

Responses to Comments Received on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility Pond A18 South Gate Levee Repair Project

This document consists of comments received by the City of San José (the Lead Agency) on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility Pond A18 South Gate Levee Repair Project during the public review period and responses to those comments.

Each comment letter has been assigned a letter code based on the initials of the commenter or agency/organization acronym. Individual comments within each letter have been assigned an alphanumeric comment identification code based on the letter code and comment number; for example, the first comment in the letter from the Santa Clara Valley Water District is SCVWD-1. Copies of written comments on the IS/MND that were received during the public review period are provided in Attachment A.

Response to Comments from the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Kevin Thai, Assistant Engineer, 09/19/17

SCVWD-1 This comment, describing the proposed project's location and noting that it is not within or adjacent to any District facility or right-of-way and that no District permit is required, is acknowledged.

Response to Comments from the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, Michael Hettenhauser, Associate Planner, 09/20/17

SCCPRD-1 This comment describes the proposed project and notes that comments from the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department (County Parks Department or SCCPRD) are primarily about the project's potential impacts on the Santa Clara County Countywide Trails Master Plan Update. This comment is acknowledged.

SCCPRD-2 This comment described the portion of the Bay Trail and the 1995 Countywide Trails Master Plan Update as running along Los Esteros Road immediately in front of the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility's main offices. It also describes the current and planned future connections of this trail alignment with other regional and Santa Clara County trails. It also asks that that trail be shown on the map(s) in the documents and included in the analyses of impacts on potential users of the trail be assessed regarding noise, traffic/transportation, and aesthetics. The comment also notes that the proposed construction should remain off of Los Esteros Road and recommends repaving or repairing driveways. Finally, the comment requests signing the public right of way for a trail to close the gap in the countywide trail system.

This comment is noted and appreciated. The project footprint itself is at some distance from the publicly accessible portions of Los Esteros Road or other portions of the existing trail network. As the project description section and its maps note in the IS/MND, the project would be on the Pond A18 levee, which is behind locked gates and not open to public access. Los Esteros Road would only be used by a handful of passenger vehicles to access the project each day of construction (currently planned for approximately 30 days) and for one-time only delivery of construction materials. Users of Los Esteros Road are not expected to be adversely affected by these activities, as described in the Transportation and Traffic section of the IS/MND.

The County Parks Department's August 2015 map of existing and proposed regional trail connections does not indicate¹ an existing or planned trail on Los Esteros Road.

The City acknowledges that there are plans to include portions of levees around Pond A18 in one or more of the trail networks listed in the comment letter. However, the relevant portions of those trail networks are presently conceptual and would not undergo construction for several years. For the current concept for the Bay Trail alignment, for example, its proposed route along the southern levee of Pond A18 is part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Shoreline Study Project, which is currently in an intermediate design phase.

In contrast, the City anticipates implementing this brief (approximately 30 days) levee repair project in summer of 2018, before the Shoreline Study Project or the associated trails could begin to be built.

For all of these reasons, the City has not added any trails to the maps in the IS/NMD. However, if any trails are in proximity to the construction area access/construction vehicle movement at the time of construction, the City will inform the construction team to take precautions to avoid impacts to the trails or its users, in accordance with the San José Municipal Code. Further, the project's potential impacts on recreation and trail users from the project were analyzed and included in the Recreation section of the IS/MND.

¹ Available at: https://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/PlansProjects/Documents/AlignmentStatus_August18_2015.pdf

File: 22075
Coyote Creek

September 19, 2017

Ms. Kieulan Pham
City of San Jose
Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

Subject: Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration for the San Jose – Santa Clara
Regional Water Facility Pond A-18 South Gate Levee Repair Project, APN 015-
32-043, PP14-047

Dear Ms. Pham:

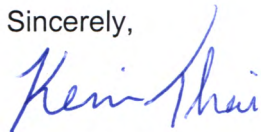
The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) has reviewed the Initial Study / Mitigated
Negative Declaration and the plans for the San Jose – Santa Clara Regional Water Facility
Pond A-18 South Gate Levee Repair Project.

The proposed levee repair location is not located adjacent to any District facility or right of way.
Therefore, according to the District Water Resources Protection Ordinance, a District permit is
not required for the proposed project.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this document and wish to review any subsequent
documents.

Please contact me at (408) 630-3157 with any further questions.

Sincerely,



Kevin Thai
Assistant Engineer
Community Projects Review Unit

cc: U. Chatwani, R. Blank, J. Ujah, M. Martin, R. Kaur, L. Porcella, T. Tidwell, A. Guzman,
K. Struve, K. Thai, File

SCVWD-1



County of Santa Clara

Parks and Recreation Department

298 Garden Hill Drive
Los Gatos, California 95032-7669
(408) 355-2200 FAX 355-2290
Reservations (408) 355-2201
www.parkhere.org

September 20, 2017

Ms. Kieulan Pham
City of San Jose Planning Division
200 E. Santa Clara Street
Tower, 3rd Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

Subject: Pond A18 South Gate Levee Repair Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration

Dear Ms. Pham:

The County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department (“County Parks Department”) is in receipt of the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Pond A18 South Gate Levee Repair. The proposed project is a repair of failing sections of the levee on each side of the Pond A18 South Gate Structure. Portions of the original levee have eroded away. The City of San José (City) proposes to place sheet piles and backfill behind them within the original levee footprint to replace the eroded material and restore the South Gate Structure and its adjoining levee to its original size and allow it to function as it had prior to the erosive losses. The repair involves placing sheet piles into the levee to extend from a relatively undamaged portion of the levee, across the eroded/damaged area, and connect to each of the four wing walls of the existing South Gate Structure. There would be four rows of sheet piles, with each row being of different lengths to cross the voids of different sizes at each of the South Gate’s four corners. Construction would occur over a period of approximately 30 days. In regard to this proposed project, the County Parks Department’s comments are primarily focused on potential impacts related to the *Santa Clara County Countywide Trails Master Plan Update* relative to countywide trail routes, public access, and regional parks.

SCCPRD-1

The Countywide Trails Master Plan Update (1995) indicates the Bay Trail is a planned paved, on-street trail route along Los Esteros Road in front of the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility. The Bay Trail is a vital connecting trail for the regional Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, the San Francisco Bay Trail, the Guadalupe River Trail, and the Coyote Creek Trail. Please include this trail in your discussion of potential aesthetic, noise, transportation and traffic impacts the proposed project may have on existing and proposed recreational and transportation

SCCPRD-2

facilities. In addition, it is important that the proposed construction and development remain within the property boundaries and out of the Los Esteros Road ROW. Please label this trail on all plans. After construction is complete and driveways are repaired, as necessary, please consider repaving and signing the ROW for the trail to close a gap in the countywide trail system.

SCCPRD-2

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Pond A18 South Gate Levee Repair. The County Parks Department looks forward to additional coordination with City of San Jose Planning Office. If there are any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact me at (408) 355-2362 or via email at Michael.Hettenhausen@prk.sccgov.org.

Sincerely,

Michael Hettenhausen

Michael Hettenhausen,
Associate Planner