




DATE: March 14, 2018

MEMO TO: MROSD Board of Directors

THROUGH: Ana Ruiz, AICP, Acting General Manager 

FROM: Whitney Berry, AICP, Planner II

SUBJECT: Rancho San Antonio Carrying Capacity and Multimodal Access Study

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## SUMMARY

The Fiscal Year 2017-18 Action Plan includes the Rancho San Antonio Non-motorized Mobility, Transit Connections and Parking Alternatives Project under the Public Access and Education Program Category. Staff proposes to rename the project to Rancho San Antonio Carrying Capacity and Multimodal Access Study to reflect better the scope of work. This Project furthers Vision Plan Priority Action/Measure AA Portfolio #11 and engages stakeholders and partner agencies to explore non-motorized mobility, transit options and parking alternatives for Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve (“Rancho”).

In the summer of 2017, staff convened partner agencies to review issues and challenges in accessing Rancho. In early 2018, staff developed a preliminary project scope. The next steps include additional coordination with agency partners to finalize the scope for a study of carrying capacity, parking, and multimodal access opportunities at Rancho. This multi-year project is included in the proposed FY2018-19 Action Plan, which the Board will review and consider at the upcoming March 15 retreat.

## BACKGROUND

### Challenges at Rancho San Antonio

The Project evolved in response to major parking challenges facing visitors when accessing Rancho by car. In 2017, approximately 700,000 visitors arrived at Rancho by car, with countless more who walk or bike in from nearby neighborhoods. The parking demand is so high during peak and weekend visiting hours that visitors often wait for a considerable time to secure a parking space. This detracts from the overall park experience and can lead to visitor frustration and at times conflicts.

Due to the high parking demand, nearby residents experience parking overflow in their neighborhoods. Last year, in response to these concerns, the City of Cupertino eliminated public parking along neighborhood streets closest to the Park and Preserve, and established resident permitted parking. In a separate action, the Los Altos Hills City Council closed Mora Drive to public parking, a popular neighborhood access point to Rancho. While these actions have

addressed resident concerns, the parking prohibitions exacerbate the lack of public parking and affect the ability to access public open space lands.

### Convening of Stakeholders

With these growing challenges in mind, the District convened a stakeholder meeting in June 2017 attended by representatives of Santa Clara County Parks, Cities of Cupertino, Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, Santa Clara Valley Water District, and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority. Each of these agencies is an important stakeholder with interests that converge at Rancho pertaining to resident and worker access via local streets, expressways, and trails. In addition, the cities jointly worked on the Four Cities Stevens Creek Feasibility Study, a coordinated trail planning effort that included an evaluation of routes to connect Stevens Creek Trail to Rancho.

At this meeting, stakeholders discussed the challenges at Rancho, each agency's interests, and solutions that may already be underway. The group also brainstormed ideas and solutions worth pursuing further. Everyone confirmed that the challenges at Rancho needed further study. Directors Curt Riffle and Yoriko Kishimoto attended this stakeholder meeting.

Accordingly, District staff have been developing a draft scope for a study of visitor carrying capacity, parking issues, and opportunities to improve multimodal access to Rancho.

### **NEXT STEPS**

District staff will coordinate a final draft scope of work with County Parks and other interested partner agencies. Staff will bring the final draft scope to a Board Committee for review and confirmation this summer. Staff will subsequently issue a Request for Qualifications and Proposals for consultant services to complete the study.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Finalize draft scope of work with agency partners	Spring 2018
Committee review	Summer 2018
Procure consultant services	Summer 2018
Study underway	August 2018 – February 2019
Committee review of study findings and recommendations	Spring 2019

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact of this item. This current scope of work is not eligible for Measure AA reimbursement because it involves pre-planning work with stakeholders to develop a planning study. The Rancho study may recommend capital improvements to improve multimodal access to Rancho; future improvements may be eligible for Measure AA reimbursement.