



# NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION BUCK GULCH FALLS CREEK RESTORATION AND TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Ignacio Valley Open Space Preserve, Novato, California  
June 23, 2026

The Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) is proposing a project to restore Arroyo de San Jose Creek and associated ephemeral streams and to provide safe and sustainable year-round all-abilities access along Spyglass Trail and Buck Gulch Falls Trail leading to Buck Gulch waterfall at Ignacio Valley Open Space Preserve, and has prepared an Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Declaration (IS/MND) to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**PURPOSE OF THE NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (NOI):** The purpose of the NOI is to initiate the 30-day public review and comment period on the IS/MND. The document and the online comment form are available for review on the Marin County Parks website using the link provided below.

**COMMENT PERIOD AND HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS:** The comment period on the IS/MND is **June 23 – July 24, 2026 at 5:00pm**. Comments can be submitted online using the online comment form at <https://parks.marincounty.gov/projectsplans/buck-gulch-trail-improvements>, by email, or USPS as follows:

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Marin County Open Space District; 1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 275, San Rafael, CA 94903

**PROJECT TITLE:** Buck gulch Falls Creek Restoration and Trail Improvement Project

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Ignacio Valley Open Space Preserve, Novato, CA

**SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT:** The purpose of the proposed project is to implement MCOSD’s Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) to provide the public with a safe multi-use trail system to enhance the visitor experience, reduce the environmental impacts on sensitive resources by reducing sedimentation and erosion, and establish a sustainable system of roads and trails that meet design and management standards and would provide safe year-round access along the trail alignment. An additional purpose of the proposed project is to implement the Marin County Parks Inclusive Access Plan (IAP) to the greatest extent feasible given the existing topography of the project area. The proposed project includes the following elements, which are summarized below and fully described in the Project Description section of the IS/MND:

### New Trail Bridges

- Bridge 1 at downstream crossing over Arroyo de San Jose Creek along Spyglass Trail, near the existing access road
- Bridge 2 at upstream crossing over Arroyo de San Jose Creek along Buck Gulch Falls Trail

### Trail Improvements

- Improve conditions along nearly 2,240 feet of existing trail
- Realign nearly 850 feet of trail segments away from eroding streambanks
- Install one puncheon and one boardwalk over unnamed ephemeral streams along the trail
- Change use of the Buck Gulch Falls Trail from hiker/equestrian only to hiker only use
- Install four fill slope walls to retain the trail alignment, near the waterfall viewing area
- Install new fencing and signage at the waterfall viewing area

### Trail Decommissioning and Restoration

- Decommission and restore nearly 850 feet of trail
- Restore nearly 19,500 square feet of eroding streambank and riparian area along Arroyo de San Jose Creek

**SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES:** The IS/MND identified potentially significant environmental impacts in the area of Biological Resources. Mitigation measures to reduce the significance of these impacts to a less-than-significant level are included in the IS/MND. The IS/MND concludes that, with implementation of the mitigation measures, the proposed project would not result in significant environmental impacts.

**CONTACT:** Please contact Jason Hoorn at [Jason.Hoorn@MarinCounty.gov](mailto:Jason.Hoorn@MarinCounty.gov) for additional information.

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