting proposed as a part of the Project would be solar powered security lights near restrooms. Due to the low intensity of this lighting, its positioning on the site, and the size of the site, any new lighting would not be visible from surrounding properties. Moreover, while it is true that some of the building materials used for the onsite improvements may be somewhat reflective resulting in perceptible levels of glare, due to the size of the site and topography of the site this additional glare resulting from the Project would not be visible from off site. Since these new sources of light would not be visible from surrounding properties, they would not adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area and a *less-than-significant* impact would result.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
Would the project:				
b) Conflict with an existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or of conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a) *Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?*

As shown on the maps prepared by the California Resources Agency, no part of the Project site or the sites surrounding the Project site are designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance.² Therefore, the proposed Project would have *no impact* with respect to the conversion of farmland.

b) *Would the project conflict with an existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?*

As shown on maps prepared by the California Natural Resources Agency neither the Project site nor the land directly surrounding the Project site are under Williamson Act contracts.³ Additionally, as discussed above in the description of the Project, the Project site is not zoned for agriculture. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with an existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract and *no impact* would result.

c) *Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?*

As shown on maps prepared by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, implementation of the proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for or cause the rezoning of forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production.⁴ Therefore, a *no impact* would result in this respect.

d) *Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

The Project site was formerly a gravel quarry. Some remediation of the site has already taken place, as discussed above. The proposed Project would include natural resources management guidelines as well as habitat enhance-

² The Natural Resources Agency, Department of Conservation, 2010, Santa Clara County Important Farmland 2010.

³ The Natural Resources Agency, Department of Conservation, 2013/2014, Santa Clara County Williamson Act FY 2013/2014.

⁴ The State of California, California Department of Forestry and Fire protection, Fire Resource Assessment Program, The Management Landscape.

ments, and would not include significant removal of trees. Therefore, while the site would be occupied by a public park use with implementation of the proposed Project, since the site is not currently occupied by forest land, *no impact* would result with respect to the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

e) *Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or of conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

Small-scale agricultural operations including vineyards are located in the vicinity of the Project site. However, the potential future use of the Project site as a public park would not include permanent residents or be of the type of use that would be adversely impacted by agricultural operations. Residential uses and some types of commercial uses are most sensitive to the impacts of agricultural operations. As a result, the Project would not have the potential to result in nuisance complaints, which could put pressure on these agricultural uses to be converted to non-agricultural uses. Additionally, the distance of the site from surrounding agricultural operations, the hilly topography of the area, as well as the large amount of intervening vegetation would serve to minimized potential adverse impacts related to the proximity of agricultural and non-agricultural uses. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in other changes in the environment, which would, in-turn, result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. Moreover, given that the proposed Project is intended to preserve open space and natural resources, no aspect of the proposed Project would be considered to result in changes to the environment, which would result in the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. In fact, the addition of trails that access the Project site and surrounding areas would serve to reduce the pressure to convert surrounding land to non-forest uses. For these reasons, a *less-than-significant* impact would result in this respect.

III. AIR QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This section analyzes the types and quantities of air pollutant emissions that would be generated by the potential construction and operation of the proposed Project.

Air Pollutants of Concern

Criteria Air Pollutants

The pollutants emitted into the ambient air by stationary and mobile sources are regulated by federal and State law under the National and California Clean Air Act, respectively. Air pollutants are categorized as primary and/or secondary pollutants. Primary air pollutants are those that are emitted directly from sources. Carbon monoxide (CO), reactive organic gases (ROG), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), coarse inhalable particulate matter (PM₁₀), fine inhalable particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), and lead (Pb) are primary air pollutants. Of these, all of them except for ROGs are “criteria air pollutants,” which means that ambient air quality standards (AAQS) have been established for them. The National and California AAQS are the levels of air quality considered to provide a margin of safety in the protection of the public health and welfare. They are designed to protect those “sensitive receptors” most susceptible to further respiratory distress, such as asthmatics, the elderly, very young children, people already weakened by other disease or illness, and persons engaged in strenuous work or exercise. Healthy adults can tolerate occasional exposure to air pollutant concentrations considerably above these minimum standards before adverse effects are observed.

Toxic Air Contaminants

In addition to criteria air pollutants, both the State and federal government regulate the release of Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs). The California Health and Safety Code define a TAC as “an air pollutant which may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or in serious illness, or which may pose a present or potential hazard to human health.” A substance that is listed as a hazardous air pollutant pursuant to Section 112(b) of the federal Clean Air Act (42 United States Code Section 7412[b]) is a TAC. Under State law, the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), acting through the California Air Resources Board (CARB), is authorized to identify a substance as a TAC if it determines that the substance is an air pollutant that may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or serious illness, or may pose a present or potential hazard to human health.

a) *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?*

On September 15, 2010, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) adopted the 2010 Bay Area Clean Air Plan (CAP). The proposed Project would result in the development of a passive use park on the site of a former quarry. The proposed Project would be consistent with the land use designations which were applied at the time the land was annexed into the City of Saratoga and would not require any other change in General Plan designation or a zoning amendment. Due to its scale and type, the proposed Project does not have the potential to substantially affect housing, employment, and population projections within the Santa Clara County region. The Project would not conflict or obstruct implementation of the 2010 Bay Area CAP and would result in a *less-than-significant* impact.

b) *Would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?*

The following describes Project-related impacts from potential future short-term construction activities and long-term operation of the Project.

Construction Period

Criteria air pollutants generated during construction activities would include the following sources:

- a.) Exhaust emissions from powered construction equipment;
- b.) Fugitive dust generated by earthmoving, excavation, and other construction activities; and

- c.) Motor vehicle emissions associated with vehicle trips.

Air pollutant emissions from construction activities on-site would vary daily as construction activity levels change and during different construction phases of the proposed Project. Because the Project falls under BAAQMD's screening criteria for public parks, a detailed air quality assessment of the Project's air pollutant emissions is not required. However, the amount of dust generated during construction would be highly variable and is dependent on the size of the area disturbed at one time along with the amount of activity, the equipment being operated, soil conditions, and meteorological conditions. If uncontrolled, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} levels downwind of actively disturbed areas could possibly exceed State standards. Consequently, construction-related criteria pollutant emissions would result in a potentially significant impact. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure AIR-1 would reduce this impact to a *less-than-significant* level.

Operation Period

Full buildout of the Project would involve the future development of a public park. The operation period would include additional vehicle trips since the site is currently closed to the public. Because the Project falls under BAAQMD's screening criteria, operation-related criteria pollutant emissions would be considered *less than significant*.

Mitigation Measure AIR-1: Fugitive dust emissions (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) may be considered to be significant unless the Project implements the BAAQMD's Basic Control Measures for fugitive dust control during future construction. The Project contractor shall prepare a dust control plan prior to commencement of construction activities. Specification of the approved dust control measures shall be included in all construction documents and implemented during construction activities. The dust control plan shall include the following BAAQMD Basic Control Measures listed below:

- Water all active construction areas at least twice daily, or as often as needed to control dust emissions. Watering should be sufficient to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency may be necessary whenever wind speeds exceed 15 miles per hour (mph). Reclaimed water should be used whenever possible.
- Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials or require all trucks to maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard (i.e., the minimum required space between the top of the load and the top of the trailer).
- Apply water twice daily or as often as necessary, to control dust, or apply (non-toxic) soil stabilizers on all unpaved access roads, parking areas, and staging areas at construction sites.
- Sweep daily (with water sweepers using reclaimed water if possible), or as often as needed, with water sweepers all paved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at the construction site to control dust.
- Sweep public streets daily (with water sweepers using reclaimed water if possible) in the vicinity of the Project site, or as often as needed, to keep streets free of visible soil material.
- Hydroseed or apply non-toxic soil stabilizers to inactive construction areas.
- Enclose, cover, water twice daily or apply non-toxic soil binders to exposed stockpiles (dirt, sand, etc.).
- Limit vehicle traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph.
- Vehicle idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use, or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes (as required by the California airborne toxics control measure Title 13, Section 2485 of California Code of Regulations [CCR]).

- All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment shall be checked by a certified visible emissions evaluator.
- Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the lead agency regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. The Air District's phone number shall also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.
- Replant vegetation in disturbed areas as quickly as possible.
- Install sandbags or other erosion control measures to prevent silt runoff from public roadways.

Significance after Mitigation: The implementation of this mitigation measure would require implementation of BAAQMD's Basic Control Measures to reduce fugitive dust during any future construction activities and would reduce the impact to a *less-than-significant* level.

c) *Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?*

According to the CARB's Area Designations, the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin (SFBAAB) is currently designated as a non-attainment area for California and National O₃, California and National PM_{2.5}, and California PM₁₀ AAQS.⁵ Any project that does not exceed established standards, or can implement measures to mitigate emissions to levels below the BAAQMD's significance thresholds, does not add significantly to a cumulative impact. As described above, future buildout of the Project site could result in the development of a public park, the construction or operation of which would not result in a substantial net increase in pollutants, and impacts to air quality would be considered *less than significant*.

d) *Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

The Project would expose sensitive receptors to elevated pollutant concentrations if it causes or contributes significantly to elevated pollutant concentration levels. Localized concentrations refer to the amount of pollutant in a volume of air (ppm or µg/m³) and can be correlated to potential health effects to sensitive populations.

Construction Risk and Hazards

Future buildout of the Project would minimally elevate concentrations of TACs and diesel-PM_{2.5} in the vicinity of sensitive land uses during construction activities. Sensitive land uses in the vicinity of the Project include single-family residential land uses nearby the Project site on Congress Springs Road/ Highway 9 and Archibald Drive. However, with implementation of Mitigation Measure AIR-1, construction impacts would be reduced to a *less-than-significant* level.

Operation Risk and Hazards

Future buildout of the proposed Project could result in construction of a public passive use park, which is not the type of sensitive land use that would necessitate an evaluation of impacts relative to BAAQMD's community risk thresholds for operation. As a result, a *less-than-significant* impact would occur.

⁵ California Air Resources Board (CARB), 2011. *Area Designations: Activities and Maps*, <http://www.arb.ca.gov/design/adm/adm.htm>.

CO Hotspots

Areas of vehicle congestion have the potential to create pockets of CO called hotspots. These pockets have the potential to exceed the State 1-hour standard of 20 ppm or the eight-hour standard of 9 ppm. According to the BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines, under existing and future vehicle emission rates, a project would have to increase traffic volumes at a single intersection by more than 44,000 vehicles per hour—or 24,000 vehicles per hour where vertical and/or horizontal air does not mix—in order to generate a significant CO impact.⁶ Future development of the proposed Project would generate a nominal amount of vehicle trips associated with a public park. Therefore, impacts are *less than significant* and no mitigation measures are necessary.

e) *Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?*

The proposed Project consists of the development of a public park on the site of a former quarry. Public parks are not considered a type of land use with the potential to create objectionable odors. The type of facilities that are considered to have objectionable odors include wastewater treatments plants, compost facilities, landfills, solid waste transfer stations, fiberglass manufacturing facilities, paint/coating operations (e.g., auto body shops), dairy farms, petroleum refineries, asphalt batch plants, chemical manufacturing, and food manufacturing facilities. Future development of the proposed Project would not generate objectionable odors that would lead to a public nuisance; therefore, operational impacts would be *less than significant*.

During any future construction activities, construction equipment exhaust would temporarily generate odors. Any construction-related odor emissions would be temporary, intermittent in nature, and would dissipate rapidly from the source with an increase in distance. Odors would not likely be objectionable and constitute a public nuisance. Impacts associated with construction-generated odors would be *less than significant* and no mitigation measures are necessary.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on a plant or animal population, or essential habitat, defined as a candidate, sensitive or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.), through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

⁶ Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), 2011. *California Environmental Quality Act Air Quality Guidelines*.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
Would the project:				
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

A biological resource assessment (BRA) of the Project was completed by H. T. Harvey and Associates based on reconnaissance-level surveys of the site as well as a review of information from the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), California Native Plant Society (CNPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The following discussion is based on the BRA, which is included as Appendix B.

The Project area supports potentially regulated and sensitive habitats, as well as habitats that could support a variety of special-status plant and wildlife species. The potential impacts from the Project are identified below, along with mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts to less-than-significant levels.

a) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on a plant or animal population, or essential habitat, defined as a candidate, sensitive or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Special-Status Plants

No federal or State-listed plant species are expected to occur in the study area. However, four CNPS-List 1B.2 plants (Anderson’s manzanita [*Arctostaphylos andersonii*], Kings Mountain manzanita [*Arctostaphylos regismontana*], western leatherwood [*Dirca occidentalis*], and white-flowered rein orchid [*Piperia candida*]) may be present in areas where they could be impacted by Project buildout. The Master Plan contains goals, policies, and Conservation Measures (CM), including CM-3 (Minimize Impacts on Special-status Plants and Sensitive Natural Communities including Wetlands), intended to avoid adverse impacts on special-status plants. Although implementation of these policies and Conservation Measures would reduce the magnitude and extent of Project impacts on special-status plant species, buildout of the Project could result in the loss of individuals, as complete avoidance may not be feasible while still meeting Project goals and objectives. The presence/absence and distribution of these four special-status plant within proposed work areas would be determined based on the survey described in CM-3.

Permanent impacts on special-status plants that could reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered species would be considered significant. Impacts on populations of species with a CNPS rank of 1B.2, such as the four special-status plants considered to have some potential for occurrence on the site, would be considered significant and require compensatory mitigation if more than 10 percent of the overall number of a given species occurring within the Project area, and/or known populations of the species within a 5-mile radius of the Project area (if such populations are known), would be affected. In addition, the impact may be considered significant if less than 10 percent of the population within the impact area and/or known populations of the species within a 5-mile radius of the Project

area would be affected but the population exhibits unusual morphology, occurs on unusual substrates for that species, or if loss related to the Project could reduce the species' range, as determined by a qualified botanist familiar with the population present in the impact area and the rare flora of the region. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, this impact would be reduced to a *less-than-significant* level.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Preserve Populations of CNPS-ranked Species

- To compensate for potentially significant impacts on the Anderson's manzanita, Kings Mountain manzanita, western leatherwood, and white-flowered rein orchid, habitat occupied by the affected species shall be preserved and managed in perpetuity at a minimum 1:1 mitigation ratio (at least one plant preserved for each plant affected, and also at least one occupied acre preserved for each occupied acre affected), up to the significance threshold (e.g., for a CNPS-ranked 1B.2 species where 15 percent of the known population within the Project impact area is impacted, mitigation must be provided at 1:1 equivalent of 5 percent of the study area population).
- Areas proposed for preservation and serving as compensatory mitigation for special-status plant impacts must contain verified extant populations of the CNPS-ranked plants that would be impacted by the Project. Mitigation areas will be managed in perpetuity to encourage persistence and even expansion of the preserved target species.
- Criteria for appropriate mitigation sites are species-specific and the following factors must be considered in assessing habitat quality: (1) current land use, (2) location, (3) vegetation composition and structure, (4) slope, (5) soil composition and drainage, and (6) level of occupancy by relevant species. Any proposed compensatory mitigation populations outside the Project impact area must be protected from Project-related ground disturbance by a species- and impact-specific buffer developed by a qualified plant ecologist familiar with the Project actions and with the habitats and plant species present on the Project site.
- The City will develop a Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) describing the measures that will be taken to enhance and manage the mitigation lands and to monitor the effects of management on the focal special-status plant species. That plan will include, at a minimum, the following:
 - A summary of impacts on special-status plant populations, and the proposed mitigation
 - A description of the location and boundaries of the mitigation site and description of existing site conditions
 - A description of measures to be undertaken if necessary to enhance (e.g., through focused management) the mitigation site for special-status species
 - A description of measures to transplant individual plants or seeds from the impact area to the mitigation site, if determined by a qualified botanist to be appropriate and to have a high likelihood of success
 - Proposed management activities to maintain high-quality habitat conditions for the focal species
 - A description of species monitoring measures on the mitigation site, including specific, objective goals and objectives, performance indicators, and success criteria (including enhancement of populations of focal special-status species on the mitigation site), performance indicators and success criteria (including increasing the abundance of the focal species by at least as many individuals as were impacted), monitoring methods (including sampling for the focal species), data analysis, reporting requirements, and monitoring schedule. Determining specific performance/success criteria requires information regarding the specific mitigation site, its conditions, the biological resources present on the site, the specific plant species for which mitigation is being provided, and the specific enhancement and management measures tai-

lored to the mitigation site and its conditions. As a result, those specific criteria will be defined in the HMMP rather than in the Initial Study. Nevertheless, the performance/success criteria described in the HMMP will guide the mitigation to manage and protect high-quality habitat for, and populations of, the impacted species.

- Monitoring for non-native plant species and remediation measures in the event that such species are detected on the site.
- A description of the management plan's adaptive component, including potential contingency measures for mitigation elements that do not meet performance criteria
- A description of the funding mechanism for the long-term maintenance and monitoring of the mitigation lands

Significance after Mitigation: The implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce the impact to a *less-than-significant* level.

California Red-legged Frogs

Although not ideal habitat, the study area provides breeding habitat (i.e., on-site pond), as well as foraging and dispersal habitat (i.e., undisturbed areas of study area) for the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), federally listed as threatened and a California species of special concern. The species has been recorded less than 1000 feet downstream of the study area along Saratoga Creek, just east of Toll House Road Bridge (CNDDDB 2014). Therefore, Project buildout would result in impacts on suitable aquatic habitat (e.g., as a result of on-site pond enhancement and bridge reconstruction) and the disturbance or loss of upland habitat for the species. Project buildout may also result in injury or mortality of individual red-legged frogs during construction and operation.

Implementation of the Master Plan goals, policies, and Conservation Measures would reduce the magnitude and extent of Project impacts on habitat for this species. Enhancement of the on-site pond would result in the temporary disturbance of suitable aquatic and breeding habitat for the red-legged frog. However, the pond enhancements (i.e., creation of a deep pool, which is an important component of high quality breeding habitat; the creation of a shallow bench to act as a nursery for juveniles; and the creation of basking habitat) would provide a net benefit to the species through the long-term improvement of the quality of the aquatic habitat. Therefore, given the extent of suitable upland habitat available in the Project region, disturbance to, and loss of regionally common natural habitats as a result of Project implementation, is considered a less-than-significant impact on habitat for the red-legged frog, and no habitat mitigation is warranted.

Implementation of the Master Plan goals, policies, and Conservation Measures (e.g., CM-2 [Stormwater Pollution Prevention BMPs] and CM-4 [Minimize Impacts on Special-status Amphibian and Reptile Species]) would also reduce the potential impact on individual red-legged frogs. Nevertheless, Project buildout could still result in the loss of individuals as implementation of CM-4 may not be sufficient to detect and relocate all adults, larvae, and eggs potentially occurring in the on-site pond prior to its enhancement, or to prevent individuals from moving into the active work area following the onset of construction. Due to the regional rarity of the California red-legged frog, the loss of individuals or eggs would be significant.

With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2a through BIO-2d, the potential impacts on the California red-legged frog would be reduced to a *less-than-significant* level.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2a: Seasonal Work Window. Construction activities in or immediately adjacent to potential California red-legged frog breeding habitat (i.e., the on-site pond) will occur between August and October to avoid the period when California red-legged frogs are breeding, when eggs or larvae are most likely to be present, and when overland dispersal by California red-legged frogs is highest.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2b: Exclusion Fencing. Prior to the initiation of habitat enhancement activities for the on-site pond, exclusion fencing that prevents red-legged frogs from entering the work area will be constructed along the proposed ultimate limits of disturbance. The exclusion fencing will be at least 3 feet tall and buried at a depth of at least 6 inches below the soil surface. A qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey of this area for California red-legged frogs prior to installation of the exclusion fencing. The exclusion fencing will remain in place for the duration of construction activities and will be removed after construction activities have ceased.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2c: Pre-construction Surveys. After the exclusion fence is installed and immediately prior to construction, the City will have surveys performed by a qualified biologist. Such surveys will be conducted according to the following protocols:

- If standing water is present in the on-site pond, it will be seined for California red-legged frog larvae within seven days prior to construction. The pond will be pumped (with ¼-inch screening on the pump intake to prevent entrainment of frog larvae) or drained during the seining operation if necessary (i.e., based on the professional judgment of the qualified biologist performing the seining) to ensure that the pond is completely seined for California red-legged frogs. Any California red-legged frog larvae found during seining shall be salvaged and relocated by the biologist to a designated location determined in consultation with the USFWS.
- The qualified biologist will conduct one daytime and a minimum of two nighttime daytime surveys of the construction area for California red-legged frogs within 48 hours before the onset of construction activities. If California red-legged frogs of any life stage are found on the second night of the nighttime survey, an additional nighttime survey will be conducted. This procedure will be repeated until no additional individuals are detected during the course of one complete nighttime survey.
- If California red-legged frogs of any life stage are found, they will be moved to a designated location determined in consultation with the USFWS. During construction, if a California red-legged frog is observed within the construction area, the procedure described in Mitigation Measure 2d will be implemented.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2d: Relocation of Individuals. If a California red-legged frog (or any amphibian that personnel think may be of this species) is encountered during Project activities, the following protocol will be implemented:

- All work that could result in direct injury, disturbance, or harassment of the individual animal will immediately cease.
- A dedicated Project contact (e.g., a supervisor) will be immediately notified.
- The dedicated Project contact will immediately notify the USFWS.
- With approval of the USFWS, a qualified biologist approved by the USFWS to handle the individual California red-legged frog will move the individual to a safe location nearby and monitor it until it is determined that it is not imperiled by predators or other dangers.

Significance after Mitigation: The implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce the impact to a *less-than-significant* level.

Western Pond Turtles

Saratoga Creek within the study area and the on-site pond provide marginal quality basking habitat for western pond turtles (*Actinemys marmorata*), a California species of special concern, due to the paucity of open water and basking sites. Therefore, there is a low probability of this species using the study area for nesting. However, pond turtles likely use the study area, especially Saratoga Creek, for dispersal. Therefore, Project buildout would result in impacts on suitable aquatic habitat (e.g., as a result of on-site pond enhancement and bridge reconstruction) and the disturbance or loss of upland habitat for the species. Project buildout may also result in injury or mortality of individual pond turtles during construction and operation.

As described for the California red-legged frog above, implementation of the Master Plan goals, policies, and Conservation Measures would reduce the magnitude and extent of Project impacts on habitat for this species. Although enhancement of the on-site pond would result in the temporary disturbance of suitable aquatic and breeding habitat for the western pond turtle, it would provide a net benefit to the species through the long-term improvement of the quality of the aquatic habitat (i.e., creation of a deep pool and open water habitat). Therefore, no habitat mitigation is warranted. Further, implementation of Conservation Measures (e.g., CM-2 [Stormwater Pollution Prevention BMPs] and CM-4 [Minimize Impacts on Special-status Amphibian and Reptile Species]) would reduce the potential impact on individual western pond turtles to a *less-than-significant* level.

Nesting Special-Status Birds

Three special-status bird species that are considered California species of special concern could potentially nest in or immediately adjacent to the study area; these are the long-eared owl (*Asio otus*), olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), and yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*). Based on site observations, the areal extent of the site, and known breeding densities of these species, it is likely that no more than one pair of long-eared owls, one or two pairs of olive-sided flycatchers, and one or two pairs of yellow warblers could potentially nest within the study area. Because the number of nesting pairs that could be disturbed is very small, the Project's impacts would not substantially reduce regional populations of these species. Thus, these impacts do not meet the CEQA standard of having a substantial adverse effect. Further, implementation of CM-5 (Minimize Impacts on Nesting Birds) would reduce impacts on individual long-eared owls, olive-sided flycatchers, and yellow warblers through the identification of active nests and implementation of non-disturbance buffers around such nests. Therefore, this impact is *less than significant*.

Other Special-Status Birds

The Vaux's swift (*Chaetura vauxi*), a California species of special concern, may occur in the study area as a nonbreeding migrant or forager. The Project would have some potential to impact foraging habitat of this species. Construction activities associated with the Project may result in a temporary direct impact through the alteration of foraging patterns (e.g., avoidance of work sites because of increased noise and activity levels during maintenance activities) but would not result in the loss of individuals. Furthermore, the study area does not provide important foraging habitat used regularly or by large numbers of individuals. Thus, impacts on this species and its habitat resulting from Project buildout would be very limited. Accordingly, Project activities would not result in substantial reductions in local or regional populations, and would only affect a very low proportion of regionally available habitat, resulting in a *less-than-significant* impact.

San Francisco Dusky-Footed Woodrat

Many nests of the San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*), a California species of special concern, were observed at the site in coastal scrub, mixed woodland, and broadleaved forest habitats adjacent to existing trails during field surveys. Additional nests are likely scattered throughout these habitats in the study area. Project buildout within these habitats could result in the temporary disturbance of, and potentially a small permanent loss of (e.g., as a result of trail or facilities construction), potential breeding and foraging habitat for woodrats. However, given the extent of suitable habitat available in the Project region, disturbance to and loss of regionally common natural habitats as a result of Project implementation is considered a less-than-significant impact on habitat for the San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat.

In the absence of Conservation Measures, Project implementation could result in the injury or mortality of dusky-footed woodrats as a result of clearing and grading, Project vehicle traffic, equipment use, worker foot traffic, and habitat enhancement activities. However, San Francisco dusky-footed woodrats are relatively common in suitable habitat regionally and have high reproductive capabilities. Thus, with implementation of CM-6 (Minimize Impacts on San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrats), Project activities would result in a *less-than-significant* impact on regional populations of this species.

Special-Status Bats

Three bat species designated as California species of special concern, the Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*), and pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), may be present in the study area. The Townsend's big-eared bat is also a candidate for listing under the CESA. Project construction would temporarily reduce the availability of suitable foraging habitat for these species and the construction of permanent facilities (e.g., parking lots, recreational facilities) would permanently alter the extent of these habitats in the study area. However, the loss or conversion of these habitats within the study area would affect only a very small proportion of regionally available foraging habitat for these species. Thus, given the relative abundance of natural habitats in the Project region, disturbance to, and loss of regionally common natural habitats as a result of Project implementation, is considered a less-than-significant impact on foraging habitat for special-status bats.

Male Townsend's big-eared bats may occasionally use the mine as a hibernaculum during winter months, and the species may be present on the site as an occasional migrant or forager, but the species is not expected to breed on the site. Further, no activities are proposed within the mine, and the mine would not be open for public access. Implementation of CM-7 (Lighting) would minimize potential impacts on roosting habitat for Townsend's big-eared bats resulting from increased nighttime lighting. Pallid bats may be present in the study area as occasional foragers in scrub or open disturbed areas of the Project site, but are not expected to breed in the study area.

Western red bats may occur in the study area in low numbers as migrants and winter residents, and may roost in foliage in trees virtually anywhere in the study area. Project buildout could result in the loss of roosting sites and/or individual western red bats due to tree removal. However, red bats are likely to flush from trees when approached by heavy equipment, before trees themselves are impacted, so that injury or mortality is unlikely. Further, western red bats are not colonial. Thus, the permanent loss of a roost site (e.g., tree) would not result in a substantial impact on local or regional populations as only individuals, not entire colonies, would be affected. Suitable roost sites for this species are expected to be widespread enough that the loss of a roost site resulting from Plan activities would not necessitate compensatory mitigation. Therefore, impacts on the Townsend's big-eared bat, western red bat, and pallid bat would be *less than significant*.

b) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Impacts on Riparian Habitat

Project buildout could result in impacts on riparian habitat as a result of bridge reconstruction, grading and clearing, dust deposition, increased soil erosion, increased human access and trampling, introduction of non-native species, and increased potential of exotic species spread due to soil disturbance. Design of Project facilities at a level that would allow the calculation of disturbed areas due to buildout has not yet occurred. Therefore, potential impacts on riparian habitat cannot be specifically quantified. Although the Master Plan goals and policies include avoiding development and disturbance within 100 feet of the Saratoga Creek top-of-bank, and implementation of the Conservation Measures, including CM-2 (Stormwater Pollution Prevention BMPs), CM-3 (Minimize Impacts on Special-status Plants and Sensitive Natural Communities) and CM-11 (Restore Temporarily Impacted Habitats), would reduce the magnitude and extent of Project impacts, complete avoidance may not be feasible while meeting other Master Plan goals (e.g., opening East Quarry Park Road and existing bridge access point for public access). Because riparian communities are considered sensitive habitats and provide a wide range of biological functions for fish and wildlife, any impact on riparian habitat would be considered significant.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3 would reduce the Project's impacts on riparian habitats to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Provide Compensatory Mitigation for Impacts on Riparian Habitat.

- If permanent construction impacts on riparian habitats are unavoidable or accidentally occur during Project buildout, habitat shall be restored and enhanced in a manner that achieves no net loss in acreage or function. Mitigation for riparian habitat will be provided at a ratio of 3:1 (3 acres of mitigation for every 1 acre of disturbed) via creation or restoration of riparian habitat. Temporary impacts to riparian habitat will be mitigated through onsite restoration as described in CM-11 (Restore Temporarily Impacted Habitats), if impacts are restored within a year of the impacts. If impacted areas are not restored to pre-Project conditions within one year, the impacts shall be considered permanent, and compensatory mitigation will be provided as described above.
- Mitigation may be achieved through one or more of the following options:
 - Restoration or creation of riparian habitat within the study area
 - Restoration/creation in close proximity to but outside of the study area
 - Purchase of mitigation credits at approved mitigation banks whose service area includes the Project site.

If the City chooses to mitigate impacts on riparian habitat through the creation or restoration of habitat, it will develop an HMMP that will contain the following components (or as otherwise modified by regulatory agency permitting conditions):

- Summary of habitat impacts and proposed mitigation ratios.
- Goal of the restoration to achieve no net loss of habitat functions and values.
- Location of mitigation site(s) and description of existing site conditions.
- Mitigation design:
 - Existing and proposed site hydrology.
 - Grading plan if appropriate, including bank stabilization or other site stabilization features.

- Soil amendments and other site preparation elements as appropriate.
- Planting plan.
- Irrigation and maintenance plan.
- Remedial measures/adaptive management, etc.

Significance after Mitigation: The implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce the impact to a *less-than-significant* level.

Encroachment into Protective Buffers for Sensitive Habitats

The *Guidelines & Standards for Land Use Near Streams*, prepared by the Santa Clara Valley Water Resources Protection Collaborative (2005) and adopted by the City, recommends a protective buffer be established along streams, creeks, and freshwater marshes so that these resources are not impacted by development. Implementation of the proposed Project could result in indirect disturbance and degradation of riparian and wetland habitat due to encroachment into protective buffers around such habitats. The proposed Project development could affect riparian habitat along Saratoga Creek and the on-site pond.

The construction and operation of park facilities on or near riparian habitat along Saratoga Creek and the on-site pond would impact sensitive habitats indirectly through potential disturbance of wildlife. Undisturbed areas within 100 feet of Saratoga Creek and the on-site pond provide important foraging, breeding, or dispersal habitat for a number of common and special-status wildlife species that are present or may be present in the study area. Some of the more sensitive species include the California red-legged frog, western pond turtle, San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat, olive-sided flycatcher, and yellow warbler. Proposed project development in these areas would result in impacts on wildlife species as described above. In addition, encroachment into the riparian area may impact aquatic habitats through deterioration of water quality.

Due to the ecological importance of riparian and wetland habitats and their relatively limited regional extent, encroachment into the buffers around these habitats would be significant. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-4 would reduce encroachment impacts on riparian and wetland habitats to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Provide Compensatory Mitigation for Encroachment on Sensitive Habitat Buffers. Potential impacts within the setbacks for sensitive habitats include both temporary and permanent encroachment. If encroachment into buffers for sensitive habitats cannot be avoided, mitigation for temporary and permanent impacts will be provided.

Mitigation for temporary encroachment will be achieved through restoration of the impacted habitat to pre-Project conditions. Mitigation for permanent encroachment will be achieved through one or both of the following options:

- **Habitat Enhancement.** Mitigation for encroachment into sensitive habitats will be provided at a ratio of 1:1 (1 acre of mitigation for every 1 acre of encroachment) through the enhancement of degraded riparian or wetland habitat on-site.
- **Invasive Species Control.** Mitigation for encroachment into sensitive habitats will be provided at a ratio of 1:1 (1 acre of mitigation for every 1 acre of encroachment) through the aggressive control of infestations of invasive species, such as yellow star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), French broom (*Genista monspessulana*),

and fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), on-site for a period of three years. The California Invasive Plant Council describes these species as having a “high” inventory rating due to the aggressive nature with which their infestations spread and the impacts they have on natural resources (Cal-IPC 2014). The rationale for this mitigation is that the invasive species control area is in the vicinity of the Project’s riparian and wetland encroachment impacts and will reduce the threat of invasion of these habitats and also provide higher quality habitat adjacent to the riparian and wetland habitats. These invasive species represent a threat to nearby native habitats and would continue to spread without control measures. These species are also pervasive on the Project site and exclude natural recolonization by desirable native plants. Their removal will therefore reduce a threat to native habitats and allow for the establishment of additional native species.

The control of yellow star thistle, French broom, and fennel will be conducted using appropriate methodology, including hand removal, mechanical removal (mowing or weed whipping), and/or the application of herbicides. This effort will be consistent with the IPM program to be developed under the Master Plan.

Significance after Mitigation: The implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce the impact to a *less-than-significant* level.

c) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.), through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means?*

Project buildout could result in both temporary and permanent disturbance of jurisdictional wetlands and other waters. The approximate locations of these features were mapped based on reconnaissance-level site visits. Further, per CM-3, all Project construction activities would be preceded by a survey during which a qualified botanist would identify sensitive natural vegetation communities, including wetlands and other waters, within the activity area and clearly map or delineate them as needed in order to avoid and/or minimize disturbance.

Temporal loss of habitat functions and values provided by vegetated wetlands, such as sediment stabilization, sediment/toxicant retention, nutrient removal/transformation, and aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species habitat is considered potentially significant because it could result in the temporal loss of ecologically valuable habitat. In addition, permanent losses of both vegetated wetlands and unvegetated aquatic habitats, including jurisdictional wetlands and other waters, is considered significant. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-5 would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Mitigation for Temporary and Permanent Impacts on the Perennial Stream, Intermittent/Ephemeral Streams, and Aquatic/Wetland Habitats. Potential impacts within the regulated habitats on site include both temporary and permanent effects. If impacts on the regulated wetlands or other waters cannot be avoided, mitigation for temporary and permanent impacts will be provided at a minimum ratio of 1:1 (1 acre of mitigation for every 1 acre disturbed) via creation of or restoration of wetlands/other waters.

Mitigation may be achieved through one or more options, potentially including (but not limited to):

- Restoration or creation of wetlands/other waters within the study area.
- Restoration/creation in close proximity to but outside of the study area.
- Purchase of mitigation credits at approved mitigation banks whose service area includes the Project site.

If the City elects to restore wetlands onsite or offsite, a qualified biologist selected by the City will develop a Wetland and Jurisdictional Waters Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, which will contain the following components (or as otherwise modified by regulatory agency permitting conditions):

- Summary of habitat impacts and proposed mitigation ratios.
- Goal of the restoration to achieve no net loss of habitat functions and values.
- Location of mitigation site(s) and description of existing site conditions.
- Mitigation design:
 - Existing and proposed site hydrology
 - Grading plan if appropriate, including bank stabilization or other site stabilization features
 - Soil amendments and other site preparation elements as appropriate
 - Planting plan
 - Irrigation and maintenance plan
 - Remedial measures/adaptive management, etc.

Significance after Mitigation: The implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce the impact to a *less-than-significant* level.

d) *Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?*

Natural habitats in the study area are surrounded by large areas of open natural habitats to the west, northwest, and south along the Santa Cruz Mountains. As a result, the site does not provide narrow connectivity between large areas of open space on a local or regional scale. In addition, under the Master Plan, the proposed trail system would be composed of relatively narrow linear features that would not present significant barriers to wildlife movement, and Project facilities would affect relatively small areas within the study area, principally areas that are currently disturbed.

Saratoga Creek provides the most important movement pathway (for aquatic and amphibious species) through the study area, which is reflected in the Master Plan's policies, including the avoidance of development and disturbance within 100 feet of the creek top of bank where possible and the enhancement of the creek buffer to protect the sensitive riparian corridor from disturbance by park users and to improve its habitat and water quality, as well as CM-3 (Minimize Impacts on Special-status Plants and Sensitive Natural Communities including Wetlands). Further, per the Master Plan policies, no permanent impacts would occur within the low-flow channel of Saratoga Creek (i.e., bridge reconstruction over Saratoga Creek would not involve the placement of any permanent fill within the low flow channel). Therefore, the Project would have a *less-than-significant* impact on wildlife movement.

e) *Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

Project construction could adversely affect trees of a size subject to City of Saratoga's Tree Ordinance. Although, the City's Tree Ordinance applies only to private development project, the subject trees will be avoided if feasible. In addition, implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-6a through BIO-6b would further minimize any potential impacts related to tree removal. Therefore, resulting impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6a: Arborist Report. An Arborist Report will be prepared prior to the removal of trees of a size subject to City of Saratoga’s Tree Ordinance.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6b: Tree Removal and Protection Plan (TRPP). If any trees of a size subject to City of Saratoga’s Tree Ordinance are proposed for removal, a TRPP will be prepared. The TRPP will contain all the protective measures to be implemented before, during, and, after any activity affecting one or more trees including provision for future maintenance, to preserve and protect all trees to be retained on the Project site.

Significance after Mitigation: The resulting impact would be *less-than-significant*.

f) *Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*

The cities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill and San Jose, the County of Santa Clara, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and the Santa Clara Valley Water District have collaborated to create the Santa Clara Valley Habitat conservation Plan. However, the Project site does not fall within the plan’s study area and since there are no other applicable habitat conservation plans, *no impact* would result in this respect.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A cultural resources survey of the Quarry Park Master Plan Area was prepared on behalf of the City of Saratoga by Tom Origer and Associates (TOA), and is attached as Appendix B. This report was used to inform the following analysis.

a) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?*

The quarry which previously occupied the Project site was an important part of the local economy when it was in operation, and as a result, it would likely be eligible for inclusion in the California Register under Criterion 1. Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines defines historical resources as including resources listed or eligible to be listed in the California Register of Historical Resources, resources listed in local registers, and objects, buildings, or structures which a lead agency determines to be historically significant. Based on this definition, it is likely that the former quar-

ry would be eligible for inclusion on the California Register, and that the Project site contains historical resources as defined in the CEQA Guidelines.

As discussed in the Project Description, the proposed Master Plan calls for the preservation and restoration of many of the historical resources that exist on site, including the quarry's loading structure, stonework and picnic areas. Therefore, while historical resources as defined in Section 15064.5 do exist on the site, because the proposed Master Plan includes preservation of these historical resources, potential impacts to historical resources would be minimized to the maximum extent practicable and a *less-than-significant* impact would occur in this respect. Moreover, the report indicates that the development of trails would not constitute a significant impact to the historical resources that exist on the site.⁷

b) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?*

There is a slight possibility that buried archeological deposits could be present and accidental discovery could occur. Additionally, per direction from the State Office of Historic Preservation, the former sites of buildings more than 45 years old could potentially be important archaeological sites. Mitigation measure CULT-1 would reduce potential impacts related to a substantial change in the significance of an archeological resource to a *less-than-significant* level.

Mitigation Measure CULT-1: In the event that archaeological resources, paleontological resources, or unique geologic features are encountered during ground disturbance, such activity shall be immediately halted, and a qualified archaeologist/paleontologist shall inspect the site at the applicant's expense. The qualified expert shall arrange for the removal of any resources and provide documentation of any recovered resources to the regional information center of the California Archeological Inventory and to the local historical society.

Significance after Mitigation: The implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce the impacts to archaeological resources, paleontological resources, or unique geologic features that are encountered during ground disturbance to *less-than-significant* levels.

c) *Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?*

No prehistoric resources were found during field review surveys. While the potential the significant paleontological resources exist on the site, given the heavily disturbed nature of the Project site, the likelihood of paleontological resources on-site is low. Additionally, since the amount of ground disturbing activities associated with development of the proposed park is minor and would occur within previously disturbed areas, the chance of destroying these potential resources is also low. Should paleontological resources or a unique geologic feature be discovered mitigation measure CULT-1 would reduce potential associated impacts to a *less-than-significant* level.

d) *Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?*

There is the slight possibility that buried archaeological deposits could be present, and accidental discovery could occur. In compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (f) if archaeological remains are uncovered, work at the place of discovery should be halted immediately until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the finds. Additionally, if human remains are encountered, excavation or disturbance of the location must be halted in the vicinity of the find, and the County coroner contacted. The procedures detailed in mitigation measure CULT-2 below would be re-

⁷ Tom Origer and Associates, Cultural Resources Survey for the Quarry Park Master Plan, page 13.

quired. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CULT-2 would reduce the potential impact to the disturbance of human remains to *less-than-significant* level.

Mitigation Measure CULT-2: If human remains are encountered during construction that results from approval of the proposed Project, work shall be temporarily halted in the vicinity of the discovered remains and workers shall avoid altering the materials and their context. Once the county coroner is contacted, if it is determined that the remains are Native American, the coroner will contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC would then identify the person or persons believed to be most likely descended from the deceased. These descendants will make recommendations regarding the treatment of the remains with appropriate dignity.

Significance after Mitigation: The implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce the impacts to human remains that are encountered during construction to *less-than-significant* levels.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a) *Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving: i) rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and*

Geology Special Publication 42; ii) strong seismic ground shaking; iii) seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; iv) landslides, mudslides, or other similar hazards?

i, ii) As shown on the Castle Rock Ridge Quadrangle and Cupertino Quadrangle Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone maps prepared by the California Division of Mines and Geology, the Project site is proximate to a potentially active portion of the San Andreas fault.^{8,9} However, the site does not fall within the special studies zone boundary identified on these maps. Since the site does not fall within the special studies boundary, the structures proposed on site are minor, and visitors to the park would be temporary, the proposed Project would be considered to have a *less-than-significant* impact with respect to the exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving rupture of a known fault or other substantial evidence of a known fault, or strong ground shaking, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map.

iii, iv) As shown on the Castle Rock Ridge Quadrangle and Cupertino Quadrangle Seismic Hazard Zones maps prepared by the California Division of Mines and Geology, much of the Project site is within areas where previous occurrences of landslide movement, or local topographic, geologic, geotechnical and subsurface water conditions indicate a potential for permanent ground displacements. Moreover, these maps show that small portions of the Project site are within areas where historic occurrences of liquefaction, or local geological, geotechnical and groundwater conditions indicate a potential for permanent ground displacements. However, as discussed in the description of the Project above, the new structures proposed as a part of the Project would be limited to restrooms and kiosks. No residential units would be constructed and there would be no permanent residents on the site. For these reasons, potential impacts would be *less-than-significant*.

b) *Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?*

Several elements of the proposed Project would serve to reduce the potential for substantial erosion. First, due to the nature of the design of the trails in the park which would follow existing roadways, potential erosion caused by creating new trails would be reduced. Additionally, Chapter 5 of the proposed Master Plan includes design guidelines that require drainage bioswales to be installed at the perimeter of all parking areas. Inclusion of the bioswales would serve to control runoff on the site and minimize erosion from these areas.

Construction of the structures on the Project could include some grading. Section 16-17.130 of the Saratoga Municipal Code contains regulations which, when implemented, would minimize potential erosion associated with grading activities. Provisions in this section include requirements for faces of cut and fill slopes to be prepared and maintained to control against erosion, and to be planted with ground cover which is compatible with the natural ground covers in the city and which would thrive with little maintenance. Chapter 5 of the proposed Master Plan includes design guidelines that require the use of native plant species to be planted as ground cover on faces of cut and fill slopes. Therefore, Project attributes which would reduce potential soil erosion as well as regulations which would provide further assurance that erosion impacts would be avoided would result in a *less-than-significant* impact.

⁸ State of California, The Resources Agency Department of Conservation, California Division of Mines and Geology, 1974, Castle Rock Ridge Quadrangle, Special Studies Zones.

⁹ State of California, The Resources Agency Department of Conservation, California Division of Mines and Geology, 1974, Cupertino Quadrangle, Special Studies Zones.

c) *Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?*

The Project site is located in an area identified as geologically unstable and as having steep slopes and unstable soils.¹⁰ As discussed above, structures included as components of the proposed Project would be limited to those required for restroom facilities, informational kiosks and a shade structure. None of these would be habitable structures. Furthermore, the geology and soils portion of the road and trail assessment prepared by Timothy C. Best, included as Appendix C, indicates that there is variability in the geology of the area so that soil stability on the site is not uniform. Therefore, proper design and siting with consideration for the existing geotechnical conditions would allow for the construction of the proposed structures on stable geologic units which would not become unstable as a result of the proposed Project. Adherence to mitigation measures GEO-1 and GEO-2 would reduce potential impacts to a *less-than-significant* level.

Mitigation Measure GEO-1a: Prior to construction of any structures on the site, a geotechnical investigation shall be performed by a qualified geologist in order to determine:

- 1) Whether structures can be safely built on the site; and
- 2) If the development of structures is feasible, siting and design recommendations must be made which would ensure that the development of such structures would not result in instability as a result of the development of these structures.

Mitigation Measure GEO-1b: All of the provisions of Article 16-17, Excavation and Grading, shall be adhered to.

Significance after Mitigation: The implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1a and GEO-1b would reduce the impacts resulting from an unstable geologic unit or soil to *less-than-significant* levels.

d) *Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?*

The Saratoga Municipal Code incorporates the 2013 Uniform Building Code by reference which includes section 1803, Geotechnical Investigations. In accordance with the provisions in this chapter a preliminary soil report, prepared by a civil engineer, who is registered by the State, would be required. Therefore, while expansive soils were not identified in the soils section of the report prepared by Timothy C. Best, this review would be adequate to identify expansive soils if they exist. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures GEO-1a and GEO-1b the potential impacts resulting from expansive soil would be reduced to *less-than-significant* levels.

e) *Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?*

The Project proposes the construction and use of composting toilets and does not propose septic tanks or other wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, a *less-than-significant* impact would result in this respect.

¹⁰ Timothy C. Best, 2013, Road and Trail Assessment Saratoga Quarry, page 9.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a) *Would the project generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*

This section analyzes the Project's contribution to global climate change impacts in California through an analysis of Project-related GHG emissions.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change

Scientists have concluded that human activities are contributing to global climate change by adding large amounts of heat-trapping gases, known as GHGs, into the atmosphere. The primary source of these GHGs is fossil fuel use. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified four major GHGs; water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and ozone (O₃) - which are the likely cause of an increase in global average temperatures observed within the 20th and 21st centuries. Other GHGs identified by the IPCC that contribute to global warming to a lesser extent include; nitrous oxide (N₂O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and chlorofluorocarbons.

A project does not generate enough GHG emissions on its own to influence global climate change; therefore, this impact analysis measures the Project's contribution to the cumulative environmental impact. GHG emissions would be generated from construction activities and operation of the proposed Project.

Construction Period

Construction emissions are short-term and GHG emissions from future construction activities would nominally contribute to GHG emissions impacts. For this reason, BAAQMD does not identify a significance threshold for project-related construction emissions. However, because operational impacts would be less than significant, construction emissions, which would take place over a relatively short duration compared to operational emissions, would also be considered less than significant.

Operational Phase

Operation of the proposed Project would nominally contribute to global climate change through direct emissions of GHG from transportation sources (from the future addition of visitors to the proposed park). A review of the BAAQMD screening criteria indicates that the 64- acre Project is well below the 600-acre screening level for parks.¹¹ Therefore, the operational phase GHG emissions are expected to be below the BAAQMD threshold of significance and result in a *less-than-significant* impact.

¹¹ Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 2011, CEQA Guidelines Updated May 2011, Table 3-1 Criteria Air pollutants and Precursors and GHG Screening Level Sizes.

The City of Saratoga has not adopted a qualified GHG reduction plan. In the absence of an applicable qualified GHG reduction strategy, BAAQMD’s adopted screening criteria for development projects are applicable to the Project. As discussed in Section a), the operational phase GHG emissions associated with the proposed Project would not exceed BAAQMD’s screening criteria. Furthermore, statewide strategies to reduce GHG emissions include the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, California Appliance Energy Efficiency Regulations, California Building Standards (i.e., California Green Building Standards [CALGreen] Code and the 2008 Building and Energy Efficiency Standards), California Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (33 percent RPS), changes in the Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards (e.g., Pavley I and Pavley II), and other measures that would ensure the State is on target to achieve the GHG emissions reduction goals of Assembly Bill (AB) 32. The Project would be consistent with the existing regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions; therefore, impacts would be *less-than-significant*.

b) *Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs?*

As discussed above in response to criteria VII.a), the Project would result in a *less-than-significant* impact to applicable plans, policies, or regulations of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people living or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people living or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
Would the project:				
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a) *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?*

The Project would include the development of a public park and would not involve the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials. Clean-up of the site to remove various abandoned objects including, pieces of scrap wood, refuse and other items associated with past use of the site has been completed.¹² Additionally, any remaining potential safety risks associated with the remnants of the use of the site as a quarry in the past would be mitigated by hazard warning signage which would be installed prior to allowing the public onto the property at the loading structure, at steep drop-offs next to trails, and at the existing stairs. Directional signage and “End-of-Trail” signage is also recommended in key locations. Therefore, a significant hazard would not be created in this respect and a *less-than-significant* impact would result.

b) *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?*

While construction of the park could involve the presence of some hazardous materials germane to construction activities, these construction activities would be relatively minor and as such would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Also, as discussed in response to criteria a) in section IX, Hydrology and Water Quality, approval of the proposed Project would be contingent upon compliance with all applicable water quality standards and waste discharge requirements, including all provisions of the Municipal Code that pertain to water quality and waste discharge. As a result, a *less-than-significant* impact would occur.

c) *Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?*

While the proposed Project would not emit a significant amount of hazardous emissions or involve a significant amount of hazardous materials, there are no schools located within a quarter mile of the Project site. Therefore, a *no impact* would occur in this respect.

¹² Harvancik, Iveta. Senior Engineer, City of Saratoga. Personal communication with PlaceWorks on April 23, 2014.

d) *Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?*

The proposed Project site is not included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.¹³ Therefore, development of the proposed Project would not create a hazard to the public or the environment in this respect and *no impact* would occur.

e) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people living or working in the project area?*

The closest public airport or public use airport to the Project site is the Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport. The airport is approximately 16 miles north east of the Project site and the Project site is not within the Airport Influence Area (AIA) identified in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan prepared for the airport. For these reasons *no impact* would occur with respect to the Project resulting in a safety hazard for people living or working in the area of the Project.

f) *For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people living or working in the project area*

There are no private airports in the direct vicinity of the Project site. The closest private airstrip is the Regional Medical Center San Jose H2 Heliport, located at 2425 Samaritan Drive which is located approximately 10 miles from the Project site. Due to the physical separation that exists, development of the proposed Project would have no effect on the operations of this helipad and the presence of the helipad would not present additional risks to the safety of people in the vicinity of the Project site. Therefore, *no impact* would result with respect to safety hazards for peoples living or working in the vicinity of the Project site.

g) *Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

Given that the Project would result in the development of a public park approximately 2 miles from the village area of Saratoga, and, as described in section XVI, Transportation/Traffic, the Project would not alter roadways or substantially increase traffic congestion in the City of Saratoga or the unincorporated areas of Santa Clara county, the Project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The Project would not alter existing emergency response procedures, and existing service roads on site would be available for emergency services vehicles. Therefore, a *less-than-significant* impact would occur.

h) *Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?*

On the Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibilities Areas map prepared by Cal Fire, the site is shown to be in a “high” Fire Hazard Severity Zone, where the categories are moderate, high, and very high. Elements of the Project including bans on open fires and barbeque pits on site and complying with relevant City codes with respect to required access for fire protection services would serve to reduce potential impacts related to the risks from wildland fires.

¹³ California Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor, Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List, <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov>, accessed March 26, 2014.

The area adjoining the Project site includes open woodland and heavily wooded residential areas. The development of the proposed park would not entail the addition of residential units and would not serve to increase fire risk on or off site which could increase the risk to surrounding properties. Moreover, new structures on the Project site would be limited to restroom structures and a shade structure for a group picnic area. People within the Project site would be temporary visitors, and as previously noted, park regulations would ban open fires. As a result, the additional structures adjacent to wildlands would not be significant structures and the risk to people would be minimized by virtue of the visitors being temporary. Therefore, the Project would not increase the risk of wildland fire, new structures would be minor, visitors would be temporary, and elements of the proposed Project would reduce the risk of fire, the exposure of people or structures to a significant loss, injury or death involving wildland fires would be minimized to the maximum extent practicable and *less-than-significant* impact would result.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a significant lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of preexisting nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion, siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Potentially be inundated by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) *Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?*

Water quality in surface and groundwater bodies is regulated by the State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs). The San Francisco Bay RWQCB is responsible for implementation of State and federal water quality protection guidelines in the vicinity of the proposed Project area. The RWQCB implements the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan), a master policy document for managing water quality issues in the region.¹⁴

Runoff water quality is regulated by the federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Nonpoint Source Program (established through the Clean Water Act). The NPDES program objective is to control and reduce pollutants to water bodies from nonpoint discharges. The program is administered by the California RWQCBs. The Project site would be under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay RWQCB.¹⁵

The City of Saratoga is a member agency in the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program, which helps to reduce the amount of runoff pollution by incorporating regulatory, monitoring and outreach measures aimed at reducing pollution in urban runoff to the "maximum extent practicable," to improve the water quality of South San Francisco Bay and the streams of the Santa Clara Valley. The Program is organized, coordinated and implemented in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by each Co-permittee, including the City of Saratoga. The MOA was signed in 1990 and updated in 1999, 2005 and 2006. It covers the responsibilities of each Co-permittee and provides a cost-sharing formula for joint expenditures.

Future construction in the Park would be subject to all applicable water quality standards as required by the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program and waste discharge requirements. In addition, the Project would be required to comply with all building permits from the City to show that the Project complies with all provisions of the Municipal Code that pertain to water quality and waste discharge, including Section 6-15.070, Discharge of Pollutants into Storm Drains and Watercourses, which contains part (a) which states that, "No person shall place, deposit, dump, discharge, or cause to be placed, deposited, dumped, or discharged into any natural or artificial storm drains or watercourses any pollutants or waters containing any pollutants." Moreover, pursuant to federal law, since the Project would disturb at least one acre of soil, prior to issuance of a building permit, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be required. This SWPPP would ensure that soil erosion is minimized and hazardous construction materials are adequately contained. Finally, all parking areas would include bioswales along the perimeter, and be designed to comply with the *October 2009 California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region Municipal Regional Stormwater (NPDES) Permit (C.3 and (SWPPP) requirements)*. Compliance with these provisions would result in a *less-than-significant* impact.

b) *Would the project substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a significant lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of preexisting nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?*

The Project would not alter or deplete groundwater supplies and would not change current groundwater recharge conditions. Given the use of composting toilets, the only additional water use on site would be from the drinking fountains a temporary irrigation system which would be used to establish new landscaping elements, and the possible permanent irrigation system at the grassy meadow. Due to the relatively nominal amount of water used within the

¹⁴ San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's website. <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/>, accessed on October 9, 2013.

¹⁵ San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's website. <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/>, accessed on October 9, 2013.

site, the Project would not result in a level of water use that would have the potential to substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a significant lowering of the local groundwater table level. In fact, the bioswales proposed to surround the proposed parking lots would serve to aid in the recharge of groundwater. Therefore, a *less-than-significant* impact would result in this respect.

- c) *Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion, siltation on- or off-site?*

The Project proposes habitat restoration within the riparian zone along Saratoga Creek and at the existing pond within the Project site. However the alterations to Saratoga Creek and the existing pond are limited to restoration as discussed in Section IV, Biological Resources, and would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern or the site. The conversion of existing roads into trails will minimally alter the drainage of the site; however, due to the proposed design of these trails, using industry standard techniques for stormwater management, these impacts would not be significant. Additionally, the habitat enhancement element of the Master Plan would include improvements to the hydrology of the portion of Saratoga Creek that is on the Project site including buffers around the creek and the removal of some culverts on site which would serve to restore the natural hydrologic pattern of the site. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Master Plan would have minimal impacts on the hydrology of the site, in part as a result of the passive use nature of the Project, and the proposed measures which would enhance the hydrological components of the site. Therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

- d) *Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial flooding on- or off-site?*

See Response in part c) above. The existing drainage pattern of the site would not be substantially altered and the Master Plan proposes improvements to the site's hydrology to limit potential adverse impacts. As a result, the Project would result in a *less-than-significant* impact in relation to flooding on- or off-site.

- e) *Would the project create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?*

The only water use on site that would result in runoff would be from the drinking fountains that would be installed, from a temporary irrigation system which would be used to establish plantings, and from the possible inclusion of a permanent irrigation system at the grassy meadow. These would be minor additional sources of runoff on-site and they would not result in polluted runoff. Moreover, as discussed above the Project includes components which would improve the drainage of the site and implementation of the Project would not result in a connection to any stormwater drainage system. Therefore a *less-than-significant* impact would result.

- f) *Would the project otherwise substantially degrade water quality?*

Outside of the areas discussed above, no aspect of the Project would serve to substantially degrade water quality. Therefore a *less-than-significant* impact would occur.

- g) *Would the project place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?*

The proposed Project would not include a residential component. *No impact* would occur.

h) *Would the project place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?*

As shown on Maps prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the site is not within a 100-year flood hazard area.¹⁶ Therefore *no impact* would result in this respect.

i) *Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?*

As discussed above, the Project site is not within the 100-year floodplain identified by FEMA. As a result, the risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding would not be significant.

The Saratoga General Plan notes that there are not any critical facilities located within a dam failure inundation area in Saratoga. Maps prepared by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) show that portions of the Project Site are within the inundation hazard area of the Lake Ranch Reservoir.¹⁷ As described above, there would not be a residential component associated with the proposed Project. As a result, all people on the site would be visitors and their stay would be temporary. This would serve to minimize the risk to people. The only structures proposed as a part of the Plan would be restrooms and a group picnic area with a shade structure. These would be minor structures and given the relatively low probability of dam failure, the presence of these structures would not result in a significant risk of substantial loss involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. A *less-than-significant* impact would result.

j) *Would the project potentially be inundated by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?*

According to maps prepared by the California Department of Conservation, the mountainous Project site is not in an area that is prone to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. *No impact* would result.

X. LAND USE

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

¹⁶ Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2009, Flood Insurance Rate Map.

¹⁷ Association of Bay Area Governments, 1995, Dam Failure Inundation Hazard map for Saratoga.

a) *Would the project physically divide an established community?*

A Project would have a significant environmental impact if it allowed for development large enough or otherwise configured in such a way as to create a physical barrier or other physical division within an established community. A typical example would be a project that involved creating a new continuous right-of-way, such as a roadway, which would divide a community and impede access between parts of the community. The proposed Project includes no such component.

There are no residential uses that exist on the site. The residential uses that surround the property do not currently use the Project site for travel because there are no roads that currently exist on the site. Implementation of the proposed Project would result in the construction of a public park on the site. Since there are no established communities on the site and implementation of the Project would not serve to divide the communities that currently surround the site, these is *no impact*.

b) *Would the project conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?*

As discussed in the Project Description, prior to the Project site's annexation into the city limits of Saratoga, the site, which was within the City's Sphere of Influence (SOI) but not the city limits, was designated Hillside Open Space (OS-H) and was within a Residential Open Space (ROS) Prezone, which is used for parcels that lie outside the city boundary and have been prezoned as either Hillside Residential (HR) or Residential Open Space (ROS) for planning purposes. Upon adoption of the resolution (City of Saratoga Resolution 13-016) which officially incorporated the site into the city limits of Saratoga, the City amended the property's land use designation to Open Space-Outdoor Recreation (OS-OR) to be consistent with the City's intent to create a city park on the property.

According to the Section 15-02.010 of the Saratoga Municipal Code, the purpose of the R-OS zone is "[t]o preserve hillside and mountainous land in its natural condition through the establishment of dedicated open space areas, and through environmentally sensitive low density residential use" and "[t]o promote those uses which support and enhance a rural character and preserve important resources such as forests, natural vegetation, watersheds, animal habitat, scenic beauty, recreational areas, open space and public access thereto." One of the permitted uses within the R-OS zone is related to public park uses, which allows for public parks, trails, and open space. Therefore, since relevant land use plans, policies, and regulations would be limited to those contained in the City's General Plan and Municipal Code, and upon annexation of the site into the city limits, the City amended the General Plan designation and applied a zoning designation of the site with the intent to develop a public park on the site, the proposed Master Plan would be consistent with the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, resulting in *no impact*.

c) *Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?*

The cities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill and San Jose, the County of Santa Clara, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and the Santa Clara Valley Water District have collaborated to create the Santa Clara Valley Habitat conservation Plan. However, the Project site does not fall within the plan's study area and since there are no other applicable habitat conservation plans, *no impact* would result in this respect.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region or the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region or the state?*

The California Department of Conservation, Geological Survey (CGS) classifies lands into Aggregate and Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) based on guidelines adopted by the California State Mining and Geology Board, as mandated by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1974. These MRZs identify whether known or inferred significant mineral resources are present in areas. Lead agencies are required to incorporate identified MRZs resource areas delineated by the State into their General Plans.¹⁸

The Saratoga General Plan, Open Space and Conservation Element, notes that mineral resources exist in the vicinity of the Project site but states that these resources are primarily limited to sandstone and shale. The General Plan does not identify significant mineral resources that exist within the city limits. Although the Project site once contained mining operations, those operations have ceased. As a result, implementation of the proposed Master Plan would not propose any land use changes that could result in the loss of known mineral resources or substantially limit the availability of mineral resources over the long term. As such, the Project would have *no impact* on mineral resources.

b) *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?*

See response a) above. The Project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site. As a result, *no impact* would occur.

XII. NOISE

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or other applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹⁸ Public Resources Code Section 2762(a)(1).

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) *Would the project result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or other applicable standards of other agencies?*

The City’s recently updated Noise Element includes policies and implementation measures intended to promote the following goals: 1) “To maintain or reduce noise levels in the City to avoid exposure to unacceptable or harmful noise.” 2) “Promote land-use compatibility by addressing noise exposure from existing noise sources.” 3) “Promote land-use compatibility by addressing noise exposure from new noise sources.” 4) “To maintain or reduce noise levels generated by the ground transportation system.” To realize these goals, the siting of new structures and building envelopes would be reviewed to assure that appropriate levels of quiet would be achieved, to the extent practicable. Additionally, the noise element recognizes that the Big Basin Way segment of SR 9 adjacent to the Project site, has an existing DNL of 68 dB, setback 50 feet from the roadway.

Table 1 below lists noise standards for residential and public park uses in the City of Saratoga Noise Ordinance (Article 7-30 of the Municipal Code). The indoor standards apply to noise produced by exterior noise sources.

TABLE 1 NOISE STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL AND PUBLIC PARK USES

Land Use	Daytime (7:00 am to 7:00 pm)		Evening (7:00 pm to 10:00 pm)		Nighttime (10:00 pm to 7:00 am)	
	Average L _{eq}	Maximum L _{max}	Average L _{eq}	Maximum L _{max}	Average L _{eq}	Maximum L _{max}
Outdoor	55	65	45	55	40	50
Open Space/Parks	60	70	50	60	45	55
Commercial/Office	65	75	60	70	55	65
Public and Quasi-Public Facilities	60	70	55	65	50	60

Implementation of the proposed project could have the following noise-related effects: 1) residents surrounding the project site could be exposed to short-term construction-related noise; 2) park users could be exposed to traffic noise

from SR 9; and 3) residents surrounding the project site could be exposed to an increase in ambient noise levels due to park use. Each of these potential noise impacts, and the relationship of each impact to standards set forth in the Noise Ordinance, is discussed below.

Construction Noise Impacts

Construction of the proposed project would involve minor earthwork and grading, and could involve the limited use of tractors, dump trucks, and graders. In addition, chainsaws could be used to remove vegetation, where necessary. Construction of the proposed Project is scheduled to take place over three phases and extend over a period of five and a half to nine months. Construction-related short-term noise levels would be higher than existing ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project site but would end once construction is completed. Site preparation, which includes excavation and grading of the site, tends to generate the highest noise levels, because the noisiest construction equipment is earthmoving equipment. Typical operating cycles for these types of construction equipment may involve one or two minutes of full-power operation followed by three or four minutes at lower power settings.

Site preparation activities would include: tree removal, irrigation and drainage preparation, etc. It is anticipated that construction equipment may include an excavator for excavating and grading, a skid-steer loader for subsequent fine grading, and flatbed or dump trucks for material delivery. Jack hammers and pile drivers are not anticipated. Of these pieces of equipment, graders and chain saws are commonly the noisiest. The maximum noise level for these pieces of equipment under normal conditions is 85 dB.¹⁹ However, nearby residences would not be exposed to such a level of noise because noise levels decrease at a rate of approximately 6 dBA per doubling of distance. Therefore, a sound as perceived at 130 feet from its source, would be about 12 dBA less loud than it would be at approximately 33 feet from the source. Additionally, topographic features of the site affect the attenuation of noise.

The closest noise sensitive receptors would be the residences bordering the park. The closest of these properties is located within 800 to 900 feet of site where grading would occur. At this distance, the residences would be exposed to construction noise levels of up to 57 dBA Lmax.

Operation Noise Impacts

The proposed project is expected to modestly increase park usage, however park usage is not expected to generate substantial and on-going noise because the site would be used as a passive park with low-intensity uses. In addition, noise impacts on park users would be minimal due to the distance of passive recreational uses from SR 9 and intervening topography and vegetation. Activities, such as concerts, cannot produce noise levels in excess of 65 decibels, as measured on trails that surround the property. Landscape maintenance equipment will be exempt from this provision. Amplified sound in excess of the adopted noise standards for special events at the park would require a noise exception permit.²⁰ As a result, the Project would result in *less-than-significant* impacts in relation to the exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or other applicable standards of other agencies.

Impacts from temporary construction noise may occur. Implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-1 mitigation measures would reduce the potential noise impact to a *less-than-significant* level.

¹⁹ Thalheimer, Construction noise control program and mitigation strategy at the Central Artery/Tunnel Project, 2000.

²⁰ Saratoga Municipal Code, Section 11-05.030.

Mitigation Measure NOI-1: Construction activities shall be limited to specific times pursuant to Saratoga Municipal Code 7-30.060 which limits construction activities to 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and prohibited weekends or legal holidays.

Significance after Mitigation: Implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would reduce future construction noise impacts associated with the proposed Project to a *less-than-significant* level.

b) *Would the project result in exposure of persons to or generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

Construction activities can generate varying degrees of ground vibration, depending on the construction procedures, construction equipment used, and proximity to vibration-sensitive uses. The nearest vibration-sensitive structures are residential buildings approximately 800 to 900 feet from the portions of the site where construction activities would occur. Vibration impacts can be in the form of damage to structures or can involve annoyance to nearby sensitive land uses. For the former, building damage is not a factor for normal projects, with the occasional exception of blasting and pile-driving during construction. Construction of the park amenities would not involve rock blasting, pile-driving, or heavy construction equipment, and vibration-induced structural damage would not occur. Regarding vibration annoyance, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) criterion for perceptible levels of vibration during the daytime is 78 vibration velocity decibels (VdB).²¹ Vibration levels from heavy construction equipment would be limited due to the type of construction equipment that would be used within the Project site. Since future Project construction activities would be limited by equipment type and occur for short durations, no significant vibration impact from exposure of persons to excessive levels of vibration would occur. In addition, Mitigation Measures NOI-1 would serve to reduce potential impacts resulting from construction. As a result, impacts from groundborne vibration and groundborne noise would be *less-than-significant*.

c) *Would the project result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?*

Noise impacts during the operational phase of the park would not cause substantial noise increases to nearby receptors from visitors, sporadic maintenance functions, or from Project-related traffic flows. As a result, noise impacts would be *less than significant*, and no mitigation would be required.

d) *Would the project result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?*

Based on the limited duration of construction activities, scope of future construction activities, and the time-of-day constraints in the Noise Element, included as Mitigation Measure NOI-1, impacts regarding substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity would be *less than significant*.

e) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?*

There are no public or private airports that are near the City of Saratoga. Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport is approximately 16 miles away. While aircraft associated with this facility may fly over Saratoga and be of concern to residents, the Project site is located well outside the 65 dBA CNEL noise contours for this facility and, as such, there would be *no impact*.

²¹ Federal Transit Administration (FTA), 2006. *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment*. U.S. Department of Transportation. FTA-VA-90-1003-06.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

See response e) above. The Project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip, and as a result, *no impact* would occur.

(Source: FTA, 2006; General Plan, 2012; Thalheimer, 2000)

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) *Would the project induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?*

The proposed Project does not entail the development of residential housing nor would the Project result in the extension of roads or other infrastructure off site. The only roads proposed as a part of the proposed Project would be used for internal circulation on the Project site. Moreover, all of the infrastructure proposed would be limited to use on site. Since there would be no direct or indirect population growth associated with the proposed Project, there would be *no impact* in this respect.

b) *Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

No housing units are located within the Project site. As a result, *no impact* would occur.

c) *Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

There are currently no people residing on the Project site. Given there are no people on the site to displace, the Project would have *no impact* in this respect.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:*

Fire protection?

Based on communications with the Chris Veargason, Deputy Fire Marshal of the Santa Clara County Fire Department, the extension of fire protection services to the Project site would not result in substantial adverse impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.²² Therefore, *no impact* would occur.

Police protection?

Based on communications with the Kenneth Binder, Saratoga Chief of Police, the extension of police protection services to the Project site would not result in substantial adverse impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.²³ Therefore, *no impact* would occur.

Schools?

As discussed above, the proposed Project would not include a residential component. As a result, the Project would not result in an increase in demand for school services, and the need for additional school facilities as a result of the proposed Project would not occur. *No impact* would occur.

Parks?

Implementation of the proposed Project would include the development of a passive use park on a 64-acre site. This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is intended to assess whether the proposed Project would

²² Personal communication between Mark Kenegos (PlaceWorks) and Chris Veargason, Deputy Fire Marshal, Santa Clara County Fire Department, April 2, 2014.

²³ Personal communication between Mark Kenegos (PlaceWorks) and Kenneth Binder, Saratoga Chief of Police, April 2, 2014.

have a significant adverse impact on the environment. With implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, all impacts of the Project on parks would be reduced to a *less-than-significant* level.

Other public facilities?

There are no other facilities that would be adversely impacted by the proposed Project. Therefore *no impact* would occur.

XV. RECREATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a) *Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?*

Implementation of the proposed Project would not increase the permanent population of Saratoga and therefore, the Project would not create additional demand on existing parks or recreational facilities such that the facilities would be substantially deteriorated. Instead, implementation of the proposed Project would increase recreational options in Saratoga, which could be considered a beneficial impact to recreation. Therefore, *no impact* would occur.

b) *Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment?*

Implementation of the proposed Project would include the development of a passive use park on a 64-acre site. This Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is indented to assess whether the proposed Project would have a significant adverse impact on the environment. With implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, all impacts of the Project on recreational facilities would be reduced to a *less-than-significant* level.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a) *Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?*

The proposed Project would generate additional trips over existing conditions since the site is currently closed to the public. During the construction phase of the Project, additional traffic would be generated by trucks associated with construction activities. During the operation phase, visitors to the park would generate additional trips getting to and from the park.

Based on the overall size of the park, it is expected that an average of 81 users would utilize the park on typical weekday. Assuming two visitors per car, it is estimated that the park would generate approximately 41 vehicle trips over the course of each weekday. On weekends during the high season, it is expected that 140 visitors would use the park each day, and approximately another 100 visitors would attend small events each day for a total of 240 visitors per day. Assuming two visitors per car, it is estimated that the park would generate approximately 240 vehicle trips over the course of each weekend day (one trip in and one trip out).

Given that the majority of the trips would occur during non-peak hours on weekdays and weekends, it is not expected that traffic generated by the Project would conflict with the effectiveness of the local roadway system, particularly considering that the segment of SR 9 adjacent to the Project site improved from Level of Service (LOS) C in

2006, to LOS B through 2012.²⁴ Therefore, given the small number of vehicle trips generated by the Project, there would be a *less-than-significant* impact in relation to the level of service standards established by the Santa Clara County Congestion Management Program.²⁵

b) *Would the project conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?*

See response a) above. As a result of the Project, a *less-than-significant* impact to the applicable congestion management program would occur.

c) *Would the project result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?*

As discussed above in Section VII, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, the Project site is not located within the Airport Influence Area (AIA) of any of the airports in the region. The closest public airport or public use airport to the Project site is the Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport. The airport is approximately 16 miles from the Project site. Since the Project would not include components that would have any impact on air traffic patterns and the closest airport is 16 miles away, the Project would not change air traffic patterns, and *no impact* would occur.

d) *Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?*

The Project would not introduce any features along roadways or at intersections adjacent to the site that would constitute a design hazard, introduce incompatible uses or affect emergency access to the Project site. Although the Project would result in new structures on the Project site, the features of the Project would be designed and constructed in accordance with the City of Saratoga's safety requirements. Additionally, the design of the entrance from and exit to SR 9 would be designed in coordination with the California Department of Transportation to ensure for adequate safety. Therefore, there would be *less-than-significant* impact related to design features, incompatible uses, or emergency access.

e) *Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?*

See response d) above. The Project would be designed and constructed in compliance with City of Saratoga safety requirements, and as a result, a *less-than-significant* impact would occur.

f) *Would the project conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?*

The Project site is located in a residential/open space area that was recently annexed into the City of Saratoga and has no connections to public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities on existing roadways. The proposed Project would involve efforts to create additional linkages in the regional trail network which would serve to improve the performance of that system. As a result, the proposed Project would not adversely affect the performance of public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, and a *less-than-significant* impact would occur.

²⁴ Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, 2013, 2013 Congestion Management Program, page 44.

²⁵ Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, 2013, 2013 Congestion Management Program.

XVII. UTILITIES & SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Have insufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a) *Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?*

As discussed above in Section IX. Hydrology and Water Quality, the Project includes the use of composting toilets, so that off-site sanitary sewer systems will not be used. As a result, the Project would result in a *less-than-significant* impact in relation to wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

b) *Would the project require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

With respect to wastewater treatment facilities, refer to response a) above.

The Project would connect to the existing 16-inch water main that runs along SR 9 to provide water to drinking fountains and temporary irrigation systems. Due to the size of the Project, the amount of water demand within the Project site is expected to be a nominal amount that would not require the construction or expansion of water treatment facilities. As a result, the Project would result in a *less-than-significant* impact.

e) *Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments.*

See response to a) above.

c) *Would the project require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

All parking areas would be designed to comply with the *October 2009 California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit (C.3 requirements)*. Given the site is proposed to be a passive use facility, new stormwater drainage facilities would be limited to drainage bioswales which would be installed at the perimeter of all parking areas to manage stormwater runoff. These would be non-engineered bioswales and would not have a connection to any existing stormwater drainage system. Should overflow occur it would be directed to the adjacent natural creek. Since the construction of these bioswales would have a minor impact on the environment and the operation of these bioswales would, by design, result in positive environmental impacts, a *less-than-significant* impact would result.

d) *Would the project have insufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?*

The only water supplies necessary for the proposed project would be to serve the drinking fountains on site the temporary irrigation system which would be used to establish some of the new vegetation, and possibly the permanent irrigation system at the grassy meadow or other limited area. Water would be provided by a connection to the existing 16-inch water main which runs along SR 9. The water supply needed for establishing new plantings and for the grassy meadow or other limited area would also be provided by this water source, unless on-site water supplies are determined to be a feasible irrigation source. Due to the size of the Project, the amount of water demand within the Project site is expected to be a nominal amount. As a result, it is expected that the Project would have sufficient water supplies available to meet the demand within the Project site. As a result, a *less-than-significant* impact would occur.

f) *Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?*

In accordance with the Amended and Restated Franchise Agreement between the West Valley Solid Waste Management Authority and West Valley Collection and Recycling, LLC the designated disposal site for solid waste collected in the City of Saratoga is the Guadalupe Landfill at 15999 Guadalupe Mines Road in San Jose. The solid waste facility permit on file for the Guadalupe Landfill lists the estimated closure date of the facility to be 2028. Additionally, it is not anticipated that implementation of the proposed Project would substantially increase the volume of solid waste collected in Saratoga. Therefore, this facility would have sufficient capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs and a *less-than-significant* impact would result.

g) *Would the project not comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

Conformance with the requirements of the Amended and Restated Franchise Agreement between the West Valley Solid Waste Management Authority and West Valley Collection and Recycling, LLC and permit SWIS NO 43-AN-0015 would ensure compliance with all federal, State and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste and a *less-than-significant* impact would result.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a) *Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?*

As discussed above, implementation of the proposed Master Plan would result in the construction of a passive use park. The Project includes natural resource management guidelines which would minimize impacts to biological resources. Additionally, the Project includes historic preservation measures which would serve to protect the historical resources on the Project site. For these reasons, the Project would have a *less-than-significant* impact in this respect.

b) *Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?*

The development of a passive use park on this former quarry site would not significantly contribute to any cumulative effect. As discussed above, the Project’s impact on air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and traffic would all be minimal so that any contribution to cumulative conditions would not be considerable. There are no other projects which in combination with the effects of this Project would result in a cumulatively considerable effect. A *less-than-significant* impact would result in this respect.

c) *Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?*

As discussed above, overall, the proposed Project would have a positive impact on human beings. With elements of the Project that would serve to enhance natural habitats and preserve historical resources, allowing for public access to the site would increase recreational opportunities in the area, reducing the demand on other recreational facilities

in the area, and give the public access to the natural features of the site which were previously inaccessible. A less-than-significant impact would result.

