



**Background:** (On file with the Clerk: Easement Agreement, Certificate of Acceptance, Notice of Determination)

**Discussion:**

The proposed Central Sonoma Valley Trail (Trail) is a multi-use trail located in the unincorporated area between the City of Santa Rosa and City of Sonoma. The Trail parallels Highway 12 and is estimated to be 13 miles long when completed. The goal of the project is to provide residents a nonmotorized access route to destination centers such as schools, residences, Valley of the Moon Teen Center, La Luz Center (bilingual resource center for immigrants), and parks. The Trail project is consistent with following adopted plans: Sonoma County Bikeways Plan, Sonoma County General Plan, Measure M Strategic Plan, Countywide Transportation Plan, and Springs Redevelopment Project Area.

On May 15, 2007, the Board adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and approved the residential development called Las Palmas which is located at 17310 Highway 12 in Fetters Hot Springs. As a condition of approval, the developer was required to construct an extension of the Central Sonoma Valley Trail and to work with the County to secure a trail easement on the Sonoma Charter School property (APN: 056-201-065) owned by the Sonoma Valley Unified School District. In September 2006, the Sonoma Valley School District Board approved the granting of an easement to Regional Parks for the construction and maintenance of a portion of the trail through the Sonoma Charter School property. The trail extension to be developed on the easement was described and analyzed in the MND. There have been no changes to the project in the intervening time period between the Board's adoption of the MND and now; nor changes in the project circumstances, nor new information that indicates there would be a new or substantially more severe significant impact than previously analyzed in the MND. The environmental impacts and mitigation measures associated with the construction of this Trail segment have been addressed in the MND. Acceptance of the easement is consistent with the MND. Regional Parks is prepared to file a Notice of Determination for the acceptance of the easement.

With assistance from County Counsel, staff finalized the Easement Agreement. Under the terms of the Easement Agreement, the Sonoma Valley Unified School District grants to the County a permanent 15 feet wide by 207 feet long trail easement. The Easement will be granted to the County at no cost. The County will operate and maintain the Trail once it is constructed by the developer. Funding for the \$10,340 of operation and maintenance costs has been included in the FY 09/10 Regional Parks budget. This Trail segment will serve as a pathway to Sonoma Charter School for students living in Las Palmas.

Staff is also working with the Sonoma Valley Unified School District on a second trail easement that would connect Flowery School to Larson Park which is a County park. Once the second trail alignment has been finalized, staff will return to the Board for approval.

**Requested Board Action:**

- Authorize execution of an Easement Agreement with the Sonoma Valley Unified School District
- Authorize acceptance of the Easement Agreement
- Authorize the Director of Regional Parks to file a Notice of Determination pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

**Attachments:** Attachment A Aerial Map.

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**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action (If other than "Requested")**

**Vote:**