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OAKLAND

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# AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Sabrina B. Landreth  
City Administrator

**FROM:** Mark Sawicki, Director  
Director, EWD

**SUBJECT:** Informational Report on Draft San  
Leandro Creek Trail Master Plan

**DATE:** February 17, 2017

City Administrator Approval

Date:

3/2/17

## RECOMMENDATION

**Staff Recommends That The City Council Receive This Informational Report On The Draft San Leandro Creek Trail Masterplan.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an informational report provided to the City Council for additional public input and feedback on the masterplan. The City of Oakland, City of San Leandro, Rails to Trails Conservancy, and Merritt College worked in partnership on the proposed San Leandro Creek Trail Master Plan. The masterplan provides a feasibility study, preliminary design concepts, an implementation strategy for a multi-use trail along the Creek, where possible, and preliminary costs for implementing the trail.

## BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

In July 2014, the City of San Leandro was awarded \$201,510 from the State of California Department of Transportation Caltrans' Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation grant program. The grant allowed for the development of a masterplan for the six-mile multi-use trail along or adjacent to the San Leandro Creek. Approximately 2.1 miles of the creek are located in the City of Oakland, 2.1 miles in the City of San Leandro, and 1.8 miles runs along the border of the two cities.

The San Leandro Creek Trail Master Plan project was built on several years of partnerships and community outreach which analyzed the corridor by engaging residents in envisioning how a greenway could enhance access to recreation, schools, and transit while promoting regional sustainability. Work around restoration and enhancement of the San Leandro Creek began with the formation of Friends of San Leandro Creek (FSLC) in 1998. FSLC is a non-profit organization and community group made up of dedicated citizens, students, and businesses interested in the protection and enhancement of San Leandro Creek, and in learning more about the San Leandro Creek's ecology. The Friends contributed to City and County decisions

\* Please note that the majority of this information is provided verbatim or paraphrased from the masterplan report prepared by Stantec Consulting, Inc. 2017.

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affecting the San Leandro Creek and the surrounding watershed and planned Creek-related activities such as Creek walks and clean-ups.

Later, in 2012, the San Leandro Creek Alliance was formed to restore the San Leandro Creek and research the potential of the San Leandro Creek Trail. The Alliance is an informal group that includes the Cities of San Leandro and Oakland, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, East Bay Regional Parks District, Friends of San Leandro Creek, BART, Merritt College, Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and East Bay Municipal Utility District. A key effort leading to the Master Plan effort has been the work of Merritt College's Environmental Management Program, which worked with the community neighborhoods of Sobrante Park, Brookfield Village, and Columbia Gardens. This work included holding community sessions, creek walks, visioning charrettes, and surveys and discussions on how to connect the proposed Creek greenway to on-going neighborhood plans and interests.

In 2015, City of San Leandro (grantee), City of Oakland (sub grantee), and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (sub grantee) applied for and received a "Partnership Planning for Sustainable Transportation" grant from the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for completing a master plan study for a multi-use trail along San Leandro Creek. The consulting firm, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., was selected through a Request for Proposal process to undertake the feasibility study, develop options for improvements, and write the plan.

## **ANALYSIS**

### ***The Project***

San Leandro Creek is a year-round natural stream in Northern California that runs through the Upper San Leandro Reservoir, Lake Chabot and finally flows into the San Leandro Bay. It passes through Alameda County and Contra Costa County of the East Bay during the course of its flow. The project area covers an approximately 6-mile segment of the San Leandro Creek corridor between Chabot Dam and the San Francisco Bay as shown on Figure 1-1 of the plan. This portion of the San Leandro Creek corridor is located in the communities of San Leandro and Oakland. The Creek is an open creek and is channelized in Oakland while natural in San Leandro.

For the purpose of the study, the entire length of the Creek and study area was divided into eight segments of which four segments are in the City of Oakland and four in the City of San Leandro. The final recommended route is shown in the attached plan. This includes Class I, Class II, Class III, and Class IV facilities and a railroad underpass. The long-term solution and alternative routes are also shown on the map. The goal is to provide the neighboring communities of Oakland and San Leandro with a feasibility study to understand a route for active transportation, recreation, access to open space, and opportunities for environmental education.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no cost to the City of Oakland for this study. This is an informational report for presentation purposes to provide an avenue for additional public input on the proposed draft San Leandro Creek Trail Masterplan. Although the plan provides estimated costs for

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improvements and potential funding sources, there is no request for funding as part of this presentation.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST**

The public outreach for the San Leandro Creek Trail Master Plan was made to local business owners, developers, government agency staff, city officials, nonprofit organizations, neighborhood groups, and other interested residents of Oakland and San Leandro. Four meetings of the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee were held with Stantec presenting findings and draft recommendations.

Four Public Workshops were held in Oakland and San Leandro to receive input. The workshops were focused on soliciting input from attendees on the potential routes identified by the consultant. Stations were set up with maps for participants to review the options and provide their comments directly onto the maps. The plan was also presented to 11 different organizations interested in the project. Safety and long-term maintenance were the main concerns that were stated by attendees.

### **COORDINATION**

Economic and Workforce Development Project Implementation staff received input from Public Works Agency staff for the masterplan. The plan is a partnership with the City of Oakland, City of San Leandro, and Rails-to-Trails.

### **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

***Economic:*** A well-planned strategic trail development can lead to economic benefits to the community by providing access to other parts of the City including a small retail section on Hegenberger Road and access to BART.

***Environmental:*** The proposed improvements will include restoration of the creek to reintroduce the locally native variety of species and to remove eucalyptus trees and other invasive vegetation. The proposed plan could provide educational opportunities that aim to strengthen connections between the users and nature. Educational efforts can be focused on enhancing environmental awareness, and encourage active and healthy lifestyle choices. The proposed trail passes through a variety of landscapes and hence provides opportunity to study habitats in a variety of settings.

***Social Equity:*** The plan aims to provide the neighboring communities of Oakland and San Leandro with a feasibility study to create a route for active transportation, recreation, access to open space, and opportunities for environmental education. The direct benefits of the trail development will be to the surrounding neighborhoods. It is important to make as many connections as possible to residential neighborhoods, shopping areas, schools and employment centers. The trail will provide for opportunities for recreation for local residents in East Oakland.

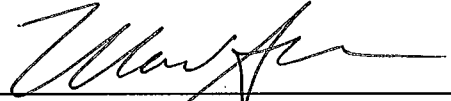
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**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff Recommends That The City Council Receive This Informational Report On The Draft San Leandro Creek Trail Masterplan.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Theresa Lopez, Urban Economic Coordinator at (510) 238-6250.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Sawicki, Director  
Economic and Workforce Development

Reviewed by:  
Patrick Lane, Acting Manager Project  
Implementation  
Larry Gallegos, Area Manager

Prepared by:  
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Project Implementation

Attachment (1):  
A: Draft San Leandro Creek Trail Masterplan

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