



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FILING REQUESTED BY AND WHEN FILED, RETURN TO:

Marin County Parks and Open Space District
1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 275, San Rafael, CA 94903
www.marincountyparks.org
(415) 473-6387

FILED

06/01/2026

SHELLY SCOTT

MARIN COUNTY CLERK

By A.Oxlaj Arevalo Deputy

21-2026-093

Marin County Clerk
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 234
San Rafael, CA 94903

DATE: June 01, 2026
PROJECT TITLE: **LANDSLIDE REPAIR AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**
PROJECT LOCATION: Bald Hill Open Space Preserve; Upper Road West, Ross; Marin County
ASSESSORS' PARCEL: 073-011-30

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to stabilize two landslide scarps and improve drainage on the Mount Baldy Trail. Upper Road West is an unmaintained road that provides access to the private properties alongside it and to the Marin County Open Space District's (MCOSD) Bald Hill Open Space Preserve. The MCOSD took ownership of the landslide parcels on July 16, 2024 and can now implement the proposed landslide repair and drainage improvement project. The Mount Baldy Trail, located on the Bald Hill Open Space Preserve, is approximately 4,200-foot long, 16 feet wide, with an average gradient of 13 percent. Its upper trailhead is located at Worn Springs Fire Road near the Bald Hill Summit, and its lower trailhead is located at the end of Upper Road West in the Town of Ross. The trail is mainly insloped with few drainage outfalls. Infrequent drainage dispersal likely contributed to the two historical fill slope slides located near the lower end of the trail, approximately 800 feet and 1,100 feet up-trail from the Upper Road West, respectively. The evacuated crown scarps of these slides have reduced the the trail width to approximately 3 feet at each location.

The proposed project would improve trail drainage above the slide scarps by outsloping 2,200 feet of the trail, installing 12 reverse grade dips, installing 100 feet of subdrain, repairing a sinkhole, and maintaining 300 feet of insloped trail. The proposed project would improve drainage at and below the landslide scarps by installing three 24-inch square concrete catch basins, 750 feet of subsurface drain, 725 feet of rock lined v-ditch, repairing 55 feet of rock lined drainage channel, repairing 50 feet of drainage channel with blanket and seed, and stabilizing the two landslide scarps. The proposed project would also discontinue public use of the trail at the landslide scarps, and redirect use to the existing trail upslope of the landslide scarps.

The total project area is approximately 67,200 square feet and the total work area is approximately 32,190 square feet. The proposed new trail alignment would be located on an existing road cut located upslope of the slides on the Mount Baldy Trail. It would be 3-feet-wide and 570-feet-long with a slope of 15 percent. Minimal vegetation clearing would include non-native annual grass, French broom, and poison oak associated with the proposed new trail alignment, approximately 6 feet wide and 570 feet long totaling 3,420 square feet. New 16-gauge metal hinge trail gates would be installed where the existing trail use would be discontinued. The new trail gates would be 14-feet-wide and 50-inches high.

Implementation of the proposed project would be completed by MCOSD crews and a contractor and is expected to require the use of mechanized trail equipment, including trail dozers and excavators, compactors, power carriers, dump trucks, and water trucks. Project staging would occur on the Mount Baldy Trail both above and below the landslide sites. Applicable Policies and Best Management Practices included in the MCOSD's Road and Trail Management Plan would be implemented, including dry season construction, and implementation of erosion control and water pollution prevention measures, and avoidance/minimization measures associated with special status species. Additional measures that may be required as a result of regulatory permit authorizations would also be implemented. MCOSD crews would implement the trail drainage components beginning in Fall 2026. Implementation of the slide repair and inboard drainage component would be completed by a contractor between August 01 and October 01, 2027, and is expected to take approximately 12 weeks.

All disturbed areas would be seeded and all disturbed slopes greater than 4:1 would be restored with erosion control blanket and seeded with California native grasses. Best Management Practices for runoff and erosion control would be implemented during project implementation, including but not limited to, silt fencing, fiber rolls, gravel, bag berms, sandbag barriers, storm drain inlet protection, tracking controls, and stockpile management. Construction vehicles and equipment would be inspected to ensure none are leaking any type of hazardous material such as oil, hydraulic fluid, or fuel.

The project area is not within an area with identified wetlands or special-status plants, wildlife, or habitats and therefore no regulatory permit authorizations would be required.

POSTED 06/01/2026 **TO** 07/01/2026

Public Agency Approving Project: Marin County Parks and Open Space

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Marin County Parks and Open Space District

Reasons for Exemption: The MCOSD has reviewed the project along with its environmental setting and has determined it to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the following sections of the California Administrative Code:

Section 15301: Existing Facilities: The proposed project consists of the MCOSD implementing landslide repairs and drainage improvements on an existing trail. Implementation of the proposed project would involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former use of the road. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant impacts based on location and would not impact an environmental resource or any designated environmental resource of critical concern. The project area is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 or within a state scenic highway. Implementation of the proposed project would not affect scenic resources, historical buildings, rock outcroppings, or result in a significant effect to the environment due to unusual circumstances. MCOSD successfully completed a landslide repair project within the project vicinity but at a different location in 2024. The proposed project would result in beneficial cumulative effects when considered with the 2024 project because it would increase stability in the project vicinity.

Lead Agency Contact Person

Michelle Julene

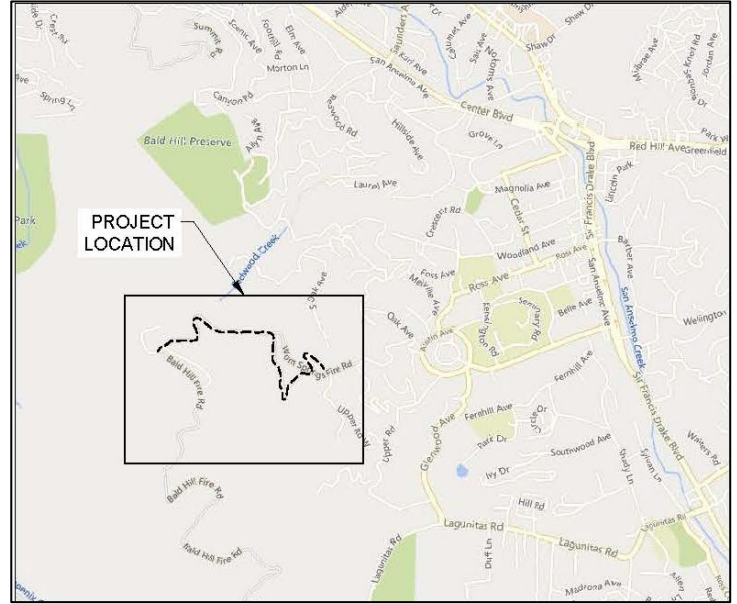
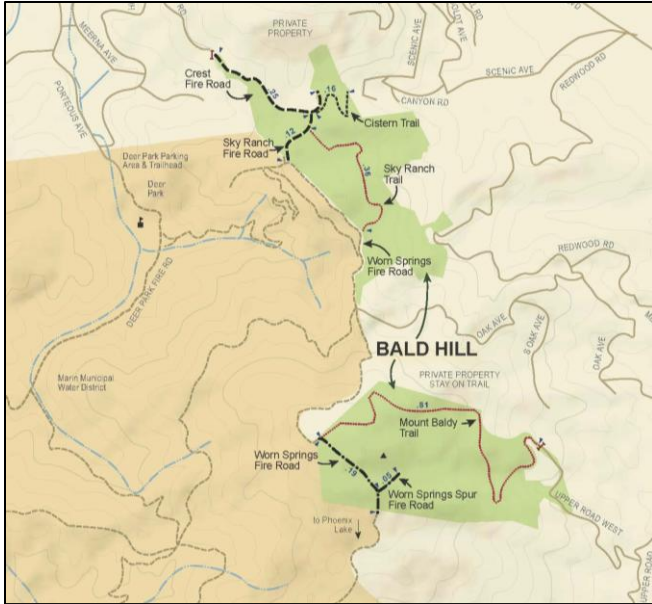
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BALD HILL OPEN SPACE PRESERVE LANDSLIDE REPAIR AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT JUNE 01, 2026

Project Vicinity and Approximate Location



Site Plan

