



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-21-03
Meeting 21-01
January 13, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 6

AGENDA ITEM

Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project Options

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION *dlw*

Consider options for the Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project, including the Planning and Natural Resources Committee recommendation of deferring the Project until completion of a newt study to incorporate its findings, and select a project option for the General Manager to pursue.

SUMMARY

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board of Directors (Board) received a memorandum on the Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project (Project) on September 23, 2020 summarizing the outcomes of the August 4, 2020 Planning and Natural Resources Committee (PNR) meeting. PNR advised the General Manager to defer the Project until the District and stakeholders complete a population and mortality study for the California and rough-skinned newts (newt study) for the area (R-20-104). In response to the memorandum, the Board requested to bring this item forward for full Board consideration.

BACKGROUND

Project History

In 2008, the District purchased the Beatty Trust property as an addition to Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve (Preserve). The County of Santa Clara (County) contributed \$950,000 toward the purchase (R-08-14) and in exchange, the County granted the District a conservation easement over the property obligating the District to construct a trail from the new property to the Priest Rock Trail in the Preserve within fifteen years from the date the easement is recorded (March 11, 2008).

The property is located on the easterly side of Alma Bridge Road and Lexington Reservoir, approximately two miles east of the Alma Bridge Road exit from Highway 17. It is surrounded by Lexington Reservoir County Park to the north, west, south and partially to the east. The Lexington Reservoir County Park property is owned by Santa Clara Valley Water District and operated by Santa Clara County Parks (County Parks). County Parks also operates the Miller Point parking lot and picnic grounds located across Alma Bridge Road. San Jose Water Company land borders a portion of the property on the east (Attachment 1).

Within this region, the District has been working collaboratively with partners to form a continuous greenbelt of permanently preserved open space by linking District lands with other

public parklands. As part of this work, the District also contributes to regional trail connectivity, which includes the Bay Area Ridge Trail (Ridge Trail). The Project aims to provide a key staging area for visitors accessing the Ridge Trail via the Priest Rock Trail to connect to other trails within the Preserve and/or head northwest toward the future Highway 17 trail crossing to access trails west of Highway 17.

During the 2012 vision planning process, the public identified the Cathedral Oaks area as a priority for public access, now identified as Vision Plan Priority Action #22. The parking area and trail project is also part of Measure AA Portfolio #22 (Sierra Azul: Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Projects), which includes: “*Develop multi-use trail... Develop parking... Install trailside amenities.*” The potential parking area was originally envisioned to include approximately 20 to 30 vehicle spaces, 4 to 6 horse trailer spaces, and a vault toilet.

On April 23, 2019, the District was awarded a Santa Clara Valley Water (Valley Water) District grant to fund the trail portion of the project. Valley Water will fund a portion of trail construction and related costs through a \$149,906 Community Benefits Program grant. Valley Water and District staff are coordinating on a timeline extension for the final grant agreement to be executed in Spring 2021. The original end date was to be in October 2022, and the new grant period is anticipated to end five years from the date of execution.

Planning and Natural Resources Committee (PNR) Review

On January 14, 2020 (R-20-07) (Attachment 2), PNR visited the property to familiarize themselves with the site and its opportunities and constraints, and to gain an understanding of the Project scope. PNR provided early feedback on program elements such as the preferred access driveways, where to place the parking, and how many equestrian trailer parking spaces to minimally provide, and asked staff to explore the possibility of partnering with County Parks on the use of their Miller Point parking lot. PNR also requested information regarding ongoing newt mortality on Alma Bridge Road based on concerns received from the Audubon Society.

On August 4, 2020 (R-20-83) (Attachment 3), the project team presented to PNR a reduced Project program and scope that scaled down the project to a small, 7 to 8-space seasonal permit lot. The permit lot and connecting trail would be closed during the rainy season when newts are known to seasonally migrate to and from Lexington Reservoir to breed. The change in project scope would allow the District to proceed with limited public access and staging on the property while avoiding potential significant impacts to the newt population. In addition, the project team also presented to PNR a multi-agency plan for conducting a robust newt mortality and population study to better understand current site conditions and supply valuable data to partners that can inform potential improvements and/or operational measures to protect the local newt population from ongoing impacts along Alma Bridge Road (County roadway).

The multi-agency newt study began in the fall of 2020 and will continue into the spring of 2021. Findings from this study will inform next steps on any potential improvements and/or operational measures along Alma Bridge Road to reduce impacts to the migrating newt population that travels between the surrounding foothills and Lexington Reservoir. Concerned that the findings of the study may have implications on the proposed parking area and trail scope, schedule, and budget, PNR advised the General Manager to defer the Project until minimally the newt study is complete (1 year for the newt study; potentially 2 to 4 years for design and implementation of newt protections) (refer to the September 23, 2020 Board FYI for more

details). These latest developments prompted the Board to request that this item to be brought to the full Board for consideration and a decision on how to proceed.

DISCUSSION

To facilitate a full Board discussion, this report lists several Project options on how to proceed for Board consideration. Each option considers various scopes for a parking area and trail connection to the existing Priest Rock Trail in Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve (Attachment 4). All of the Project options would result in a project delay that requires the District to work with Santa Clara County Parks on extending the 15-year timeline in the 2008 Conservation Easement Agreement for the construction of a trail connection from the former Beatty property to the Priest Rock Trail.

Project Options

Option 1: Defer Project Until Newt Study is Complete – PNR Recommendation

Place the project on hold and wait for the newt study to be completed before confirming the project program and scope, and re-initiating design. This option allows the project to incorporate the newt study findings and recommendations from the start without incurring additional time and cost for scope or design revisions, should changes be needed. The newt study is expected to be complete by the end of 2021, unless a second year of surveys is warranted. Design and implementation of any recommended newt protections are anticipated to require 2 to 4 years to implement.

Option 2: Pursue a Seasonal Permit Lot and Trail (closed during newt breeding season)

Proceed with a seasonal permit lot and connecting trail (Attachment 5). A permit only system coupled with a seasonal closure would restrict visitation during the rainy season when newts are known to migrate and reduce total annual vehicle trips to a minimum, well below that of a standard District parking lot, which is open seven days a week year-round. The project program and scope assume the following:

- Permit only, seasonal parking lot and trail (lot and trail would be closed after first significant rain event or by October 15)
- 7 to 8 regular vehicle spaces
- No restroom (the adjacent Miller Lot offers a portable restroom)

The District can implement Option 2 in one of two ways:

Option 2A: Partial Design Only

- Complete design up to 65%
- Defer environmental review, final design, permitting and construction until the newt study is complete in the event final design modifications are needed based on newt study findings

Option 2A allows design work to continue up to a maximum of 65% plans while the newt study is underway. Once the newt study findings and recommendations are made available, the project team would finalize the design, incorporating any pertinent feedback from the newt study. By pausing the design at 65%, this approach limits the potential total cost and/or time impacts associated with later revising the final design.

Option 2B: Design through Construction

- Complete design
- Initiate environmental review to determine whether there would be significant environment impacts.
- If no significant environmental impacts are anticipated related to the newts, complete the environmental review and proceed with final design, permitting, and construction.

Option 2B allows the possibility to proceed through to construction if no significant environmental impacts to newts are anticipated.

For both Options 2A and 2B, the Board may have an opportunity to expand the scope to an all-season standard parking area prior to finalizing the design *IF* the newt study findings support this change. Consideration of an all-season parking lot option is best deferred until the newt study is complete to allow the design to accommodate the newt study findings and recommendations.

Update on Newt Study

The Alma Bridge Newt Study is now underway. Volunteer participation has been high and will result in significant cost savings over the course of the study (through March 2021). Most newt dispersal to date occurred during rain events or with residual movement of newts occurring after the rains. The final ratio of live to roadkill newts that is compiled at the end of the study will estimate the percentage of newts crossing the road successfully to help determine the extent of improvements needed to ameliorate the underlying condition. The District will continue to work with partner agencies and advocates to share information and work toward solutions.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Fiscal Year 2021-21 (FY21) amended budget includes \$485,371 for the Beatty Parking Area and Trails Connection Project MAA22-004. Valley Water will fund a portion of trail construction and related costs through a \$149,906 Community Benefits Program grant. Funding for future year budgets will be proposed as part of the annual budget and action plan process.

The newt study has been created as a new project under Vision Plan Portfolio 22, which supports MAA Portfolio 22 Sierra Azul: Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Projects. Results from the newt study will inform potential improvements or operational newt protections to ameliorate ongoing newt mortality.

The following table outlines the Project budget and available grant funding per fiscal year.

Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections MAA22-004	Prior Year Actuals	FY21 Amended	FY22 Projected	FY23 Projected	Estimated Future Years	TOTAL
District Funded (Fund 30):	\$171,986	\$435,465	\$536,300	\$1,742,600	\$192,300	\$3,078,651
Grant Amount:	\$0	\$49,906	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$149,906
Total Budget:	\$171,986	\$485,371	\$636,300	\$1,742,600	\$192,300	\$3,228,557
Spent-to-Date (as of 12/09/2020):	(\$171,986)	(\$1,781)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$173,767)
Encumbrances:	\$0	(\$7,886)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$7,886)

Budget Remaining (Proposed):	\$0	\$475,704	\$636,300	\$1,742,600	\$192,300	\$3,046,904
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The following table outlines the Measure AA Portfolio #22 Sierra Azul: Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Projects allocation, costs-to-date, projected future project expenditures and projected ending balance at the portfolio level.

MAA22 Sierra Azul: Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Projects Portfolio Allocation:	\$6,714,000
Grant Income (through FY23):	\$217,016
Total Portfolio Allocation:	\$6,931,016
Life-to-Date Spent (as of 12/09/2020):	(\$1,228,028)
Encumbrances:	(\$14,893)
Remaining FY21 Project Budgets:	(\$518,366)
Future MAA22 project costs (projected through FY23):	(\$3,428,700)
Total Portfolio Expenditures:	(\$5,189,987)
Portfolio Balance Remaining (Proposed):	\$1,741,029

The following table outlines the Measure AA Portfolio #22 allocation, costs-to-date, projected life-to-date project expenditures and projected portfolio balance remaining.

MAA22 Sierra Azul: Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Projects Portfolio Allocation:	\$6,714,000
Grant Income (through FY23):	\$217,016
Total Portfolio Allocation:	\$6,931,016
Projected Project Expenditures (life of project):	
MAA22-001 Hendrys Creek Property Land Restoration	(\$513,343)
MAA22-002 Sierra Azul Cathedral Oaks Land Conservation	\$0
MAA22-003 Freudenberg Land Purchase	(\$540,587)
MAA22-004 Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections	(\$3,228,557)
MAA22-005 Beatty House Removal and Site Restoration	(\$407,500)
MAA22-XXX Reserved for Land Acquisition	(\$500,000)
Total Portfolio Expenditures:	(\$5,189,987)
Portfolio Balance Remaining (Proposed):	\$1,741,029

Once the Board selects a Project option, the associated financial impacts will be incorporated in the FY21 Quarter 3 Budget review. Project changes will also be incorporated in the FY22 Budget and Action Plan development as appropriate.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

PNR considered this item on January 14, 2020 and August 4, 2020 (refer to Attachments 2 and 3).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. Additional notice was provided to the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve interested parties email list. Notifications for prior PNR meetings advised recipients to sign up for this list to continue receiving meeting notifications.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This item associated with the selection of a Project option for further analysis and design is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. Environmental review would begin once the project is selected, initial design is completed, and a project description is defined.

NEXT STEPS

The General Manager will pursue the Board's selected Project option. The General Manager will also direct staff to work with the Santa Clara County Parks to extend the 15-year timeline set forth in the 2008 Conservation Easement Agreement for the construction of a trail connection from the former Beatty property to the Priest Rock Trail.

The Planning Department is in the process of onboarding a new Planner II that will allow the department to shift workloads amongst employees and assign a new Project Manager to move this project forward. The District anticipates the new Project Manager would be able to restart this project by late March 2021.

Attachments

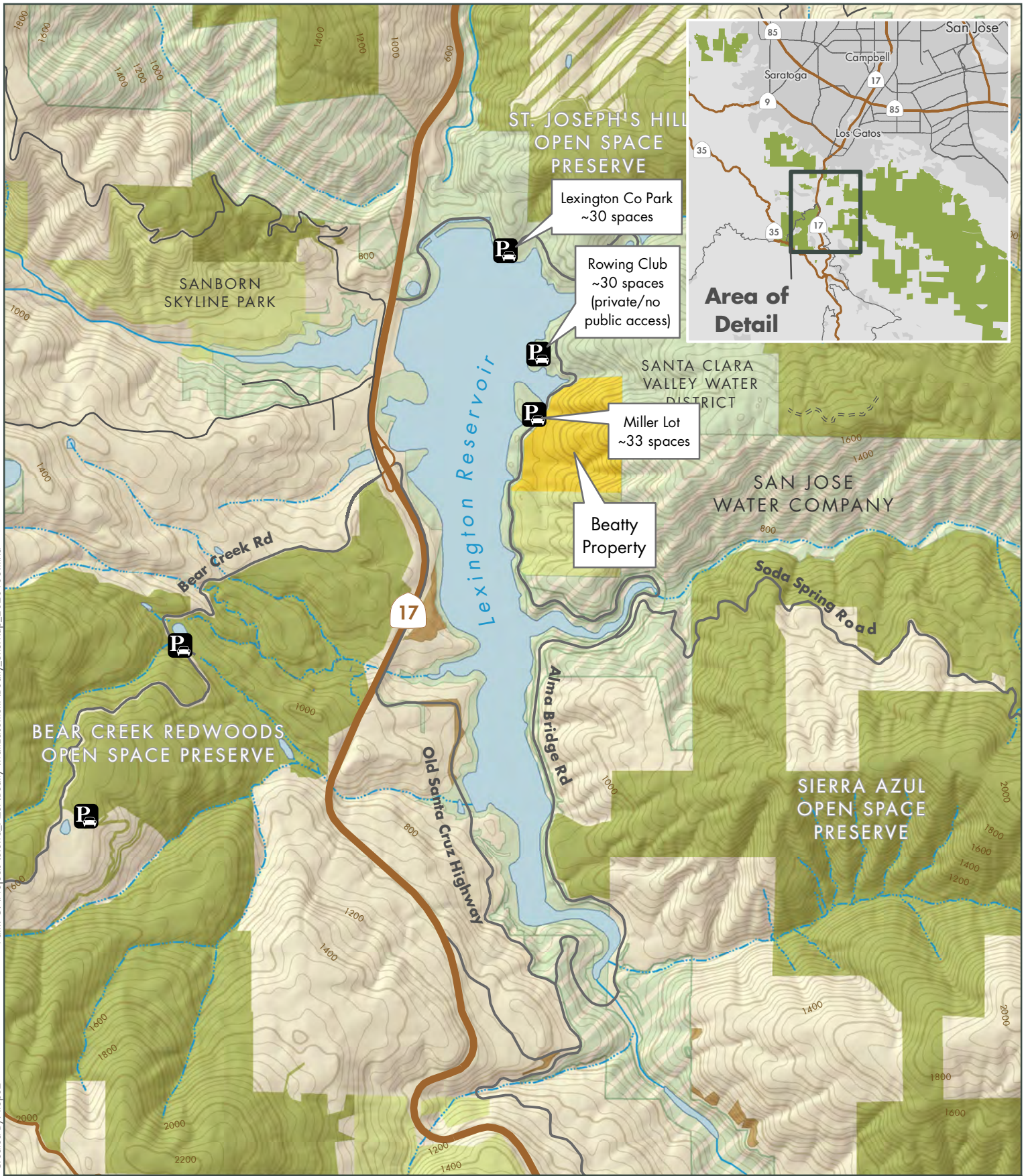
1. Beatty Property Site Map
2. January 14, 2020 PNR Staff Report
3. August 4, 2020 PNR Staff Report
4. Beatty Project Elements Map
5. Option 2: Seasonal Permit Lot Concept

Responsible Department Head:
Jane Mark, AICP, Planning Department

Prepared by:
Tina Hugg, Senior Planner, Planning Department

Graphics prepared by:
Francisco Tapia Lopez, GIS Technician

Path: G:\Projects\Sierra_Azul\Beatty_TrailEasement\Beatty_SiteMap_202108.mxd
Created By: flopez



Beatty Property Site Map

- MROSD Preserves
- Watershed Land
- Other Protected Lands
- Former Beatty Property
- Private Property

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(Midpen)
1/5/2021



While the District strives to use the best available digital data, these data do not represent a legal survey and are merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

R-20-07

January 14, 2020

AGENDA ITEM 2

Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project at Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Provide early feedback on proposed program elements and project scope for the Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project

SUMMARY

The Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project (Project) fulfills an obligation stemming from the 2008 partnership purchase for the former Beatty property between the County of Santa Clara (County) and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) to build a trail linking Lexington Reservoir County Park and Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve (Preserve). It also meets Measure AA commitments under Portfolio 22 to develop parking in the Cathedral Oaks area of the Preserve. The overall project will consist of a new parking area, trailhead, and a trail connection from the new parking area to the Priest Rock Trail in the Preserve. District staff seeks feedback on the overall project programming scope to develop and refine design concepts for the site that will be brought to the Committee for review during Quarter 3 (Q3) of Fiscal Year 2019-20 (FY2020). The FY2020 budget includes sufficient funds to cover expenditures through June 30, 2020. Pending Board approval, funds to complete environmental review and documentation in Fiscal Year 2020-21 (FY2021) will be proposed as part of the annual Budget and Capital Improvement and Action Plan process.

BACKGROUND

In April 2008, the District approved the purchase of the former Beatty property located at 17820 Alma Bridge Road near Lexington County Park as an addition to the Preserve (Attachment 1). The County contributed \$950,000 toward the purchase (R-08-14) and in exchange, the County granted the District a conservation easement over the property with the following allowances and one time-specific requirement:

- Plan, design and construct facilities to facilitate public use of the property, which may include and is not limited to: multi-use trails, public parking areas, public restrooms, wildlife observation and environmental educational facilities, visitor centers, picnic areas, backpack camps, employee residences, maintenance facilities, and related infrastructure such as water systems;
- Conduct natural resource restoration and resource management, and restoration of cultural, historical, and agricultural or natural resources;

- Construct a trail connection from the former Beatty property to the Priest Rock Trail within fifteen years from the date of the recording of the easement (March 11, 2008).

While the conservation easement only calls for the District to construct a trail connection to the Priest Rock Trail within fifteen years, the former Beatty property has been identified as a possible location for parking in prior District planning efforts for the Preserve. This property is strategically located off Highway 17 along Alma Bridge Road with areas of flat terrain that support parking to access the trail system east of the highway. A new parking area and connecting trail would be eligible for Measure AA funding under Portfolio 22 (Sierra Azul: Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Projects), which includes: “Develop multi-use trail... Develop parking... Install trailside amenities.”

The District also approved, in 2008, a Preliminary Use and Management Plan (PUMP) (R-08-08) for the Beatty property. The PUMP discussed the potential for public staging with a trail connection up to the Priest Rock Trail, and possible use of the property for a satellite field office. A 2008 draft of the unfinished Bear Creek Redwoods/Sierra Azul Master Plan called out a project for this property as “Alma Bridge Road to Priest Rock Trail Connection – New trail connection from new parking area to Priest Rock Trail”. The draft Master Plan further outlines that this project would include “20-30 vehicle spaces, 4-6 horse trailer spaces, permanent restroom”.

In 2011, the District evaluated this property as a potential field office site, but after preliminary site investigations, a field office was deemed infeasible due to the lack of water.

In 2018, staff initiated the planning and developed preliminary concept designs for the proposed public access improvements, using the project description in the draft 2008 Bear Creek Redwoods/Sierra Azul Master Plan as a basis for the Project. Per the County’s conservation easement provisions, the County may review and comment on any District plan for improvements to this open space property. In March 2019, staff met with Santa Clara County Parks to discuss the Project. As the owner of the adjacent Feehan Property, the County did not have any concerns over the proposed Project and would like to evaluate the potential for a trail connection to their property. The County did express questions about parking primarily relating to the two agencies’ differing policies on charging for parking. The County also expressed a desire to explore potential patrol and maintenance agreements given the use of a shared driveway through the Beatty property that accesses their adjacent property. Staff will continue discussions with the County regarding both topics.

In early conversations with the County, staff have also discussed whether there is an opportunity to utilize the existing County parking lot on the west side of Alma Bridge Road to service the needs of the new proposed trail. The lot is a paid facility outside of District property with approximately 20 spaces. Based on further discussion, including an understanding that the paid lot fills to capacity on peak days, there is merit to continue pursuing a new parking area on District property that services District visitors who access the Priest Rock Trail/Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve, and potentially the future Highway 17 Regional Trail Crossing located approximately 3.5 to 7.25 miles along existing and planned trails. As part of the conceptual design evaluation, the District is evaluating options to link the proposed new parking area with the existing County parking lot to maximize parking availability in the general area.

In August 2019, the District approved an Award of Contract to LSA, Associates, Inc., to provide environmental and permitting consulting services to support the Project (R-19-111). LSA's scope of work includes evaluating opportunities and constraints, including biological and archaeological considerations, cost and schedule impacts, and permitting requirements, to inform the development of site design alternatives.

DISCUSSION

Existing Conditions (Attachment 2)

The 56.88-acre Beatty Trust property is located on the easterly side of Alma Bridge Road and Lexington Reservoir approximately 2 miles east of the intersection with Highway 17. The property is surrounded by Lexington Reservoir County Park lands to the north, west, south and partially to the east. Lexington Reservoir County Park is owned by Santa Clara Valley Water District and operated by Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department. San Jose Water Company land also borders the property along a portion of its eastern boundary. The County's Miller Point parking area and picnic grounds are located across Alma Bridge Road from the Beatty property, and County (former Feehan) property is located along the property's southern boundary.

The west-facing Beatty property is characterized by a series of minimally sloping terraces on the lower elevations vegetated with oak woodland and grassland. The upper chaparral-covered elevations are moderate to steeply sloping. The lower elevations were used for residential and equestrian boarding purposes for many years prior to District ownership. The upper elevations are essentially undisturbed, providing excellent watershed protection and wildlife habitat. The property directly overlooks Lexington Reservoir and enjoys excellent views of the entire Lexington / Los Gatos Creek basin and the surrounding open space and park lands. These slopes are prominently visible from Lexington Reservoir County Park, Highway 17, and Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve.

Priest Rock Trail is a popular recreational route and an important patrol access route into the Preserve and is also designated as part of the regional Bay Area Ridge Trail. In 1999, the District accepted a gift of a trail easement through San Jose Water Company lands south-east of the Beatty property, allowing for a trail connection from the Beatty property or the County (former Feehan) property up to the Priest Rock Trail (R-99-88).

For many years, the District has worked cooperatively with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department to purchase property that connects County and District lands in the Lexington Reservoir and Soda Springs Creek watershed. The Beatty Trust property is a natural extension of Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve and the adjoining County park lands. This property is most important in terms of securing potential public staging and access opportunities, protecting the scenic viewshed, and protecting valuable wildlife habitat and watershed lands.

Existing Structures

Structures on the property consist of a 1,427-square foot main residence (Beatty house, main residence), a barn, and corral. The main residence is reported to date back to the 1890s. It is in poor condition with single wall construction and no foundation, with wood posts and exterior walls resting on the ground. The property was inhabited up until the District's purchase of the property in 2008. The property is currently uninhabitable and in disrepair.

In November 2019, the District evaluated the historic significance of the former Beatty house as a separate project. Based on the evaluation, the Beatty house is eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources under Criteria 1 and 3. Under Criterion 1 (events), the property was found to appear eligible for its association with the broad patterns of location and regional history as a remnant of the pioneer community of Alma. Under Criterion 3 (design/construction), the property appears to be eligible as a property that characterizes the plank-frame (slab-sided) construction common of 1860s Western pioneer vernacular dwellings, of which very few remain.

Two existing wells on the Beatty property were previously tested and evaluated for potential use. Well #1 was deemed suitable for equestrian drinking water, likely suitable for consumptive uses with some treatment, and suitable for flush toilets. Well #2 is low producing and identified for decommissioning.

Existing Driveways and Internal Unpaved Road System

The property has three driveways along Alma Bridge Road. The southernmost driveway to the main residence also serves as the primary driveway to the County's adjacent (former Feehan) property. A middle driveway just north of the main residence forms a loop to Alma Bridge Road. The northernmost driveway connects to an internal road that services AT&T poles and communication lines running along the northwest property boundary.

The internal unpaved road system traverses the site's lower elevations, including a level area of approximately five acres overlooking the Miller Point parking area and Lexington Reservoir. The internal roads reach up to the middle property elevations. AT&T is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the northern access road serving their telephone lines.

Proposed Project Programming

The proposed Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project consists of the following main program elements (see also Attachment 3). The Committee is asked to review these proposed program elements to confirm the scope that will guide the development of conceptual site plan options.

- New vehicular parking area with ADA-accessible stalls, trailhead, signage, and restroom;
- New equestrian trailer parking area;
- New trail connection from the new parking area to the Priest Rock Trail;
- New trail connection between the new parking area and an existing Lexington Reservoir County Park parking lot located across Alma Bridge Road;
- Minor improvements to existing interior roads;
- Possible culvert or bridge for public access; and
- Reuse of an existing well to water equestrian troughs.

Biological and cultural resources considerations (Attachment 4) will affect the final design of the parking area and trail alignment, and will influence permitting (see Opportunities and Constraints Memorandum, Attachment 5):

- **Parking Area and Trailhead.** The Existing Conditions map (Attachment 2) identifies potential open areas where vehicular parking and equestrian parking may be constructed. Existing biological and archaeological resources will influence the size and magnitude of the site improvements. Resource considerations include creek crossings, jurisdictional/riparian habitat (including protection of riparian vegetation), the presence of bats and woodrats nests, and the potential presence of hidden artifacts. If these considerations pose a significant schedule delay, the parking area may be implemented in two phases with one lot near the Beatty house and another lot north of the Beatty house.

The site can accommodate a smaller parking area in front of the Beatty house and a larger parking area to the north of the Beatty house. The smaller parking area in front of the Beatty house could accommodate up to 15 vehicle spaces and 2-4 equestrian spaces. Environmental considerations include presence of roosting bats at the Beatty house, subsurface archaeological resources, and potential riparian vegetation removal. The larger parking area north of the Beatty house could accommodate up to 38 vehicle spaces, while maintaining 2-4 equestrian and ADA spaces in front of the Beatty house. Environmental considerations include a bridge crossing over the creek, which requires US Army Corps permitting, potential woodrat nest relocation/mitigation, and additional riparian vegetation removal.

Committee feedback on the size and location of the parking area will guide next steps. In particular, the Committee is asked to provide feedback on the following:

1. Preferred size and location of the parking area (e.g. number of spaces, type of parking allowed, general location and scale of parking area);
 2. Consideration of equestrian trailer parking at the site;
 3. Option of a phased approach with a small parking area in front of the Beatty house and a potential future expansion of a large parking area north of the Beatty house, if use levels warrant additional parking; and
 4. Alternative option of maximizing the available parking spaces in light of growing visitation levels experienced at other preserves and the future planned construction of a Highway 17 trail crossing.
- **Restroom Installation.** As per standard practice, the District will pursue a vault toilet facility for the new parking area. A vault toilet requires one deep excavation, sited in proximity to the parking area drive aisles to provide access for waste disposal. Although vault toilets have been installed in District parking areas throughout Santa Clara County, the County is indicating interest in shifting away from vault toilets to flush toilets. For many reasons, including the protection of sensitive buried artifacts, a vault toilet is much preferred (flush toilets require trenching across a larger surface area). Staff will enter into these discussions more fully with the County in the coming weeks and months. Due to the uncertainty, environmental review of the project is planned to include a flush toilet as an alternative to the preferred vault toilet.

- **Beatty House.** The Beatty Property Home Structure Stabilization Project is a separate project aimed to identify alternatives for the Beatty house. Evaluation is underway and the item is tentatively scheduled for full Board consideration and selection of an alternative in March 2020. Because of its historical significance and location centered within the Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project, the Beatty house will be included as part of this Project's CEQA analysis. Pending Board selection of an alternative for the Beatty Property Home Structure Stabilization Project, the site plan for this Project will be revised to incorporate Board-approved management actions for the Beatty house.
- **Site Access and Circulation.** Depending on Committee feedback and more studies, site design may utilize one-way circulation or two-way circulation, through two driveway access points. A smaller parking area in front of the Beatty house can accommodate a one-way or two-way driveway entrance. A one-way driveway would reduce the site development area at this entrance point and potential impacts to resources, while a two-way would simplify circulation. Note: a larger parking area north of the Beatty house would require two-way driveway access.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY2019-20 adopted budget includes \$404,544 for the Beatty Parking Area and Trails Connection Project MAA22-004. The FY2019-20 budget includes sufficient funds to cover project costs through the end of the fiscal year. Funding for future year budgets will be proposed as part of the annual Budget and Action Plan process.

On May 15, 2019, the Board approved a Grant Agreement for \$149,906 with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) to help fund the Beatty Trail Connection project (R-19-57). The District will continue to seek grant funding opportunities for construction and contribute Measure AA funds to the project.

Beatty Parking Area & Trails Connections -- MAA22-004	Prior Year Actuals	FY2020 Adopted	FY2021 Projected	Estimated Future Years	TOTAL
District Funded (Fund 30):	\$64,325	\$373,638	\$586,250	\$3,380,150	\$4,404,363
Safe, Clean Water Priority D3 Grant Amount:	\$0	\$30,906	\$19,000	\$100,000	\$149,906
Total Budget:	\$64,325	\$404,544	\$605,250	\$3,480,150	\$4,554,269
Spent-to-Date (as of 12/16/2019):	(\$64,325)	(\$49,913)	\$0	\$0	(\$114,238)
Encumbrances:	\$0	(\$187,035)	\$0	\$0	(\$187,035)
Budget Remaining (Proposed):	\$0	\$167,596	\$605,250	\$3,480,150	\$4,252,996

The following table outlines the Measure AA Portfolio 22 (Sierra Azul: Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Projects) allocation, grants received, costs-to-date, and the fiscal impact related to the Beatty Parking Area and Trails Connections Project MAA22-004. The Project supports Measure AA Portfolio 22 by establishing a new parking area and trail connection in the Cathedral Oaks area of Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve.

MAA22 Sierra Azul: Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Portfolio Allocation:	\$6,714,000
Grants Awarded:	\$217,017
Life-to-Date Spent (as of 12/16/2019):	(\$1,140,896)
Encumbrances:	(\$268,688)
Future Portfolio Expenses (MAA22-004):	(\$4,085,400)
Portfolio Balance Remaining (Proposed):	\$1,436,033

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

This Planning and Natural Resources Committee is reviewing this item for the first time.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

Appropriate CEQA Analysis of the proposed project will be initiated in Spring 2020 after the Board approves the project description and the Use and Management Plan.

NEXT STEPS

Pending Committee feedback, staff will develop design concepts to present to the PNR Committee later in Q3 FY2020.

The table below provides a tentative project schedule, where construction would not begin until after Board approval of the Use and Management (U&M) Plan and CEQA certification.

Milestones	Tentative Schedule	Review and Approval
Feasibility evaluation, conceptual design of parking and trail connections, CEQA project description development	Fall 2019 – Spring 2020	PNR review and Board approval of CEQA project description
Technical Studies	Fall 2019 – Spring 2020	
Environmental Review and CEQA certification, U&M Plan Amendment	Summer 2020	Board Approval of CEQA and U&M Plan Amendment

Attachments

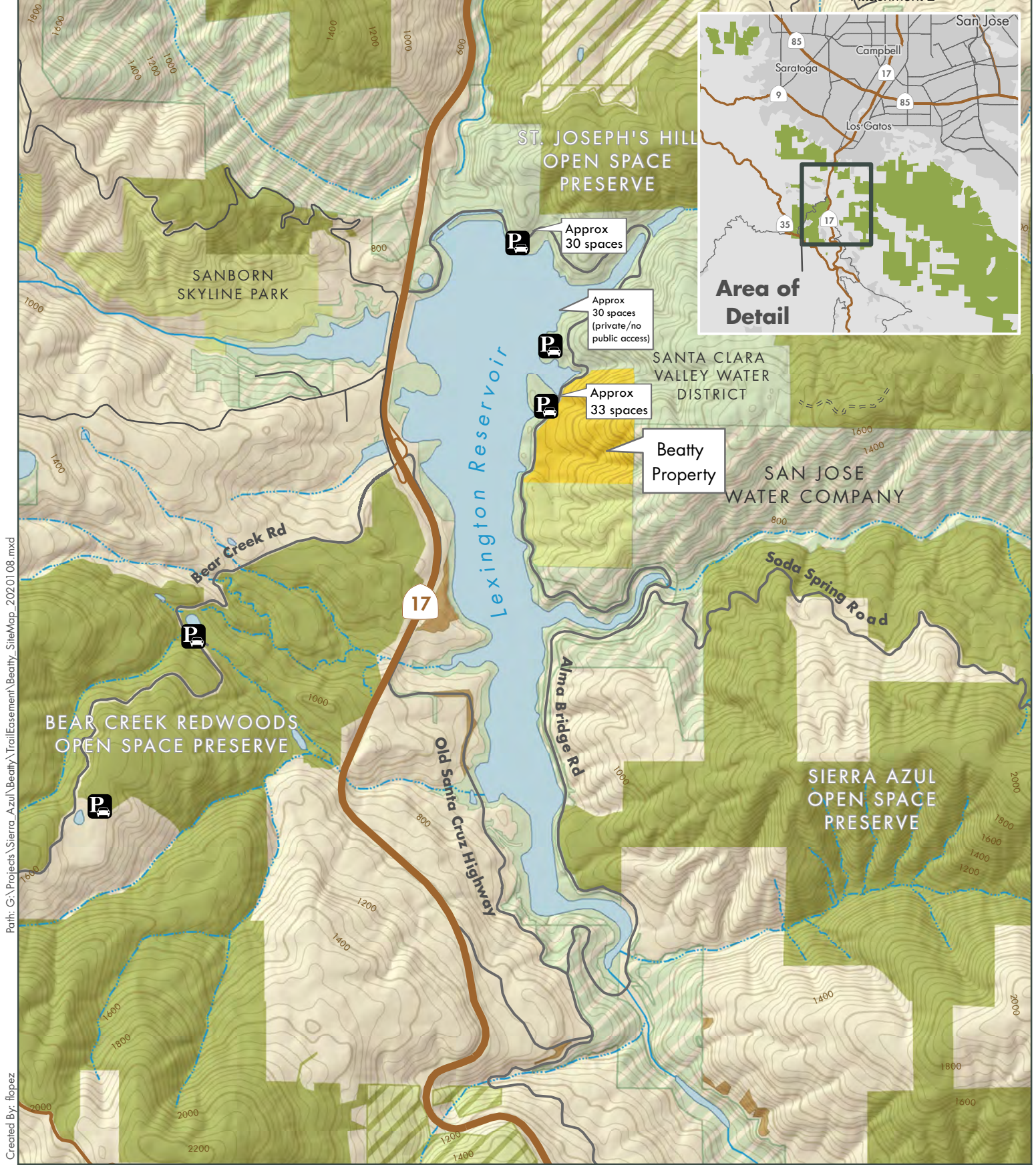
1. Project Area Map, Former Beatty Property Site Map
2. Project Area Existing Conditions
3. Project Programming Elements
4. Project Environmental Resources
5. Opportunities and Constraints Memo

R-20-07

Page 8

Responsible Department Head:
Jane Mark, AICP, Planning Department

Prepared by:
Leialani Hufana, Planner II, Planning Department



Path: G:\Projects\Sierra Azul\Beatty\Trail\Easement\Beatty_SiteMap_20210108.mxd
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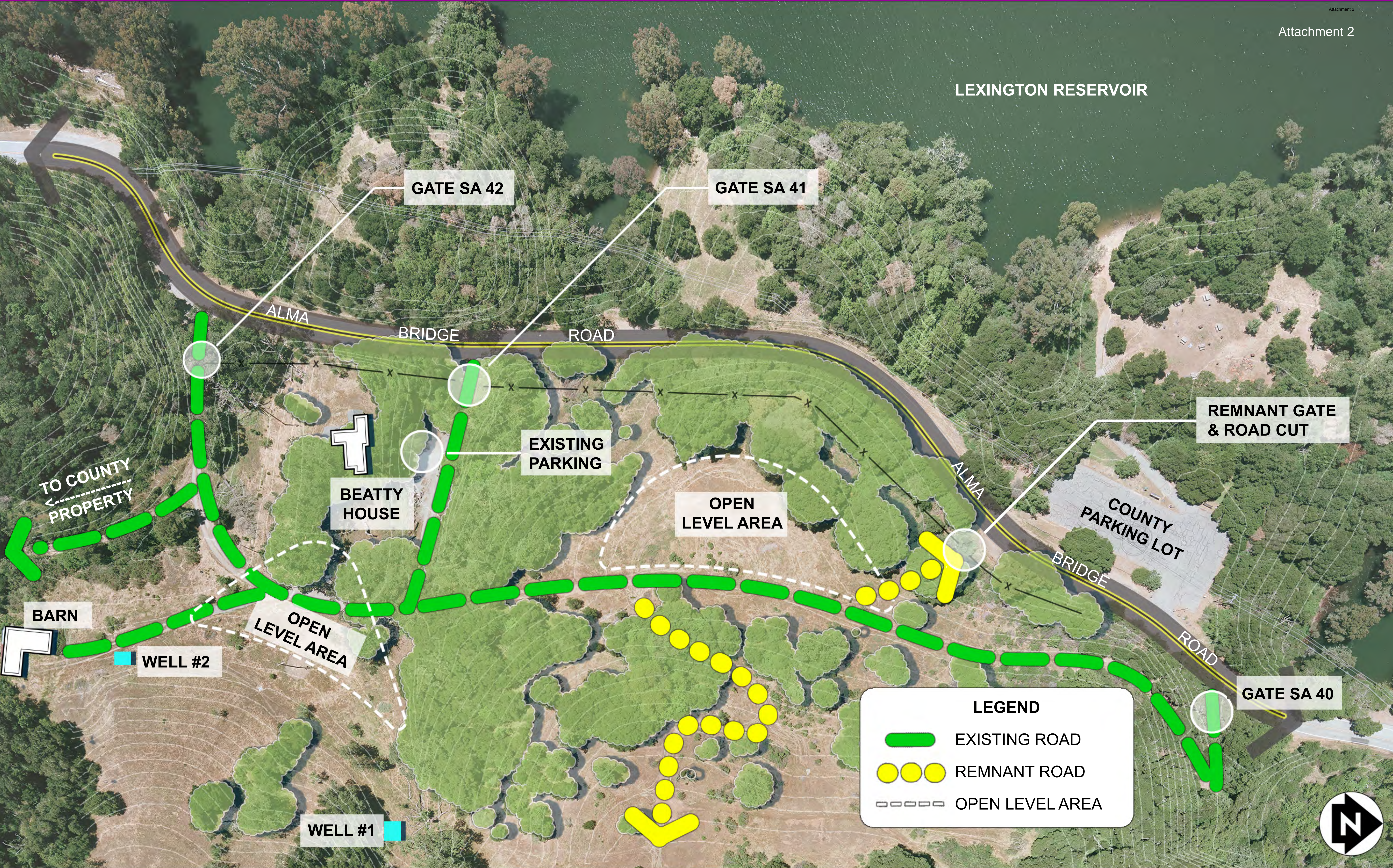
Beatty Property Site Map

- MROSD Preserves
- Watershed Land
- Other Protected Lands
- Former Beatty Property
- Private Property

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(Midpen)
1/8/2020



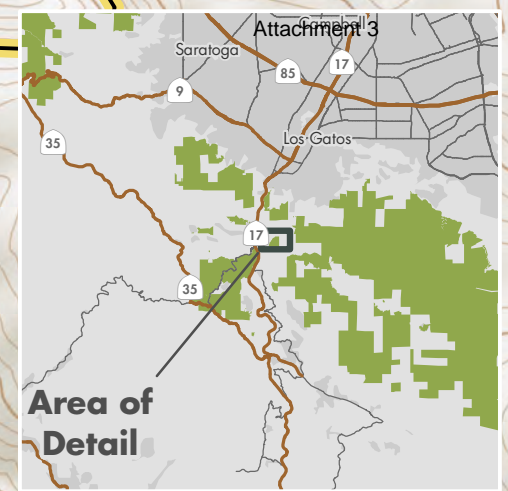
While the District strives to use the best available digital data, these data do not represent a legal survey and are merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.











BEATTY PARKING AREA

SETTING + TOPOGRAPHY

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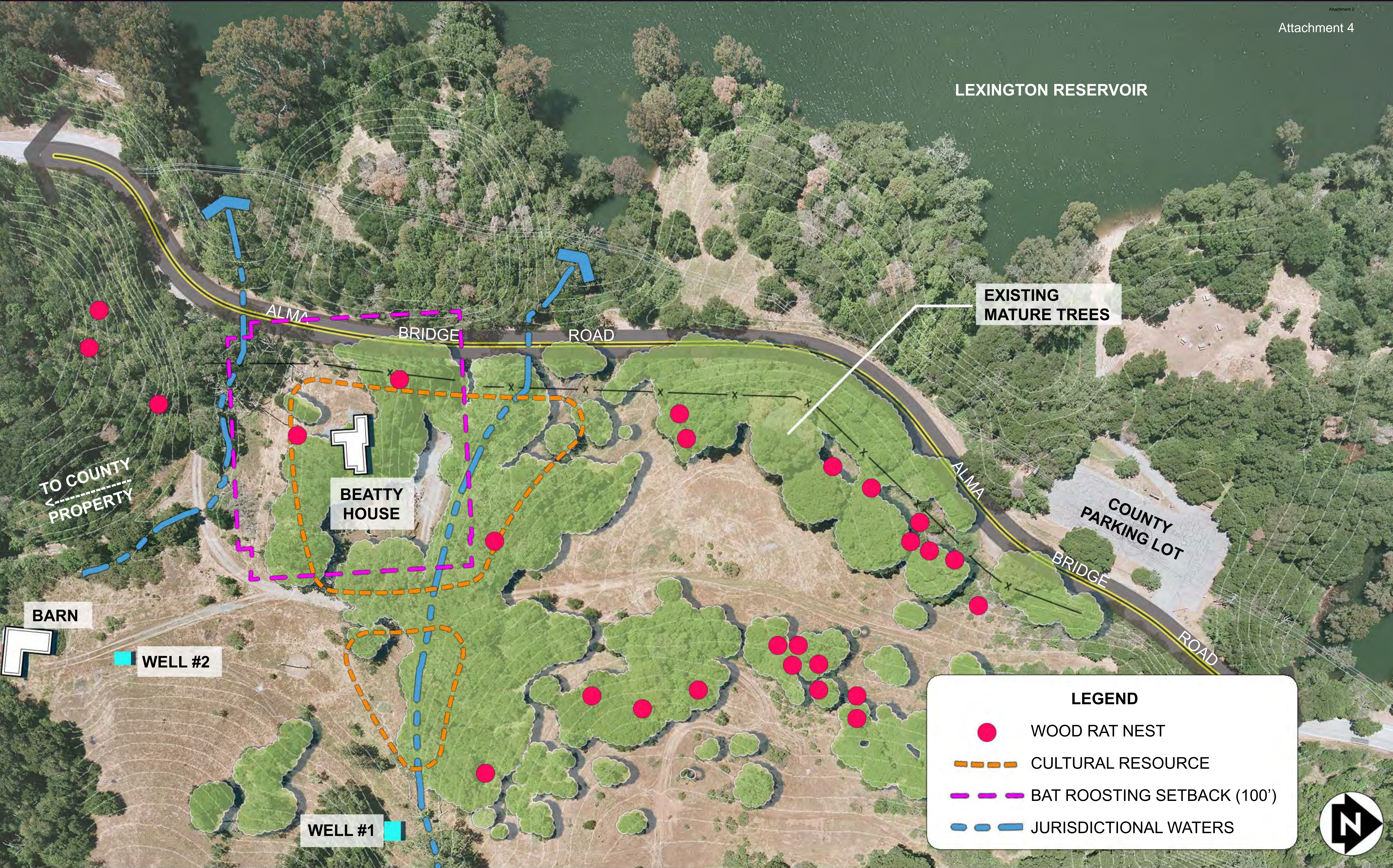
Beatty Property: Proposed Trail and Parking Area

-  MROSD Preserves
-  Existing Parking Area
-  Proposed Parking Area
-  Road
-  Hiking, Bicycling, Equestrian Trail
-  Proposed Beatty to Priest Rock Trail Connection
-  Unpaved Seasonal Road
-  Juan Bautista and Bay Area Ridge Trail

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD)
March 2019



While the District strives to use the best available digital data, these data do not represent a legal survey and are merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.



BEATTY PARKING AREA

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 7, 2020

To: Leialani Hufana, Environmental Planner II, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

FROM: Shanna Guiler, AICP, Associate/Environmental Planner
Dan Sidle, Associate/Wildlife Biologist
Andrew Pulcheon, AICP, Principal/Cultural Resources

SUBJECT: Biological and Cultural Resources Opportunities and Constraints – Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project, Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve
Los Gatos, Santa Clara County

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) proposes to construct a parking area for up to 40 vehicles on the Beatty Trust Property, located within the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve. Associated improvements include, but are not limited to: a 1.3-mile trail connection from the new parking area to the Priest Rock Trail, a trail connection to the existing Lexington County Park parking lot across Alma Bridge Road, improvements to existing access roads, a new culvert or bridge to the parking area, interpretive features, and reuse of existing wells and a new waterline for a vault toilet.

This Opportunities and Constraints memorandum summarizes existing conditions at the proposed Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project (project) site and the opportunities and/or constraints related to biological and cultural resources that affect the design of the parking area and the trail alignment for the project (Figure 1). This memorandum identifies any required additional reports necessary to complete an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and regulatory agency permit applications for the project. This document also discusses any seasonal restrictions for special-status species (SSS) to ensure the proposed schedule is compliant with required protection measures and regulations, as well as recommendations for project schedule changes as needed.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Methods

Prior to conducting field surveys, LSA reviewed existing biological information for the project, such as the botanical survey report prepared by Live Oak Associates (2019), Swaim Biological's (2019a) bat survey report, Lexington Reservoir Feasibility Study (Hardesty Associates 1985), and Hendry's Creek restoration project permitting documents (Coast Range Biological, Inc. 2013), and existing

information pertaining to SSS documented at or near the project site, such as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB; CDFW 2019) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation (USFWS 2019). LSA also reviewed Swaim Biological's (2019b) La Honda Creek Preserve, Sierra Azul Preserve, Purisima Uplands and Rancho San Antonio Preserve – Structural Surveys for Special-Status Mammal Species report. LSA staff also participated in discussions with District staff regarding measures to address California and rough-skinned newts (*Taricha torosa*, *T. granulosa*).

LSA biologists conducted several focused field surveys at the site in October 2019. LSA senior wildlife biologist Dan Sidle and wildlife biologist Naomi Serratos conducted a reconnaissance field survey on October 3, 2019. During this survey, LSA mapped San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*) houses and trees with hollows suitable for roosting bats and assessed habitat for other SSS or sensitive species, such as foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*), California giant salamander (*Dicamptodon ensatus*), Santa Cruz black salamander (*Aneides flavipunctatus niger*), California and rough-skinned newts, western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), nesting birds, and roosting bats. LSA senior wetlands specialist Bernhard Warzecha conducted a wetland delineation at the project site on October 9, 2019 and LSA senior botanist/certified arborist Tim Milliken conducted a tree survey of the previously mapped trees on October 10, 2019.

Existing Conditions

Vegetation

Vegetation and land cover types within the project site consist of California annual grassland, California bay forest, coast live oak woodland, chamise, and ruderal/developed areas (including the Beatty House), which were mapped and described in the botanical surveys prepared by Live Oak Associates (2019). In addition to these vegetation types, the trees and shrubs growing along the banks of the tributaries would be considered riparian habitat, which is a sensitive habitat community under CEQA; impacts to riparian habitat would require permits and mitigation as discussed below.

Wildlife

Wildlife that inhabit the project site include species that occur in grassland, oak woodland, riparian woodland, and chaparral. Wildlife or wildlife sign observed during LSA's survey consist of western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), alligator lizard (*Elgaria sp.*), California gull (*Larus californicus*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), chestnut-backed chickadee (*Poecile rufescens*), Townsend's warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*), wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*), lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), Nuttall's woodpecker (*Dryobates nuttallii*), acorn woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), ruby-crowned kinglet (*Regulus calendula*), golden-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*), white-crowned sparrow (*Z. leucophrys*), dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), California towhee (*Melospiza crissalis*), Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*) burrows,

Merriam's chipmunk (*Neotamias merriami*), gray squirrel (*Sciurus sp.*), black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*), and San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat houses.

Constraints and Challenges

Special-Status Species

Based on the results of the database searches, habitat conditions, the plant survey report prepared by Live Oak Associates (2019), the results of the bat surveys conducted by Swaim Biological (2019a and 2019b) and the District (District; Chaney 2019), LSA evaluated 24 special-status wildlife species as potentially occurring on or in the vicinity of the project site (Tables A and B).

Special-Status Plants

In 2019, Live Oak Associates found a rein orchid along the trail alignment (Figure 2) that could be the special-status white-flowered rein orchid (*Piperia candida*). Prior to the initiation of construction, Live Oak Associates will conduct an additional survey in 2020 to determine if the rein orchids observed along the proposed trail alignment in 2019 are the white-flowered rein orchid. If this special-status plant is identified, the trail alignment will be adjusted to avoid impacts to this plant. If Live Oak Associates is unable to confirm that the species is the white-flowered rein orchid, the District will assume it is special-status and will adjust the trail alignment accordingly. No other special-status plants were identified during Live Oak Associates' protocol-level surveys.

Special-Status Wildlife

A total of 24 special-status wildlife species were evaluated for the project (Table B), of which the following species are discussed in more detail below:

Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog. Suitable habitat for the foothill yellow-legged frog may be present in the on-site tributaries. Foothill yellow-legged frogs were historically known to occur approximately 1.5 miles south of the project site in Hendry's Creek but are considered extirpated from the creek (CDFW 2019). No foothill yellow-legged frogs were observed during surveys conducted in October 2013 along Hendry's Creek (Coast Range Biological 2013). Regardless, this species could occur in the tributaries within the project site.

California Giant Salamander and Santa Cruz Black Salamander. California giant salamander and Santa Cruz black salamander are known to occur within 2 miles of the project site (CDFW 2019) and could occur along the tributaries and adjacent riparian areas, as well as in the woodland habitat.

California and Rough-Skinned Newt. California and rough-skinned newts are known to occur in the area and although no suitable breeding habitat is present on the site, they likely migrate through the project site during the breeding season from November to March. These newts are known to cross Alma Bridge Road just west of the project site.

Western Pond Turtle. Western pond turtle could occur within the tributaries within the project site when water is present. This turtle is known to occur downstream of the project site in the Lexington Reservoir (CDFW 2019).

Special-Status Birds and Nesting Birds. Several special-status bird species (as listed in Table B) and common birds could occur or nest in the project area. These birds could nest in the trees, shrubs, grasslands, and structures within and/or adjacent to the project site. Active nests of all native bird species are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code, which prohibits the take, possession, or needless destruction of the nest or eggs of any bird. Active nests would need to be protected during construction by establishing temporary exclusion buffers, which typically range in size from 50 to 300 feet depending on the species.

San Francisco Dusky-Footed Woodrat. A total of 88 San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat houses were mapped in the project area during LSA's field survey (Figure 2). Evidence of woodrat use was also observed inside the Beatty House by Swaim Biological (2019b). A couple of the woodrat houses appear to be located within or immediately adjacent to the proposed trail alignment. With CDFW approval, if the District utilizes a minimum 3-foot exclusion buffer for woodrat houses, most, if not all, of these houses could be avoided by adjusting the proposed trail alignment. If woodrat houses need to be relocated, the houses would be relocated according to the District's 2018 San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat protocol following approval from CDFW.

Roosting Bats. Pallid bats (*Antrozous pallidus*), western red bats (*Lasiurus blossevillii*), Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii*), and other bat species could roost in Beatty House or in the trees at the project site. No sign of roosting bats was detected in the trees or outside of the Beatty House during LSA's reconnaissance survey, but Swaim Biological (2019a and 2019b) observed six bats roosting inside the Beatty House, which they assumed was a maternity roost, and detected eight bats emerging from the house. District biologists conducted acoustical and emergence surveys at the Beatty House and observed 11 bats emerging from the house (Chaney 2019). The District determined that these bats were likely Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*), California myotis (*Myotis californicus*), and Mexican free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), none of which are considered special-status bats under CEQA. The acoustical survey also detected western red bat, which is a California Species of Special Concern, but this bat roosts in tree foliage and is likely roosting in the trees within the project area and not within the Beatty House. Maternity roosts of all bat species are considered sensitive habitat as a nursery site under CEQA and impacts to the roosts should be avoided until the roost is no longer active.

Jurisdictional Waters

Five tributary segments occur within the project site that are subject to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdiction pursuant to Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (Figure 3). These tributaries are ephemeral or intermittent and have an average width of 2 to 8 feet. Tributary segment 1-1 has an average width of 3 feet, Tributary segment 1-2 has an average width of 2 feet, Tributary segment 2-1 has an average width of 3 feet, Tributary segment 2-2 has an average width of 8 feet, Tributary segment 3 has an average width of 4 feet, Tributary 4 has an average width of 5 to 8 feet, and Tributary 5 has an average width of 4 to 8 feet. Tributary 5 is confined to a 4-foot-diameter, 16-foot-long concrete pipe crossing underneath an existing access road. Where possible, the tributary crossings should completely span the tributary without having any abutments constructed within or along the banks of the tributaries. The crossings should also avoid impacts to

riparian vegetation that may be present along the tributaries. Impacts to the tributaries and riparian vegetation would require a USACE Section 404 Nationwide Permit, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) 401 Water Quality Certification, and CDFW 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Riparian Woodland

Riparian trees and shrubs are considered sensitive habitat under CEQA and impacts to riparian vegetation would require a CDFW 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement. As a condition to this permit, CDFW typically requires mitigation for impacts to riparian plants at a minimum 3:1 replacement ratio.

Protected Trees

The Santa Clara County Tree Preservation Ordinance (Division C16 of the Santa Clara County Code of Ordinances) protects and preserves “those trees which, because of their history, girth, height, species, or other unique quality, have a special significance to the community.” The ordinance defines protected trees based on their size and location within various zoning districts and/or on County-owned property. For parcels greater than 3 acres in size and located within the Hillside (HS) zoning district (except for parcels within the –“h1”, New Almaden Historic Preservation zoning district), tree removal is allowed by right, provided that the yield is not more than ten percent of trees over 37.7 inches circumference (12 inches or more in diameter) measured 4.5 feet above the ground per year on any parcel, together with contiguous parcels under the same ownership. No more than ten cords per year can be cut on parcels of 100 acres or less. Any tree removal exceeding these limits would require a use permit. The project site consists of approximately 57 acres and is located within the Hillside-Combining District (HS-sr) zoning district; therefore, these provisions would apply to the project site.

LSA surveyed the previously mapped trees and a few additional trees located near the proposed equestrian area (Figure 4 and Table C). LSA also reviewed the arborist report prepared by KIELTY Arborist Services LLC as part of the Beatty Property Home Structural Evaluation Report and Condition Assessment (KIELTY Arborist Services LLC 2019). KIELTY evaluated fourteen trees surrounding the Beatty House and recommended removal of two trees, one redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and one bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) due to poor condition and the risk of limb failure. The report also recommended removal of several dead Monterey pines that were located outside of the survey area. These trees have been incorporated into Figure 4 and included in Table C.

All of the site’s trees should be avoided, where possible to preserve wildlife habitat. Depending on the size and canopy cover of the trees and the extent of tree removal, Santa Clara County may require a use permit for the removed/impacted trees, if the number of trees to be removed exceeds ten percent of trees over 37.7 inches circumference (12 inches or more in diameter) measured 4.5 feet above the ground or ten cords per year. Removal of riparian trees would require mitigation under the CDFW 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement (see above). Two trees in the survey area, trees #53 and 78 (Figure 4), are leaning toward the road and therefore, the District may want to remove these trees to avoid potential public hazards.

Construction Limitations

Construction of the project could involve seasonal limitations regarding potential impacts to SSS and sensitive habitat. Special-status and other common native birds could nest within or adjacent to the project site. Active nests of these birds are protected and therefore, impacts to these nests would have to be avoided by established exclusion zone buffers. The nesting bird season typically occurs between February 15 and August 30, but some species, such as great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*) and Anna's hummingbird, could nest in January. The California and rough-skinned newts could migrate through the project site during their breeding season, which is during the rainy season typically from November to March. If the Beatty House and/or trees with suitable roosting habitat are impacted, seasonal restrictions regarding the roosting bats may be necessary to avoid potential impacts to maternity roosts, which are typically active from late May until mid-August. An exclusion buffer may need to be established around the house or tree(s) during the maternity roost season. A replacement/alternative bat roost may also be installed in proximity to the Beatty house, but away from construction areas, which could justify the implementation of a reduced or no exclusion buffer during maternity roost season. The replacement roost for maternity roosts should be created in consultation with CDFW and according to the recommendations by Swaim Biological (2019b). A bat roost deterrent plan, upon approval by CDFW and as recommended by Swaim Biological (2019b), can also be prepared for the house and any trees with suitable roosting habitat. The USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW permits would likely require restrictions to when construction could occur within the tributaries, which are typically confined to the dry season from April 15 to October 15, when little or no water is present.

Conclusions

The project site supports habitat for SSS (potentially one plant and several wildlife species), nesting birds, and roosting bats and also supports potential jurisdictional tributaries, riparian habitat, and protected trees. Implementation of mitigation/avoidance measures, such as environmental awareness training sessions, pre-construction surveys, installation of wildlife exclusion fencing, establishment of exclusion zone buffers, and construction monitoring would reduce potential impacts to special-status wildlife. The white-flowered rein orchid, if determined to be present, and the woodrat houses could be avoided by adjusting the location of the proposed trail. Potential impacts to the tributaries could be reduced by completely spanning the tributaries without impacting the bank and channel. Associated riparian vegetation could also be avoided. Where impacts to the tributaries and riparian vegetation cannot be avoided, permits from the USACE, RWQCB, and/or CDFW could be obtained and these features could be mitigated via enhancements (e.g., planting of native riparian plants) to on- or off-site tributaries.

Information Needs for CEQA and Permit Applications

As the proposed project design is further refined/developed, additional information, such as which trees will be removed, would be needed to quantify the potential impacts to the potential jurisdictional tributaries, riparian habitat, protected trees, woodrat houses, and the bat roost at the Beatty House for the IS/MND and the USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW permit applications.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources consist of sites, buildings, structures, objects, and districts that may have traditional or cultural value for their historical significance. Examples of cultural resources include precontact (Native American) and historic-period archaeological sites, and historic buildings, dams, and roads of architectural or engineering significance.

Existing Conditions

LSA conducted background research, including a records search and map review, and a pedestrian field survey of the proposed parking area and trail alignment to identify potential constraints. The records search was done at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) at Sonoma State University on September 20, 2019. The NWIC is the state's regional repository for cultural resource records and reports for Santa Clara County.

The records search identified one historic-period residence and associated archaeological deposits in the proposed project area: P-43-000597/CA-SCL-000602/H, the Beatty Site. The resource was originally described by Cartier and Laffey (1986) as a prehistoric midden with fire-cracked rock (FCR) overlain by a historic ranch complex, including a house and several outbuildings. The existing buildings on the property (main house, barn/stable, garage/wood room, and shed) were recently surveyed and evaluated by Knapp and VerPlanck (2010). The property appears eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) due to its association with events that have made significant contributions to local and regional history (Criterion 1) with a period of significance from 1866 to 1952. The main house also appears eligible for listing on the CRHR as a well-preserved example of Western plank-frame construction that is characteristic of mid-19th century pioneer dwellings in the region (Criterion 3).

Pacific Legacy conducted an intensive pedestrian inventory of the Survey Area on November 11, 2010, with an emphasis on locating and defining the previously identified prehistoric cultural materials. The inventory provided guidance for the location of the subsurface testing program, conducted by Pacific Legacy staff from November 12 to 17, 2010. A series of 14 auger bores and ten shovel-test pits (STPs) were placed to determine the presence of any prehistoric or historic-era subsurface archaeological deposits within the project area (Greenberg and Vanderslice 2010).

No prehistoric materials were encountered either during the pedestrian survey or subsurface testing within the Beatty Property Survey Area. A series of six auger bores and one STP were placed along the south side of the creek, east of the Beatty house in an effort to locate the midden area described during the initial recording of P-43-000597/CA-SCL-602/H. The prehistoric materials recorded by Cartier and Laffey (1986) were not relocated, likely due to disturbances in the area by the placement and subsequent removal of a mobile home and other structures over the last few decades. The presence of historic-era and modern materials at 60 centimeters below ground surface in this area also indicates soil disturbances (Greenberg and Vanderslice 2010).

Historic-era artifacts and concentrations of historic-era materials were identified during the survey and subsurface testing (Figure 5). The subsurface testing demonstrated that there are

concentrations of buried historic-era materials in the vicinity of the main house, between the garage/wood room and the main access road, and to the east of the garden south of the drainage. The latter two concentrations also contained modern materials. The surface and subsurface historic-era artifacts encountered on the slope behind (north) of the main house and outbuildings were identified as an historic-era refuse scatter associated with the past occupants of the Beatty main house. The materials recovered include domestic items and faunal material. These buried deposits may provide additional information concerning day-to-day life of the occupants of the Beatty Property, and may qualify as a historical resource, apart from the house, under PRC Section 21084.1 (Greenberg and Vanderslice 2010).

Lora Holland, Senior Cultural Resources Manager and Registered Professional Archaeologist 989173, conducted a supplemental field survey of the proposed Beatty parking area and trail alignment on October 3, 2019. All exposed soils were inspected for precontact archaeological materials (e.g., stone tools and lithic debitage, ground stone), historic-period artifacts (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics), and soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of archaeological cultural resources. Vegetation consisting of annual grasses obscured the majority of the ground surface within the proposed Beatty parking area. The proposed trail alignment consisted of California bay forest, coast live oak woodland. Annual grasses, shrubs, and leaves obscured the ground surface, so Ms. Holland conducted surface scrapes with a handpick. The field survey identified the remnants of a garden consisting of herb plants and wooden planters in the eastern portion of the proposed parking area; no cultural resources were identified in the trail alignment.

Constraints and Challenges for Cultural Resources

The proposed southern parking area and entry roadway from Alma Bridge Road lie within the recorded boundary of P-43-000597/CA-SCL-602/H (Figure 5). The residence is eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), thereby qualifying as a historical resource under Public Resources Code Section 21084.1. However, historic-period deposits may exist in the project area, as well, and such deposits may similarly qualify as historical resources due to their potential to convey important information about the early occupants of the house. Project construction, including equipment staging, could potentially impact such deposits, resulting in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource under CEQA. These impacts could result from the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of a cultural resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of a historical resource would be materially impaired from due to a loss of integrity. A loss of integrity could potentially occur from project ground disturbance or from unauthorized collection of archaeological materials due to public access to archaeologically sensitive areas.

Pacific Legacy prepared recommendations for the treatment of the deposits that may occur in the project area. They recommend that, should avoidance not be possible, an archaeological program to evaluate and mitigate impacts to cultural resources following CEQA Guidelines should be implemented. For the western locus around the house (Figure 5), this may include further testing prior to construction to further characterize and refine the boundaries of cultural deposits or monitoring by a qualified archaeologist during construction within the archaeological sensitivity area. For Area #2, monitoring by a qualified archaeologist during construction within the

archaeological sensitivity area is recommended. Historic-era archaeological features with integrity encountered within this area are likely to contain information about the daily life on this recommended CRHR-eligible property and a data recovery program may be required if such features are identified (Greenberg and Vanderslice 2010). Based on a review of the technical documentation prepared thus far for the project area, LSA concurs with the Pacific Legacy recommendations. In the event that Section 106 review is NOT triggered, and based on the degree of previous surface and subsurface disturbance in the “archaeologically sensitive area,” LSA is of the opinion that archaeological monitoring would be sufficient to address matters on the CEQA level.

As it is dependent on USACE jurisdiction, the extent of necessary identification efforts required for the project is not yet defined. Should the Future Expansion (including the federal nexus of Crossing #4) be undertaken, the degree to which the Area of Potential Effects (APE) would include an area greater than just the USACE permit area (e.g., if the trail alignment is included because it is “reasonably related” to the proposed structure at Crossing #4) would dictate the level of evaluation effort. If the APE is larger than just the permit area, then it is recommended that all resources identified in that APE be evaluated for their listing in the National Register of Historic Places (in the event of USACE review), in addition to the California Register of Historical Resources. At the very least, the USACE requirements would include the baseline permit areas, which may include the need for additional focused test excavation within the permit area for Crossing #4. Should National Register-eligible resource be identified, and should the USACE determine that an adverse effect under Section 106 would occur to that resource due to its disturbance, then consultation would be required by the USACE and SHPO to determine appropriate treatment, which is often documented in a Historic Property Treatment Plan (HPTP) and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The HPTP is implemented by the MOA, following consultation among consulting parties, to resolve an adverse effect under Section 106.

SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

To assist the District in determining a preferred development approach for the project site, LSA has prepared a summary table (Table D), which identifies the opportunities and constraints, as well as the cost and schedule implications and potential permitting requirements associated with different development options, as described below.

- **Option A – Full Buildout at the Beatty House.** With this option, the main access road at gate SA41 would be improved to provide a 22-foot wide, two-way paved drive aisle up to the Beatty House site. A 17-stall parking area with two Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) stalls would be provided west of the Beatty House. An equestrian parking area for approximately four horse trailers, including staging and horse watering, would be located further to the east. An equestrian trail would be constructed to connect the equestrian parking area to the proposed trail further north; this trail would include a clear-span bridge across the channel. The roadway access at gate SA42 would be improved to provide an 11-foot, one-way paved drive aisle for egress only. A restroom would be installed (type to be determined – see below) near the parking area.

- **Option B – Reduced Buildout at the Beatty House.** This scenario was designed to minimize potential environmental constraints by reducing the development footprint. With this option, the main access road at gate SA41 would be improved to provide a 12-foot wide, one-way paved drive aisle (ingress only) up to the Beatty House. Egress would be provided via an 11-foot wide, one-way paved drive aisle out gate SA42. Compared to Option A, a smaller parking area (12 stall) would be provided east of the Beatty House. An equestrian parking area for approximately two horse trailers, including staging and horse watering, would be located further to the east. An equestrian trail would be constructed to connect the equestrian parking area to the proposed trail further north; this trail would include a clear-span bridge across the channel. A restroom would be installed (type to be determined – see below) near the parking area.
- **Future Development North of Crossing #4 (Future Expansion).** The Future Expansion would include the future development of an approximately 38 vehicle parking area and trailhead north of the Beatty House. This option would also include installation of a trail connection to the existing Lexington County Park parking lot across Alma Bridge Road. The Future Expansion would require replacement of the culvert and/or bridge construction over Crossing #4 to accommodate vehicular traffic at this crossing location.
- **Restroom Installation.** Currently, the District is considering two options for the restroom east of the Beatty House – 1) a vault toilet, or 2) a plumbed toilet. A vault toilet would require deep excavation (approximately 6 feet) and would need to be sited in proximity to the parking area drive aisles to provide access for waste disposal. The plumbed toilet would be connected to an existing well on the project site, requiring trenching for the pipeline connection and potential construction of a leach field for drainage.

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Table A: Special-Status Plant Species Potentially Occurring at the Project Site

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (F/S/CRPR)*	General Habitat Description	Rationale
<i>Piperia candida</i>	White-flowered rein orchid	--/--/1B	Habitat: Broadleaved upland forest and coniferous forests, sometimes on serpentine. Elevation: 30-1,310 m. Blooms: Perennial herb; May-September.	Habitat appears to be absent from the site for this species, and soils of the site are not serpentine. The closest known occurrence is more than 3 miles west of the site, attributed to a CNPS staff checklist (CalFlora). Rein orchids (<i>Piperia</i> sp.) that could not be identified during the focused 2019 surveys conducted by Live Oak Associates (2019) were observed along the proposed trail alignment. These orchids will be surveyed in 2020 to determine if they are this special-status species of rein orchid.

* Status Codes

CRPR = California Rare Plant Rank

1B = California Rare Plant Rank 1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere

Table B: Special-Status Animal Species Potentially Occurring at the Project Site

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (F/S/CDFW)	General Habitat Description	Rationale
<i>Rana boylei</i>	Foothill yellow-legged frog	--/CST/SSC	Partly shaded streams with rocky or cobbly substrate that flow at least to May.	Could occur within the tributaries on the project site due to the presence of suitable habitat, but no longer known to occur near the Lexington Reservoir. Species considered extirpated from Hendry's Creek, located approximately 1.5 miles south of the site.
<i>Rana draytonii</i>	California red-legged frog	FT/--/SSC	Inhabits permanent and temporary pools, streams, freshwater seeps, and marshes in lowlands and foothills. Uses adjacent upland habitat for foraging and refuge.	Could occur within the tributaries on the project site due to the presence of suitable habitat, but no suitable breeding habitat observed on or adjacent to the site.
<i>Taricha torosa</i>	California newt	District Sensitive	Found in mountainous or rolling woodland and grassland. Breeds in ponds, reservoirs, and streams.	Could migrate through the project site during the newt's breeding season (November to March).
<i>Taricha granulosa</i>	Rough-skinned newt	District Sensitive	Wet forests, oak forests, chaparral, and rolling grasslands. Breeds in ponds, reservoirs, and pools in streams.	Could migrate through the project site during the newt's breeding season (November to March).
<i>Dicamptodon ensatus</i>	California giant salamander	--/--/SSC	Aquatic larvae found in cold, clear streams, occasionally in lakes and ponds; adults known from wet forests under rocks; known from wet coastal forests near streams and seeps from Mendocino County south to Monterey County and east to Napa County.	Could occur in the tributaries and adjacent woodland on the project site.
<i>Aneides flavipunctatus niger</i>	Santa Cruz black salamander	--/--/SSC	Occurs in mixed deciduous woodland, coniferous forests, and coastal grasslands. Found under rocks near streams, damp logs, other objects, and in talus. Lays eggs in moist cavities below the ground.	Could occur in the tributaries and adjacent woodland on the project site.
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	Western pond turtle	--/--/SSC	Ponds, marshes, rivers, streams, and irrigation ditches with aquatic vegetation.	Known to occur in the Lexington Reservoir (CDFW 2019). May move through tributaries when water is present.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (F/S/CDFW)	General Habitat Description	Rationale
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	Blainsville's horned lizard	--/--/SSC	Chaparral, oak savannah, and grassland habitat types with loose soils. Also in lowlands, along sandy washes with scattered low bushes.	Suitable habitat for this species may be present in the chaparral along the proposed trail alignment.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden eagle	--/--/FP	Forests, canyons, shrublands, grasslands, and oak woodlands. Large trees or cliffs for nesting. Open grasslands for foraging.	Suitable nest trees present in project area, but limited foraging habitat present in proximity to the project site.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Burrowing owl	--/--/SSC	Open habitats (e.g., grasslands, agricultural areas) with mammal burrows or other features (e.g., culverts, pipes, and debris piles) suitable for nesting and roosting.	No suitable burrow surrogates observed at the project site during LSA's habitat assessment. Could breed or winter in the grasslands on the site, if burrow surrogates are present.
<i>Asio otus</i>	Long-eared owl	--/--/SSC	Woodlands and forests that are open or adjacent to grasslands, meadows, or shrublands.	Suitable nesting habitat present within the large trees on the site, but species is rare in Santa Clara County.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	White-tailed kite	--/--/FP	Grassland and savannah for foraging. Large trees for roosting and nesting.	Suitable trees and large shrubs for nesting present in project area, but limited foraging habitat present in proximity to the project site.
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American peregrine falcon	--/--/FP	A variety of open habitats including coastlines, mountains, marshes, bay shorelines, and urban areas. Nests on cliffs, bridges, and tall buildings.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Suitable foraging habitat present.
<i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i>	Yellow warbler	--/--/SSC	Riparian woodland; nests in dense shrubs or small trees (e.g., willows).	No suitable nesting habitat present.
<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Olive-sided flycatcher	--/--/SSC	Coniferous forests with open canopies.	No suitable habitat present.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (F/S/CDFW)	General Habitat Description	Rationale
<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>	Vaux's swift	--/--/SSC	Grasslands and agricultural fields; nests in dense vegetation in large hollow trees near open water; forages in most habitats but prefers rivers and lakes.	Suitable nesting habitat may be present in large trees with hollows on or adjacent to the site.
<i>Progne subis</i>	Purple martin	--/--/SSC	Woodlands; nests in tree snags and abandoned woodpecker cavities and human-made structures.	Suitable nesting habitat may be present in large trees with hollows on or adjacent to the site, but species considered rare in Santa Clara County.
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Grasshopper sparrow	--/--/SSC	Grasslands with coyote brush and other shrubs.	Limited suitable habitat present within grasslands on the site.
<i>Neotoma fuscipes annectens</i>	San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat	--/--/SSC	Primarily found along riparian areas within chaparral and woodlands. Feeds mainly on woody plants but also eats acorns, grasses, and fungi. Builds conspicuous stick houses in trees and on the ground.	A total of 88 woodrat houses were identified within or adjacent to the project site during LSA's October 2019 field survey.
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid bat	--/--/SSC	Usually maternity roosts occur in enclosed areas of buildings, caves, and mines. Forages in a wide variety of open habitats.	Suitable roosting habitat present in the Beatty House and large trees with hollows. Species not detected during acoustical and visual surveys at the Beatty House (Swaim 2019; Chaney 2019). Suitable foraging habitat present.
<i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i>	Western red bat	--/--/SSC	Roosts primarily in trees, 2-40 feet above ground, from sea level up through mixed conifer forests; prefers habitat edges and mosaics with trees that are protected from above and open below with open areas for foraging.	Suitable roosting habitat present in trees within the project area. Species detected during acoustical surveys conducted by Swaim Biological in 2019.
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	--/--/SSC	Usually maternity roosts occur in enclosed areas of buildings, caves, and mines. Forages along habitat edges, often gleaning insects from trees or shrubs.	The Beatty House may provide suitable roosting habitat. Species not detected during acoustical and visual surveys at the Beatty House (Swaim 2019; Chaney 2019). Suitable foraging habitat present.



Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (F/S/CDFW)	General Habitat Description	Rationale
<i>Brassariscus astutus</i>	Ringtail	--/--/FP	Mixture of forest and scrub in close association with rocky or riparian areas. Nests in rocky areas and hollow trees and logs.	Project site supports suitable foraging areas and potentially supports denning areas in hollow trees.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American badger	--/--/SSC	Open grassland areas with plentiful prey such as pocket gophers and ground squirrels.	Suitable denning, foraging, and movement present, but limited grasslands and prey (e.g., gophers) observed on the site. No potential dens were observed during LSA's reconnaissance survey.

Status:

FT = Federally threatened

FP = State fully protected

CST = Candidate State Threatened

SSC = State species of special concern

Table C: Surveyed Trees at the Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project

ID#	Common Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>)	DBH in Inches	Condition/Notes	Protected* Y/N	Riparian* Y/N
1	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	24+30+18	Good. Three stems.	Y	N
2	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	10	Good. Embankment.	Y	N
3	Eucalyptus (<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>)	24	Good. Embankment.	Y	N
4	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	5	Good. Embankment.	N	N
5	Eucalyptus (<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>)	30	Good, straight. Embankment.	Y	N
6	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	4+5	Good. Two stems.	N	N
7	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	5+4	Good, wound on trunk. Two stems.	N	N
8	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	4	Good.	N	N
9	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	3	Good. Brush.	N	N
10	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	2+3	Good. Brush.	N	N
11	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	5	Good. Brush.	N	N
12	Manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos manzanita</i>)	3+3+2	Good.	N	N
13	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	36	Good.	Y	N
14	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	16	Good.	Y	N
15	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	6	Good.	Y	N
16	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	4	Good.	N	N
17	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	50	Good. Large. Two stems above DBH.	Y	N
18	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	50	Good. Bleeding. Suspected sudden oak death.	Y	N
19	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	60	Bleeding. <i>Hypoxylon</i> fungus. Half of canopy dead. Suspected sudden oak death.	Y	N
20	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	6	Good.	Y	N
21	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	6	Good.	Y	N

ID#	Common Name (Scientific Name)	DBH in Inches	Condition/Notes	Protected* Y/N	Riparian+ Y/N
22	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	3	Good.	N	N
23	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	8	Bleeding. Suspected sudden oak death.	Y	N
24	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	6	Good.	Y	N
25	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	4+2	Good.	N	N
26	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	12	Good.	Y	N
27	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	38	Good.	Y	N
28	Valley oak (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	24	Good.	Y	N
29	Valley oak (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	6	Good.	Y	N
30	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	6	Bleeding. Canopy green. Suspected sudden oak death.	Y	N
31	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	28	Good.	Y	N
32	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	3+3	Good.	N	N
33	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	5	Good.	N	N
34	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	13	Good.	Y	N
35	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	5+2+2	Good.	N	N
36	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	3+3	Good.	N	N
37	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	4	Good.	N	N
38	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	7	Good.	Y	N
39	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	6	Good.	Y	N
40	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	6	Good.	Y	N
41	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	5+10+2	Good.	Y	N
42	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	6	Good.	Y	N
43	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	3	Good.	N	N
44	Coast live oak	6	Good.	Y	N

ID#	Common Name (Scientific Name)	DBH in Inches	Condition/Notes	Protected* Y/N	Riparian+ Y/N
	(<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)				
45	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	8+5	Good.	Y	N
46	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	5	Good.	N	N
47	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	5+5+8	Good.	Y	N
48	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	4+3	Good.	N	N
49	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	2+4	Good.	N	N
50	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	7+7+7+9	Good.	Y	N
51	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	14	Good.	Y	N
52	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	8	Good.	Y	N
53	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	9+14	Good. Leans over trail.	Y	N
54	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	11	Good.	Y	N
55	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	7	Good.	Y	N
56	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	11	Good.	Y	N
57	Valley Oak (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	30	Good.	Y	Y
58	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	48	Good.	Y	Y
59	Plum (<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>)	7	Fair/poor structure	Y	Y
60	Oracle oak (<i>Quercus morehus</i>)	26	Poor, rotten.	Y	N
61	Valley oak (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	6	Good.	Y	Y
62	Valley oak (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	38	Good. Old tag #14	Y	N
63	Valley oak (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	40	Good. Old tag #13	Y	N
64	Black walnut (<i>Juglans sp.</i>)	11	Good.	Y	Y
65	Blue elderberry (<i>Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea</i>)	5+4+3	Poor.	N	Y
66	California Bay	5	Good.	N	Y

ID#	Common Name (Scientific Name)	DBH in Inches	Condition/Notes	Protected* Y/N	Riparian+ Y/N
	(<i>Umbellularia californica</i>)				
67	Plum (<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>)	6	Good.	Y	Y
68	Valley oak (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	18	Good.	Y	Y
69	Valley oak (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	9+6	Good.	Y	N
70	Toyon (<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>)	4	Good. One dead stem.	N	N
71	California Bay (<i>Umbellularia californica</i>)	4+5+6	Good.	Y	N
72	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	12+28	Good.	Y	N
73	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	7+9+12	Good. Old tag #7. Three stems.	Y	N
74	California Bay (<i>Umbellularia californica</i>)	21	Good. Old tag #8.	Y	N
75	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	38	Old tag #1	Y	N
76	Coast redwood (<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>)	10+18+24	Good. Old tag #2.	Y	N
77	Valley oak (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	12+20	Good. Old tag #4.	Y	N
78	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	46	Good. Dead hazardous limb. Old tag #5.	Y	N
79	Valley oak (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	16+23	Good.	Y	N
80	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	17	Good. Old tag #3.	Y	N
81	Valley oak (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	43	Good.	Y	N
82	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	10	Good.	Y	N
83	California Bay (<i>Umbellularia californica</i>)	8+9	Good.	Y	Y
84	Valley oak (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	12	Good.	Y	Y
85	Valley oak (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	16	Good.	Y	Y
86	California Bay (<i>Umbellularia californica</i>)	5	Good.	N	Y
87	California Bay (<i>Umbellularia californica</i>)	5+8	Good.	Y	Y
88	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	11+10	Good. One trunk topped.	Y	Y

ID#	Common Name (<i>Scientific Name</i>)	DBH in Inches	Condition/Notes	Protected* Y/N	Riparian+ Y/N
89	Plum (<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>)	6	Fair.	Y	N
90	Plum (<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>)	6	Fair.	Y	N
91	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	11	Good.	Y	N
92	Coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	10	Good.	Y	N
93	Pine (<i>Pinus pinea</i>)	18	Good.	Y	N
94	Pine (<i>Pinus pinea</i>)	15	Good.	Y	N
95	Plum (<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>)	6	Good.	Y	Y
96	Coast live oak ^ (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	26	Good.	Y	N
97	Coast live oak ^ (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>)	25	Good.	Y	N

* Protected trees are trees considered protected under by the Santa Clara County Tree Preservation Ordinance.

+ Riparian trees are trees that occur along and/or provide shade for a jurisdictional tributary.

Table D: Summary of Opportunities and Constraints

Issue Area	Opportunities	Constraints	Cost/Schedule	Permitting Requirements
Option A: Full Buildout at Beatty House				
Special-Status Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to provide interpretive information for visitors related to bat roosts and special-status species in the project area. Potential to avoid impacts to special-status species by establishing buffers/realigning proposed trail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed improvements at the Beatty House may affect bat roosts. Woodrat houses are located along the proposed equestrian trail. Timing of construction to avoid impacts to nesting birds/roosting bats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential increased costs associated with woodrat house relocation/ mitigation, if required. Potential increased costs associated with bat roost exclusion/mitigation, if required. If desired, alternative bat roosts would be installed prior to the start of construction within or adjacent to the Beatty House to allow bats to use an alternate roost during and prior to construction activities. The roost should be installed prior to the season in which the bat roost is active (perhaps up to a year prior). If the period of roosting activity is unknown, the roost should be installed at one year prior to construction. The cost to build and install alternative bat roost would vary, depending on the roost. However, if District staff installed it and conducted the monitoring, it could be fairly inexpensive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If USACE permit is required, Section 7 consultation with the USFWS would be needed. Preparation of a Biological Assessment would be required.
Drainages/ Riparian Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to clear span drainages, where feasible to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction along the proposed access road(s) may 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential increased costs associated with replacement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If only riparian vegetation is impacted, a CDFW Streambed Alternation Agreement and

Table D: Summary of Opportunities and Constraints

Issue Area	Opportunities	Constraints	Cost/Schedule	Permitting Requirements
	<p>reduce impacts (e.g., equestrian trail crossing).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoidance of Crossing #4 minimizes permit requirements and impacts to jurisdictional features/riparian vegetation. 	<p>require removal of riparian vegetation/trees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to the exit road may require reconstruction of the existing culvert at Crossing #5. 	<p>mitigation for removal of riparian vegetation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential increased costs associated with obtaining CDFW and/or USACE permit(s), including application fees and mitigation requirements. Schedule: 6-18 months to obtain permits. 	<p>possibly RWQCB Water Quality Certification would require permits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconstruction of the existing culvert at Crossing #5 may require a USACE nationwide permit. Use permit from Santa Clara County may be required, If tree removal exceeds by-right limits established in the Santa Clara County Code. However, given the limited tree removal and the extent of trees on the project site, the project is unlikely to exceed County thresholds.
Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to preserve large, native trees. Some trees may require removal due to poor health and/or potential safety concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction along the proposed access road(s) may require removal of trees to accommodate roadway widening. To the extent feasible, all trees on site, even those recommended for removal in the Kielty report, should be retained as wildlife habitat. As described above, the District may want to remove the two trees that are leaning toward the road to avoid potential public hazards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential increased costs associated with replacement/ mitigation for removal of protected trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use permit from Santa Clara County may be required, if tree removal exceeds by-right limits established in the Santa Clara County Code.
Archaeological Deposits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because no culvert/bridge required for Crossing #4, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although the roadbed has undergone previous disturbance, a wider proposed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological monitoring would cost approximately \$1,000/day, multiplied by 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological monitoring may be a condition of state-level permitting requirements.

Table D: Summary of Opportunities and Constraints

Issue Area	Opportunities	Constraints	Cost/Schedule	Permitting Requirements
	<p>compliance with Section 106 may not be required.</p>	<p>road would increase previous non-road area subject to Phase 1 ground disturbance. Monitoring is recommended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 17-stall parking area would include a portion of an artifact scatter identified in 2010, potentially disturbing intact subsurface deposits that may be significant. Monitoring is recommended. The equestrian parking area/trail would occur within a portion of an artifact scatter and “archaeologically sensitive area” identified in 2010. Monitoring is recommended. 	<p>construction days, assuming negative findings. Based on the likely degree of prior disturbance from grading and roadbed prep, the potential for intact deposits is reduced. Should resources be found, evaluation and possibly mitigation may be required, above and beyond the monitoring cost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule: depending on nature of finds, at least 1-2 months, but variable. 	
Built Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase of interpretive potential for visitors to experience historical qualities of the Beatty home and related land-use history. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptive reuse of the Beatty House should be done in accordance with the Secretary’s Standards to minimize severity of impact to California Register-eligible building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reuse/rehabilitation plan for the Beatty House may take several months to prepare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beatty House adaptive reuse and historical interpretation should be done in compliance with Secretary’s Standards, which should address impact reduction under CEQA.
Option B: Reduced Buildout at Beatty House				
Special-Status Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to provide interpretive information for visitors related to bat roosts and special-status species in the project area. Potential avoid impacts to special-status species by establishing buffers/realigning proposed trail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed improvements at the Beatty House may affect bat roosts; however, reduced development at Beatty House may eliminate the need to establish buffers and/or alternate bat roost. Woodrat houses are located along the proposed equestrian trail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential increased costs associated with woodrat house relocation /mitigation, if required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If USACE permit is required, Section 7 consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service would be needed. Preparation of a Biological Assessment would be required.

Table D: Summary of Opportunities and Constraints

Issue Area	Opportunities	Constraints	Cost/Schedule	Permitting Requirements
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timing of construction to avoid impacts to nesting birds/roosting bats. 		
Drainages/ Riparian Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to clear span drainages, where feasible to reduce impacts (e.g., equestrian trail crossing). Avoidance of Crossing #4 minimizes permit requirements and impacts to jurisdictional features/riparian vegetation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to the exit road may require reconstruction of the existing culvert at Crossing #5. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential increased costs/schedule delays associated with obtaining USACE permit for Crossing #5. Schedule: 6-12 months to obtain permits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconstruction of the existing culvert at Crossing #5 may require a USACE nationwide permit. If riparian vegetation is impacted, a CDFW Streambed Alternation Agreement and possibly RWQCB Water Quality Certification would require permits. Tree removal permit from Santa Clara County may be required, if ordinance-protected riparian trees are impacted.
Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to preserve large, native trees. Minimizes construction along the proposed access road(s) to reduce/avoid tree removal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction along the proposed access road(s) may require removal of trees; however, reduced roadway width minimizes the potential for tree removal. As described above, the District may want to remove the two trees that are leaning toward the road to avoid potential public hazards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use permit from Santa Clara County may be required, if tree removal exceeds by-right limits established in the Santa Clara County Code. However, given the limited tree removal and the extent of trees on the project site, this alternative is unlikely to exceed County thresholds.
Archaeological Deposits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because no culvert/bridge required for Crossing #4, Section 106 may not be triggered due to the lack of USACE nexus. If so, then monitoring, per CEQA-level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greatly reduces the area of non-disturbed ground that must be modified, which may allow an artifact scatter identified in 2010 to be avoided through project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring would be required (see above). However, based on the likely degree of prior disturbance from grading and roadbed prep, the potential for intact deposits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological monitoring may be a condition of state-level permitting requirements.

Table D: Summary of Opportunities and Constraints

Issue Area	Opportunities	Constraints	Cost/Schedule	Permitting Requirements
	recommendations, appears significant in “archaeologically sensitive areas.”	design. However, the potential for impact to archaeological deposits in the “archaeologically sensitive area” remains for development associated with the parking area and equestrian parking/trail. Monitoring is recommended; but extent of monitoring would be reduced.	is reduced. Should resources be found, evaluation and possibly mitigation may be required, above and beyond the monitoring cost. • Schedule: depending on nature of finds, at least 1-2 months, but variable.	
Built Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of interpretive potential for visitors to experience historical qualities of the Beatty home and related land-use history. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptive reuse of the Beatty House should be done in accordance with the Secretary’s Standards to minimize severity of impact to California Register-eligible building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reuse/rehabilitation plan for the Beatty House may take several months to prepare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beatty House adaptive reuse and historical interpretation should be done in compliance with Secretary’s Standards, which should address impact reduction under CEQA.
Future Development North of Crossing #4 (Future Expansion)				
Special-Status Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to provide interpretive information for visitors related to special-status species in the project area. • Potential avoid impacts to special-status species by establishing buffers/realigning proposed trail. • Development in this area avoids bat roosts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodrat houses are located along the proposed trail connection to the County parking area, in proximity to the proposed trail/trailhead and near the boundary of the parking area. • Timing of construction to avoid impacts to nesting birds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential increased costs associated with woodrat house relocation/mitigation, if required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If USACE permit is required, Section 7 consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service would be needed. Preparation of a Biological Assessment would be required.
Drainages/Riparian Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to clear span drainages, where feasible to reduce impacts (e.g., equestrian trail crossing). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of culvert/bridge crossing may require removal of riparian vegetation/trees and impacts to the drainage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential increased costs/schedule delays associated with obtaining USACE, CDFW and RWQCB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permits from the USACE, CDFW, and RWQCB would likely be needed to address impacts to the

Table D: Summary of Opportunities and Constraints

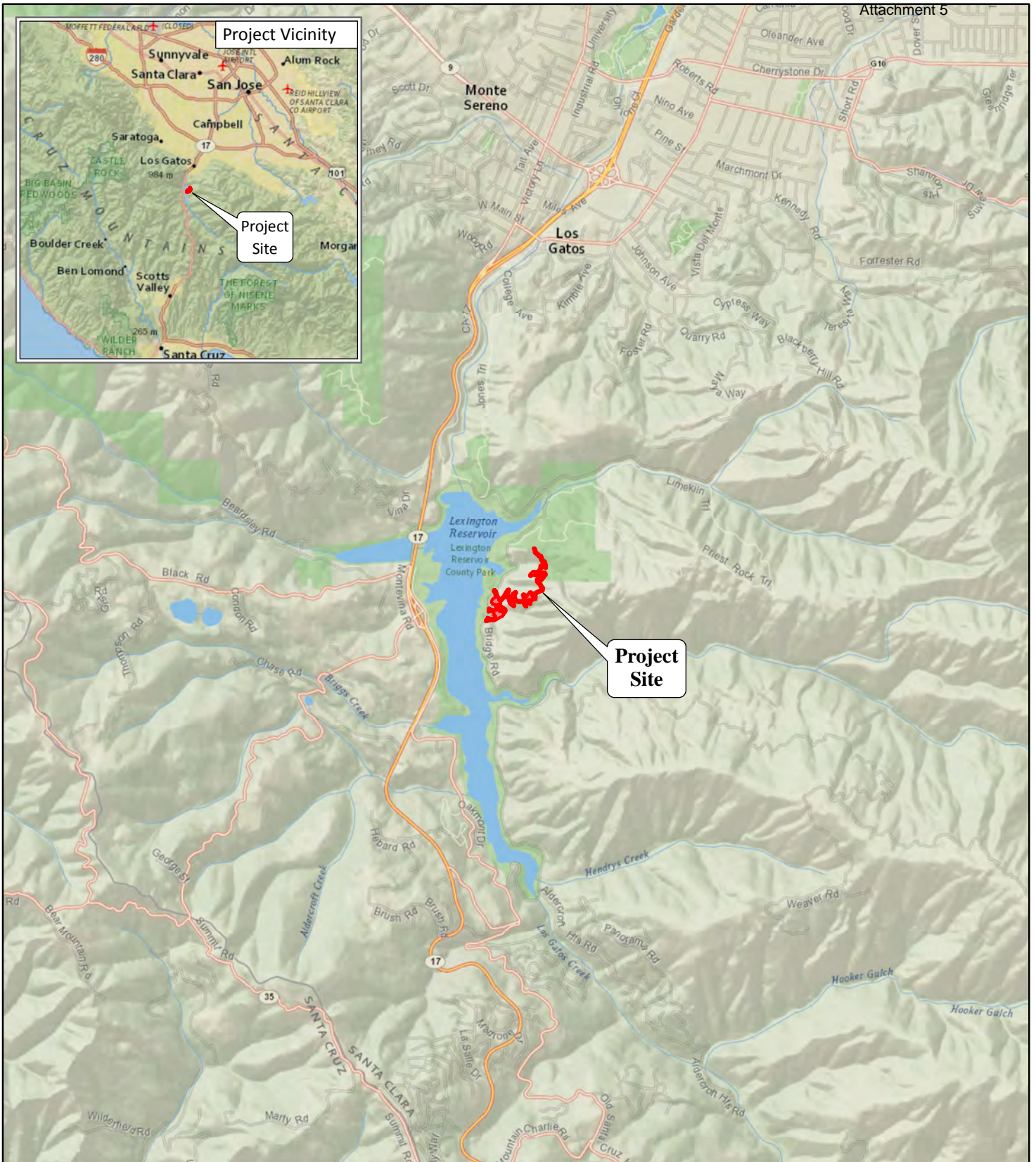
Issue Area	Opportunities	Constraints	Cost/Schedule	Permitting Requirements
			<p>permits. Costs could range from \$25,000-\$50,000 for coordinating with regulatory agencies and mitigation requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule – Could add 6-12 months to project schedule 	<p>culvert/drainage at Crossing #4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconstruction of the existing culvert at Crossing #5 may require a USACE nationwide permit. Tree removal permit from Santa Clara County may be required, if ordinance-protected riparian trees are impacted.
Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to preserve large, native trees. Proposed parking area is located in flat open area, which minimizes impacts to trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of culvert/bridge crossing and access road to the north may require removal of trees, including protected trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential increased costs associated with replacement mitigation for removal of protected trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree removal permit from Santa Clara County may be required, if trees are impacted.
Archaeological Deposits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This option would occur within areas that (1) have been previously surveyed for archaeological deposit, with negative results; and (2) have partially undergone (parking area) archaeological testing, with negative results. This option appears to possess the lowest potential for disturbing cultural resources within the “archaeologically sensitive area,” as identified in 2010. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because a culvert/bridge is required for Crossing #4, Section 106 would be triggered with a USACE nexus. If so, then monitoring, per CEQA-level recommendations, would likely not be sufficient in the “archaeologically sensitive areas” due to the results of prior excavation and the expectations of USACE reviewers. Preconstruction testing to identify intact deposits in the vicinity of the work area for the culvert/bridge at Crossing #4 would be expected as part of Section 106 identification. In addition, should an 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To address the assumed USACE/Section 106 review requirements, it is likely that an Archaeological Testing Plan (ATP) be implemented for the work area of the culvert/bridge. The ATP would be reviewed by USACE. If intact deposits are found, then an archaeological evaluation would be required by USACE. Should said deposit be considered eligible for the National Register (i.e., a “historic property” under Section 106), then USACE would consult with SHPO to (1) agree on the eligibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with 36 CFR Part 800 would be required prior to issuance of a USACE permit, particularly compliance with USACE’s 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C, which governs that agency’s review under Section 106. Should there be an adverse effect (e.g., if an eligible archaeological deposit would be disturbed by Crossing #4 construction), then measure to resolve the effect, as memorialized in the MOA, would be required.

Table D: Summary of Opportunities and Constraints

Issue Area	Opportunities	Constraints	Cost/Schedule	Permitting Requirements
		archaeological deposit be identified, additional documentation and work to evaluate the resource, assess effects, and develop/apply treatment measures would be expected to address the requirements of 36 CFR Part 800, which implement Section 106 review.	status; (2) develop a treatment plan (possibly including data recovery excavation); and (3) develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to implement the treatment plan under Section 106. Costs would be significantly higher for implementing identification and (potentially) evaluation and treatment to address USACE. The review, processing, and approval time for this joint USACE/SHPO review could run from 6-12 months (conservatively).	
Built Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase of interpretive potential for visitors to experience historical qualities of the Beatty home and related land-use history. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No built environment resources are located in this area. 		
Vault Toilet				
Special-Status Species	No issues related to special-status species are anticipated.			
Drainages/Riparian Vegetation	No issues related to drainages/riparian vegetation are anticipated. No regulatory agency permits would be needed.			
Trees	No issues related to trees are anticipated. Restroom could be sited to avoid tree removal.			
Archaeological Deposits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced surface area required for areal ground disturbance in the “archaeologically sensitive area” as compared to the plumbed restroom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This option would reduce the footprint of the ground surface that will require disturbance due to the lack of need for plumbing lines. However, the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please see entry, above in Option A, to apply to this item (monitoring cost/schedule). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological monitoring may be a condition of state-level permitting requirements.

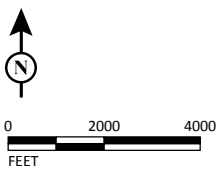
Table D: Summary of Opportunities and Constraints

Issue Area	Opportunities	Constraints	Cost/Schedule	Permitting Requirements
	While the vault would extend to a greater depth, the sensitivity-due-to-depth of this option is not as likely to encounter archaeological deposits based on what is known of their distribution around the Beatty House (i.e., the deposit around the house tends to a horizontal distribution rather than vertical, as currently known).	vault toilet would still occur within a portion of an “archaeologically sensitive area.” Monitoring is recommended.		
Built Environment	No issues related to built environmental resources are anticipated.			
Plumbed Restroom				
Special-Status Species	No issues related to special-status species are anticipated. Restroom could be sited to avoid roosting bats, nesting birds, and woodrat houses.			
Drainages/Riparian Vegetation	No issues related to drainages/riparian vegetation are anticipated. No regulatory agency permits would be needed.			
Trees	No issues related to trees are anticipated. Restroom could be sited to avoid tree removal.			
Archaeological Deposits		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This option would require trenching from the restroom to an existing well. For the same rationale as presented above (i.e., “horizontal” versus “vertical” distribution), this option would increase the likelihood of encountering historic-period archaeological deposits in the “archaeologically sensitive area.” Monitoring would likely be needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please see entry, above in Option A, to apply to this item (monitoring cost/schedule). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological monitoring may be a condition of state-level permitting requirements.
Built Environment	No issues related to built environmental resources are anticipated.			



LSA

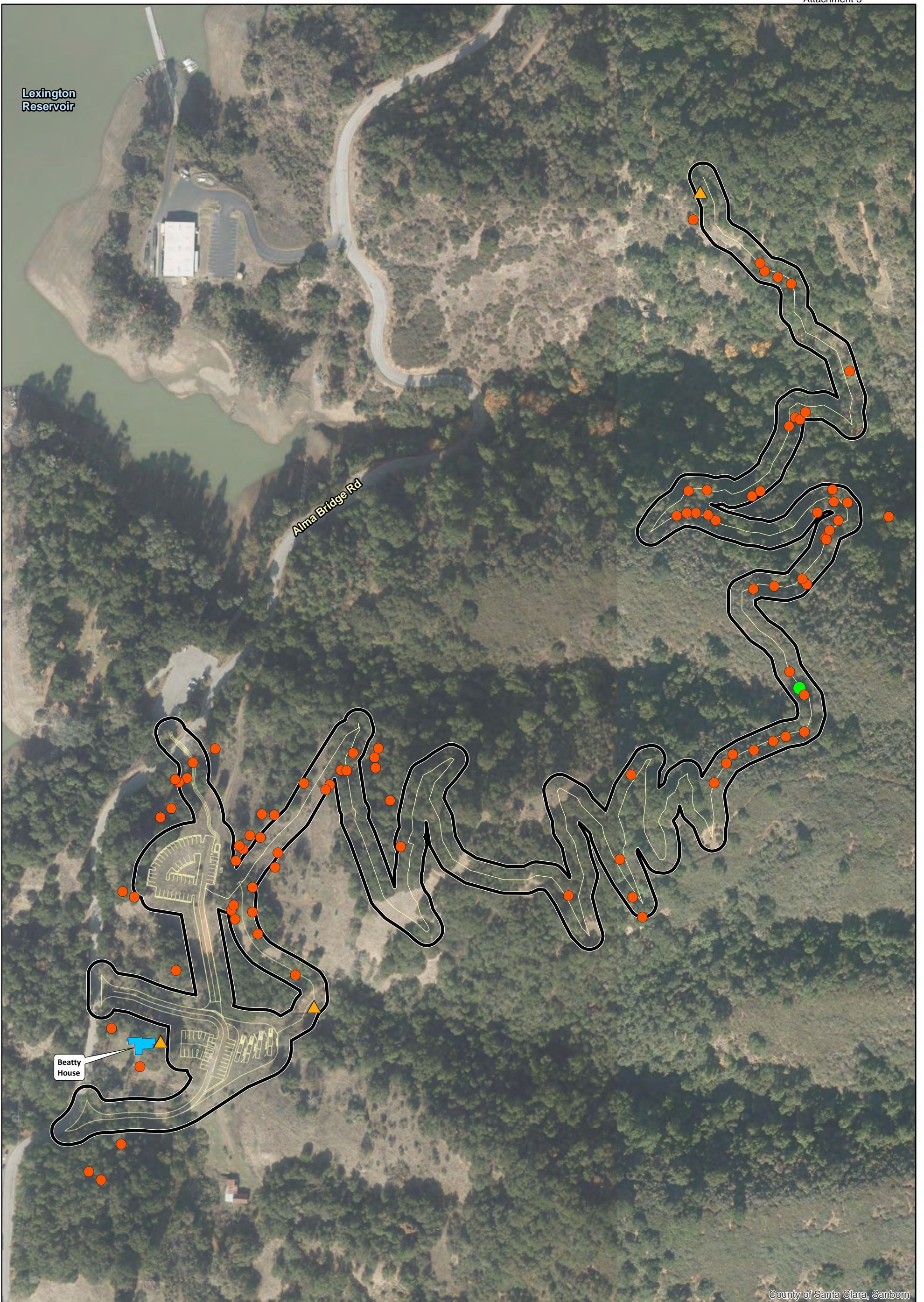
FIGURE 1



Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project
Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, California
 Project Site Location

SOURCE: National Geographic (c)2019.

I:\MOS1904\GIS\Maps\Bio Opp & Constraints Memo\Figure 1_Project Site Location.mxd (10/17/2019)

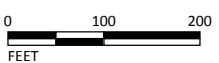


County of Santa Clara, Sanborn

LSA

LEGEND

-  Project Site
-  Proposed Improvements
-  Woodrat Nest
-  Rein Orchid
-  Tree/Snag with Hollow
-  Betty House (Known Bat Roost)



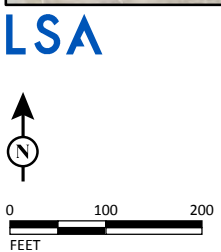
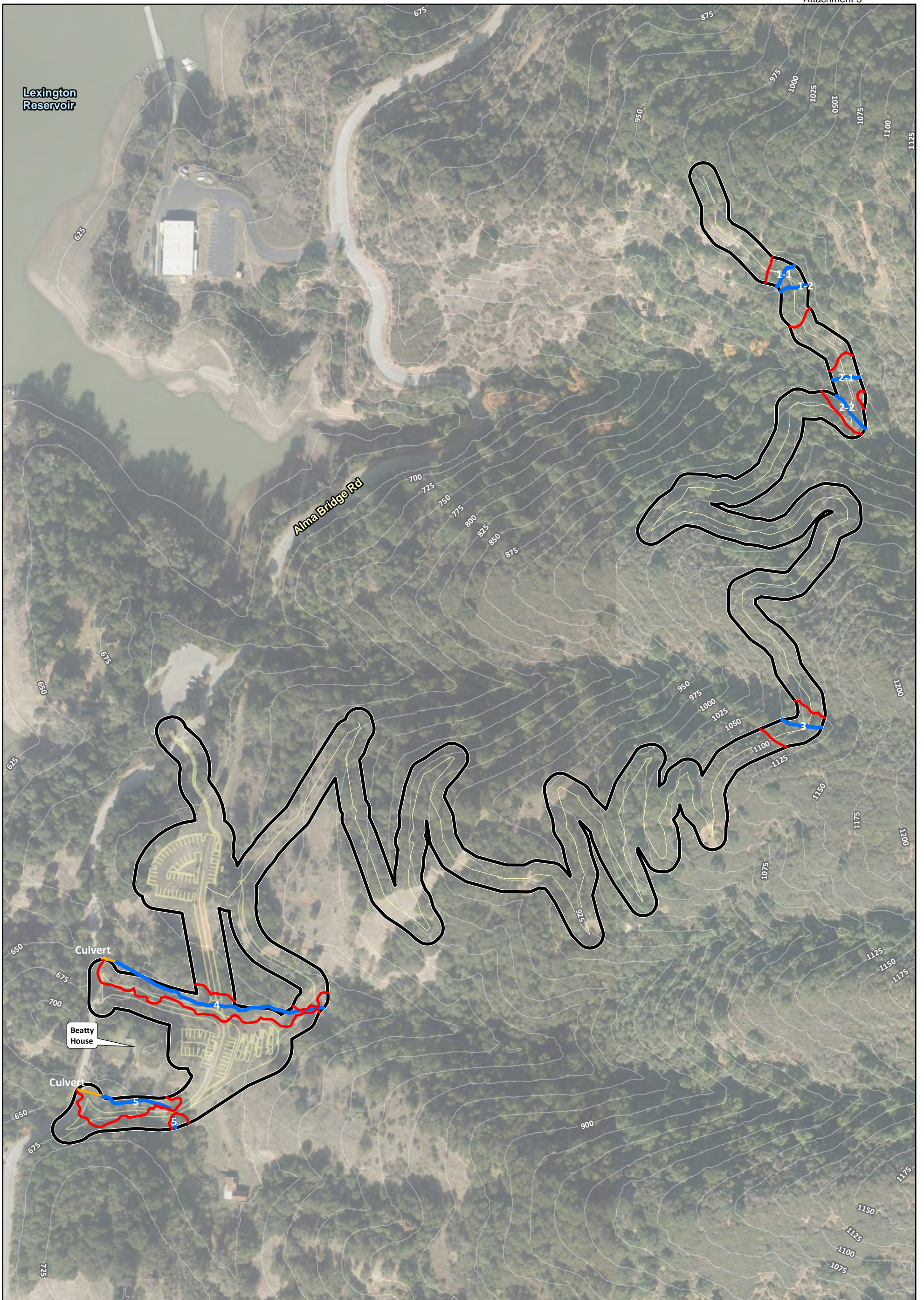
SOURCE: MROSD (09/2019); Santa Clara County (2018)..

I:\MOS1904\GIS\Maps\Bio Opp & Constraints Memo\Figure 2_Location of Rein Orchids, Woodrat Houses, Hollows, Bat Roosts.mxd (10/18/2019)

FIGURE 2

*Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project
Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, California*

Location of Rein Orchids, Woodrat Houses,
Trees/Snags with Hollows, and Known Bat Roosts



LEGEND

- Project Site
- Proposed Improvements
- Woody Riparian Vegetation (Approx. CDFW Jurisdiction)

Potential Waters of the U.S.

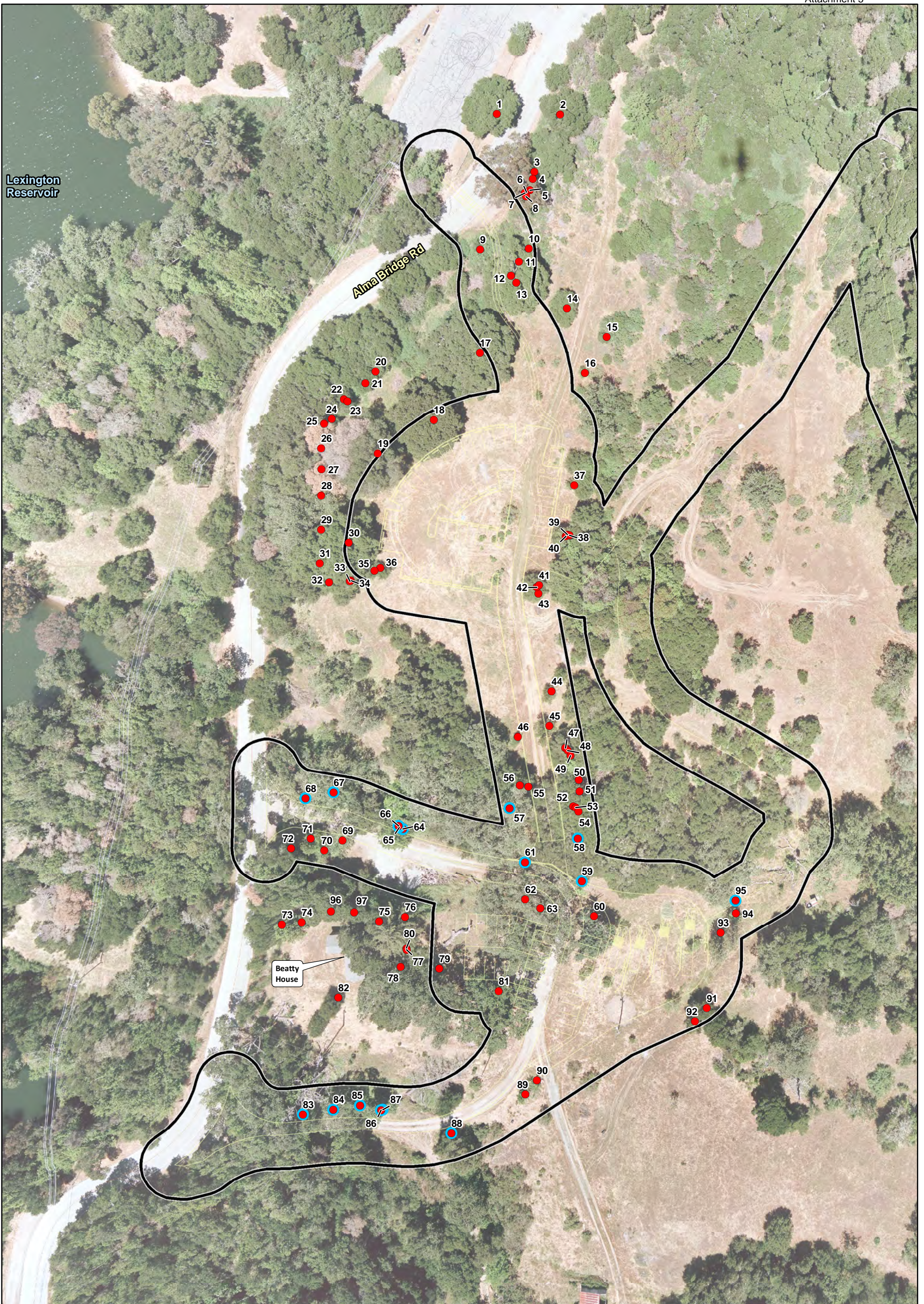
- Tributary
- Culvert

FIGURE 3

Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project
Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, California
Jurisdictional Features

SOURCE: MROSD (09/2019); Santa Clara County (2018)..

I:\MOS1904\GIS\Maps\Bio Opp & Constraints Memo\Figure 3_Jurisdictional Features.mxd (12/30/2019)



LSA

LEGEND





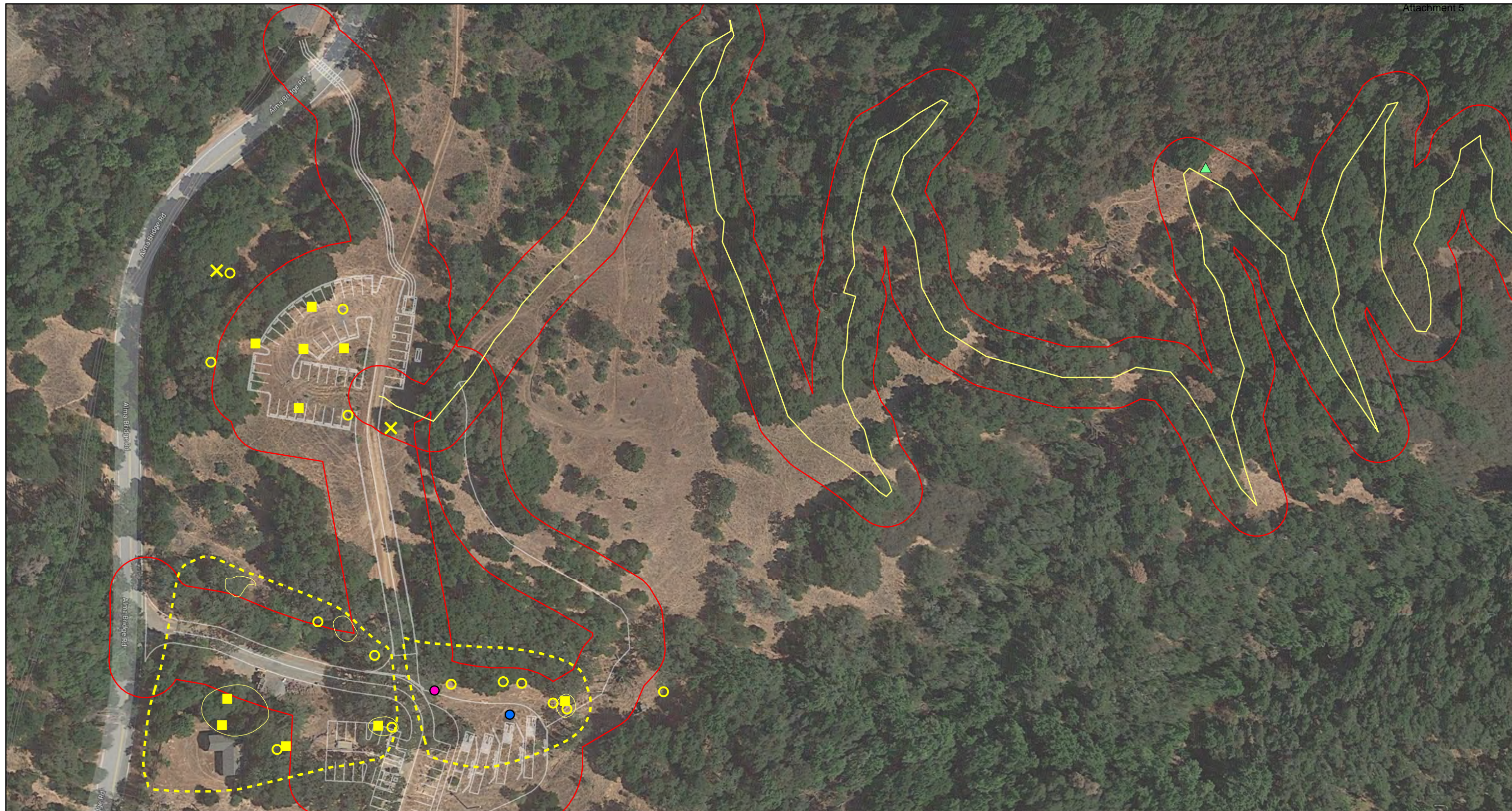
-  Project Site
-  Surveyed Tree (with Tree Number)
-  Proposed Improvements
-  Riparian Tree

FIGURE 4

Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project
Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, California
Surveyed Trees

SOURCE: MROSD (09/2019); Santa Clara County (2018)..

I:\MOS1904\GIS\Maps\Bio Opp & Constraints Memo\Figure 4_Surveyed Trees.mxd (12/30/2019)



LSA

LEGEND

- ▲ BOX SPRING
- modern trash
- plants ornament
- Auger Unit
- STP Unit
- X Diskers
- PropertyScoutingLine_Flagged
- 2010 Archaeo. Sensitive Area
- 2010 Artifact Concentration
- ProposedTrail_30ftBuffer
- Parking Improvements Study Area
- Proposed Parking Improvements



SOURCE: Use Upper and Lower Case Fonts (MM/YY)

I:\MOS1904\GIS\Maps\Cultural\Working\GPS cultural survey points.mxd (10/17/2019)

FIGURE 5

*Betty Parking Area and
Trail Connections Project
Los Gatos, Santa Clara County, California
Cultural Survey Data Points*



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

R-20-83

August 4, 2020

AGENDA ITEM 1

AGENDA ITEM

Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project at Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Accept a revised project scope for the Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project to only pursue at this time a permit-only parking area that would close during the rainy season when newt migration occurs and select one of the following concept plan options for this revised project scope:
 - Option 1: Vehicular-Only Permit Parking
 - Option 2: Vehicular and Equestrian Permit Parking
2. Forward to the Board of Directors the Committee-supported concept plan and project scope that would serve as the proposed project description to initiate environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

SUMMARY

On January 14, 2020, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) held a Planning and Natural Resources Committee (PNR) meeting for the Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project (Project). PNR toured the site, heard public comment, and provided early feedback on proposed program elements and project scope. Based on concerns received from the Audubon Society regarding newt mortality on Alma Bridge Road, PNR requested an evaluation of impacts from the proposed Project on newts and options to protect them.

Staff has since coordinated with numerous county, state, and regional partners to discuss issues and possible next steps. Staff also engaged with newt advocacy groups (Sierra Club and Audubon) and researchers (US Geologic Survey and US Davis Road Ecology Center) to further understand the citizens data collected to date and possible newt protective measures. Separate from this project, the District is working with Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) to develop a follow-up scientifically-valid study that characterizes the road mortality relative to long-term local population viability to inform the appropriate scale of any roadway modifications.

Given the duration to complete this study, and subsequently identify, design, permit, and construct roadway newt safety enhancements, the General Manager directed staff to modify the scope of the Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections Project to pursue a permit-only parking area at this time. A permit lot allows the District to carefully control visitor use and restrict access during the rainy season when newts migrate across Alma Bridge Road while still

honoring the timing commitment with the County to implement a new trailhead connection at this location. PNR will consider this approach as well as two conceptual designs for a permit lot to determine whether to forward the revised scope and a preferred design plan to the full Board of Directors (Board) to begin CEQA review. Sufficient funds to complete CEQA review are included in the FY21 adopted budget.

At the January meeting, the Committee also requested staff to investigate the possibility of using or expanding the existing Santa Clara County Miller Point parking lot across Alma Bridge Road. Based on discussions with Valley Water (underlying property owner) and County Parks (operator), site reconnaissance, and a desk-top analysis, the General Manager does not recommend further exploration of this alternative given major site constraints that would result in high cost and significant environmental impacts.

BACKGROUND

Project History

In April 2008, the District approved the purchase of the Beatty Trust property as an addition to Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve (Preserve). Santa Clara County (County) contributed \$950,000 toward the purchase (R-08-14) and in exchange, the County granted the District a conservation easement over the property with the following allowances and one time-specific requirement:

- Plan, design and construct facilities to facilitate public use of the property, which may include and is not limited to: multi-use trails, public parking areas, public restrooms, wildlife observation and environmental educational facilities, visitor centers, picnic areas, backpack camps, employee residences, maintenance facilities, and related infrastructure such as water systems;
- Conduct natural resource restoration and resource management, and restoration of cultural, historical, and agricultural or natural resources;
- Construct a trail connection from the former Beatty property to the Priest Rock Trail within fifteen years from the date of the recording of the easement (March 11, 2008).

The construction deadline for the trail is set to expire on March 11, 2023. Based on recent discussions, the County would consider a request to extend the deadline, particularly considering the COVID-19 shelter in place orders that have delayed project schedules. If the Board chooses not to pursue a permit lot at this time, staff would approach the County to request a significant time extension to allow sufficient time to complete the newt study and subsequent next steps to protect migrating newts across Alma Bridge Road – a timing that is uncertain given that implementation requires consent and action by other agencies with management and maintenance authority over the roadway.

In June 2018, the Board approved the Project as part of the Fiscal Year 2018-19 (FY19) Capital Improvement and Action Plan. The District soon after initiated planning for the proposed public access improvements. As stipulated in the County's conservation easement, the District has been consulting with the County on an ongoing basis. On March 2019, the County expressed a desire to explore potential patrol and maintenance agreements given the use of a shared driveway through the Project area that accesses their adjacent property. District staff also discussed whether there is an opportunity to utilize the County's existing Miller Point parking lot on the

west side of Alma Bridge Road to service the needs of the proposed new trail connection to Priest Rock Trail.

In August 2019, the District awarded a contract to LSA Associates, Inc., (LSA), for environmental and permitting consulting services to support the Project (R-19-111). LSA's scope of work includes evaluating opportunities and constraints, including biological and archaeological considerations, cost and schedule impacts, and permitting requirements to inform the development of site design alternatives. The District is implementing a multi-disciplinary approach to project planning and delivery with multiple departments leading specific Project components. Planning is leading the environmental review (CEQA). Engineering and Construction is leading the conceptual design and feasibility analysis of the parking area and disposition of the Beatty house. Natural Resources is leading the natural resources surveys and reviewing LSA's work during environmental review. Land and Facilities is leading the trail design and construction.

On January 14, 2020, PNR held a meeting onsite to discuss the Project goals and potential design concepts. Staff presented the existing site conditions, including site characteristics and regional trail connection opportunities. Members of the public provided comments regarding newt mortalities on Alma Bridge Road and how this Project may impact newt populations. PNR feedback is summarized under the Discussion section below.

Regional Trail and Site Context

The 56.88-acre former Beatty Trust property is located on the easterly side of Alma Bridge Road and Lexington Reservoir approximately two miles east of the Alma Bridge Road exit from Highway 17. The property is surrounded by Lexington Reservoir County Park to the north, west, south and partially to the east. The Lexington Reservoir County Park property is owned by Valley Water and operated by County Parks. County Parks also operates the Miller Point parking lot and picnic grounds located across Alma Bridge Road. San Jose Water Company land borders the former Beatty Trust property along a portion of its eastern boundary (Attachment 1).

Within this region, the District has been working collaboratively with partners to form a continuous greenbelt of permanently preserved open space by linking District lands with other public parklands. As part of this work, the District also contributes to regional trail connectivity, which includes the Bay Area Ridge Trail (Ridge Trail). The goal of the Ridge Trail is to provide a continuous multiple-use trail for mountain bicyclists, equestrians, and hikers/trail runners. To date, almost 300 miles of the total length of 500 Ridge Trail miles have been dedicated. The Priest Rock Trail in Sierra Azul Preserve is a popular recreational route, an important patrol access route, and is also designated as part of the Ridge Trail. In 1999, the District accepted a gift of a trail easement through San Jose Water Company lands southeast of the property, allowing for a future trail connection from the Beatty property to the Priest Rock Trail and the Ridge Trail corridor (R-99-88). As such, this Project also provides a key staging area for visitors accessing the Ridge Trail via the Priest Rock Trail to connect to other trails within Sierra Azul and/or head northwest toward the future Highway 17 trail crossing to access trails west of Highway 17 (Attachment 2a and 2b).

Prior Planning Work in Cathedral Oaks area at Sierra Azul Preserve

The Cathedral Oaks area of the Preserve has been part of several planning efforts over the last ten years. During a 2008 planning and public engagement process for Bear Creek Redwoods and Sierra Azul Preserves, members of the public shared feedback about the limited facilities for

boarding and riding horses within the area. They also requested more public access opportunities, multi-use trails, and equestrian amenities such as equestrian staging areas, water troughs, and hitching posts. The District identified potential parking and trails in the Cathedral Oaks area at Sierra Azul, including the newly acquired Beatty property along Alma Bridge Road whose flat terrain could support parking to access the trail system east of Highway 17. This public access opportunity was called out as the “Alma Bridge Road to Priest Rock Trail Connection – New trail connection from new parking area to Priest Rock Trail”.

In 2011, staff evaluated the property as a potential field office site, which the Preliminary Use and Management Plan recommended evaluating, but after preliminary site investigations, staff concluded that a field office was infeasible due to the lack of water to support such a facility.

During the 2012 vision planning process, the public identified the Cathedral Oaks area as a priority for public access, now identified as Vision Plan Priority Action #22. The parking area and trail project is also part of Measure AA Portfolio #22 (Sierra Azul: Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Projects), which includes: “Develop multi-use trail... Develop parking... Install trailside amenities.” The potential parking area was envisioned to include approximately 20 to 30 vehicle spaces, 4 to 6 horse trailer spaces, and a vault toilet.

DISCUSSION

Prior Planning and Natural Resources Committee Feedback

PNR met on-site on January 14, 2020 to familiarize themselves with the property and environmental resources (Attachment 3), and gain an understanding of the Project scope and programming elements. PNR provided the following feedback to guide the development of the conceptual design alternatives:

- Newt protection and environmental enhancements
 - Utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect newts
 - Consider additional environmental enhancements and restoration activities that provide net environmental benefits
- Parking Area
 - Maximize parking capacity in the open flat area
 - Provide a few parking area design options with different vehicle capacities
 - Avoid parking east of the drainage channel
 - Consider porous pavement
 - Explore partnering with County Parks to use and/or expand the existing Miller Point parking lot across Alma Bridge Road
- Equestrian parking
 - Provide up to two (2) horse trailer parking spaces
- Circulation
 - Evaluate re-opening an old road cut onto Alma Bridge Road as ingress/egress for the new parking area
- Restroom/toilet
 - Consider vault toilets over plumbed, flush toilets
 - Discuss with County Parks the use of the toilet at the Miller Point parking lot
- Bicycle parking
 - Provide bicycle racks
- Interpretation

- Protect and preserve the history of the area

Alma Bridge Road Newt Study

The District first became aware of newt roadkill concerns along Alma Bridge Road in November 2017. District staff have since participated in ongoing conversations with newt advocacy groups and researchers and developed a Frequently Asked Questions document to convey our knowledge of and ongoing involvement in raising awareness about the newt mortality issue.

At the January 14, 2020 PNR meeting, Audubon Society raised concerns about ongoing newt mortality on Alma Bridge Road and the potential impacts of the proposed Project on newts. District staff subsequently participated in a meeting with Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), the newt advocacy groups (Audubon, Sierra Club), and researchers (UC Davis Roadkill Ecology Center, USGS) to discuss data collection, potential mitigation options, and process. Staff also met with primary land holders, including County Roads, County Parks, and Valley Water to discuss the issue. Both indicated the need for a more systematic study demonstrating with greater clarity the impacts to newts and beneficial outcomes of major roadway modifications in order for their agencies to consider contributing significant funds towards and/or being willing to install and maintain roadway modifications in the future. Staff is currently pursuing a collaborative study with stakeholders to further quantify impacts of roadkill to the newt population. A research proposal separate from the Beatty Project is being developed for review by the District, POST, Valley Water, County Roads, and County Parks prior to an upcoming PNR meeting where it will be discussed. If recommended by PNR, award of funds for a District contribution to the study will then be brought to the full Board.

Additionally, the District continues to work with the newt advocacy groups and researchers to discuss solutions to the newt roadkill issue. The Board recently approved a support letter for a Proposition 68 grant to fund a University of California Davis project that will plan, design, and implement a pilot road crossing for newts on Alma Bridge Road.

Current Project Program Components

It is anticipated that the newt study and enhancement project will take more than four years to complete. In light of this extended duration, the General Manager directed staff to modify the scope of work for the Beatty Parking Area and Trails Connection Project to pursue a permit-only parking area at this time. A permit lot allows the District to carefully control visitor use and restrict access during the rainy season when newts migrate across Alma Bridge Road and still honor the timing commitment with the County to implement a new trailhead connection. As such, staff developed two permit parking area options for PNR consideration: (1) vehicular-only seasonal permit parking area and (2) vehicular and equestrian seasonal permit parking area. Both options include a trail connection to Priest Rock Trail from the permit parking area.

Trailhead and Trail Connection

The proposed trail connection will add approximately 1.3 miles of a new multi-use trail to Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve and traverse through an easement across Lexington County Park on Valley Water land to reach Priest Rock Trail (Attachment 4). The existing Priest Rock Trail is designated as a segment of the Ridge Trail and will be a future Highway 17 regional trail connection. To implement this trail connection, the District will need to formalize a trail management agreement with Valley Water, who owns the fee title land, and/or the County, who operates the recreational uses at Lexington Reservoir County Park. The Project would also require a Valley Water encroachment permit.

Seasonal Permit Parking Area (Options 1 and 2)

Option 1 offers vehicular-only parking and no equestrian parking stalls (Attachment 5). Ingress and egress would be provided through existing Gate SA41. Option 2 includes the parking area in Option 1 plus two equestrian parking stalls on the south side of the property, in a flat open area along the existing driveway (Attachment 6). Equestrian trailers would utilize Gate SA41 as ingress and Gate SA42 as egress for one-way circulation and ease of trailer access from Alma Bridge Road and through the site.

The proposed location was selected because it is an existing driveway system that has already been disturbed. The resources needed to upgrade it into a formal parking area are much less than those needed to establish a full-service parking area in an open meadow to the north, which was discussed at the previous PNR Committee meeting. And because the footprint for this permit parking area is much smaller, fewer impacts to natural resources are also anticipated.

In either option, the parking area would have a natural surface and accommodate 7 to 8 vehicle spaces. As is common for permit parking areas, this location would not include a restroom due to its proximity to the creek. The seasonal permit parking area would be open during the dry season and closed after the first significant rain event or by October 15 (whichever comes first) each year to late spring when significant storms are no longer forecasted or May 15 (whichever comes first) based on annual rainfall. The District would manage access to this site via an online parking permit system. Compliance with the permit system will involve additional patrol to monitor usage and regular changing of combination lock codes. Hikers would cross a stream over an existing ford to access the trail connection to Priest Rock Trail. Site improvements would include minor grading, placement of rocks in designated parking stalls, new split rail fencing, removable bollards, and trailhead signs near the parking area.

County Miller Point Parking Lot Expansion Feasibility

Per PNR request, District staff met with the Valley Water and the County on March 19, 2020 to discuss the possibility of utilizing and/or expanding the Miller Point parking lot as a separate parking option. Both the County and Valley Water were open to the concept of a potential expansion of the Miller Point parking lot if feasible. However, they acknowledged that the Project plans would be subject to their Community Projects Review and require a Valley Water encroachment permit for modifications to the existing County parking lot.

After closer site investigations and a desk-top analysis of topographic data, staff determined that it is infeasible to expand the Miller Point parking lot without major environmental impacts and significant cost and delay given the following:

1. **Topography constraints** – Current as-built plans show steep slopes up to 25% on all sides of the existing lot. These slopes were confirmed as part of an onsite site inspection. Any expansion would require extensive grading and/or retaining walls.
2. **Removal of large native trees** – The parking area is flanked by numerous large native trees.
3. **PG&E site constraints** – Existing utility poles surround and constrain the Miller Point parking lot.

Net Benefit

PNR also asked staff to consider a “net benefit” approach for the Project. Having a net benefit means including provisions or components that provide gains in environmental services (such as species and/or habitat enhancements) or ecological functions (such as improved hydrological connection). Having a net benefit results in an overall improvement in an environmental condition or process as a result of the proposed Project and is a goal that aligns well with District’s mission to both “*protect and restore the natural environment*” and to “*provide for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment.*”

The newt study and enhancement project that is taking place concurrently and emerged from this Project provides a significant added environmental net benefit to this area. This study will bring greater clarity regarding the impacts from the roadway to the local newt population and inform the design and implementation of long-term roadway modifications and/or enhancements to further protect this native species.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY21 adopted budget includes \$535,371 for the Beatty Parking Area and Trails Connection Project MAA22-004. The FY21 budget includes sufficient funds to cover project costs through the end of the fiscal year. Valley Water will fund a portion of trail construction and related costs through a \$149,906 Community Benefits Program grant. Valley Water has worked collaboratively with the District to finalize a grant funding agreement with execution anticipated in Summer 2020. Funding for future years budgets will be proposed as part of the annual budget and action plan process.

Order of magnitude costs for construction could range between \$85,000 to \$135,000 for Option 1-seasonal vehicle parking lot and between \$210,000 to \$330,000 for Option 2-seasonal vehicle and equestrian parking lot. Additional costs would be needed to complete final design and engineering.

The following table outlines the Measure AA Portfolio #22 Sierra Azul: Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Projects allocation, costs-to-date, projected future project expenditures and projected ending balance at the portfolio level.

MAA22 Sierra Azul: Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Projects:	\$6,714,000
Grant Income (through FY23):	\$256,016
Total Portfolio Allocation:	\$6,970,016
Life-to-Date Spent (as of 07/22/2020):	(\$1,225,916)
FY21 Encumbrances:	\$0
Remaining FY21 project budgets:	(\$535,371)
Future MAA22 project costs (projected through FY23+):	(\$3,691,013)
Total Portfolio Expenditures:	(\$5,452,300)
Portfolio Balance Remaining (Proposed):	\$1,517,716

The following table outlines the Measure AA Portfolio #22 allocation, costs-to-date, projected life-to-date project expenditures and projected portfolio balance remaining.

MAA22 Sierra Azul: Cathedral Oaks Public Access and Conservation Projects:	\$6,714,000
Grant Income (through FY23):	\$256,016
Total Portfolio Allocation:	\$6,970,016
Projected Project Expenditures (life of project):	
22-001 Hendrys Creek Property Land Restoration	(\$513,773)
22-002 Sierra Azul Cathedral Oaks Land Conservation	--
22-003 Freudenberg Land Purchase	(\$540,587)
22-004 Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections*	(\$3,897,940)
22-XXX Reserved for Land Acquisition	(\$500,000)
Total Portfolio Expenditures:	(\$5,452,300)
Portfolio Balance Remaining (Proposed):	\$1,517,716

*MAA22-004 will be split into two projects –Parking Area and Trail Connections, and Beatty House Disposition

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

PNR considered this item on January 14, 2020 and is reviewing this item for the second time.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

Pending Board acceptance of a conceptual site design and project description in Fall 2020, staff will begin environmental review for the Project.

NEXT STEPS

Pending PNR feedback, staff will refine a conceptual site plan design and project description in the first quarter of FY21 to forward to the Board in Fall 2020. Pending Board acceptance of the conceptual site plan design and project description, the project will advance into environmental review.

The table below provides a tentative project schedule and key milestones:

Milestones	Tentative Schedule
Site feasibility and constraints analysis Programming for conceptual design alternatives for proposed parking and trail connections Environmental and technical studies	Fall 2019 – Spring 2020
PNR meeting #1: site tour and project program considerations	January 14, 2020
PNR meeting #2: review of conceptual design alternatives	August 4, 2020

Board review and acceptance of conceptual site plan design and CEQA project description to advance to environmental review	Fall 2020
Environmental review and public comment period	Fall 2020
Board review and approval of Project and CEQA document	Fall 2021
Final design and permitting initiation	Fall 2021

Attachments

1. Project Area Map, Former Beatty Property Site Map
- 2a. Regional Trail Connection Option to Highway 17
- 2b. Regional Trail Connection Option to Highway 17
3. Project Environmental Resources
4. Conceptual Alignment for Trail Connection to Priest Rock Trail
5. Conceptual Parking Area Option 1, Vehicular Seasonal Permit Parking
6. Conceptual Parking Area Option 2, Vehicular and Equestrian Seasonal Permit Parking

Responsible Department Head:

Jane Mark, AICP, Planning Department

Prepared by:

Leialani Hufana, Planner II, Planning Department

Scott Reeves, Senior Capital Project Manager, Engineering & Construction

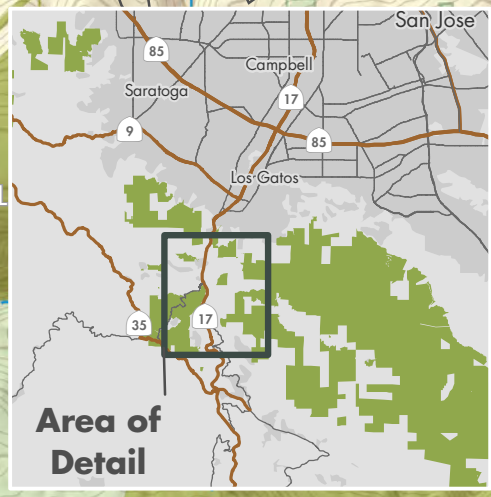
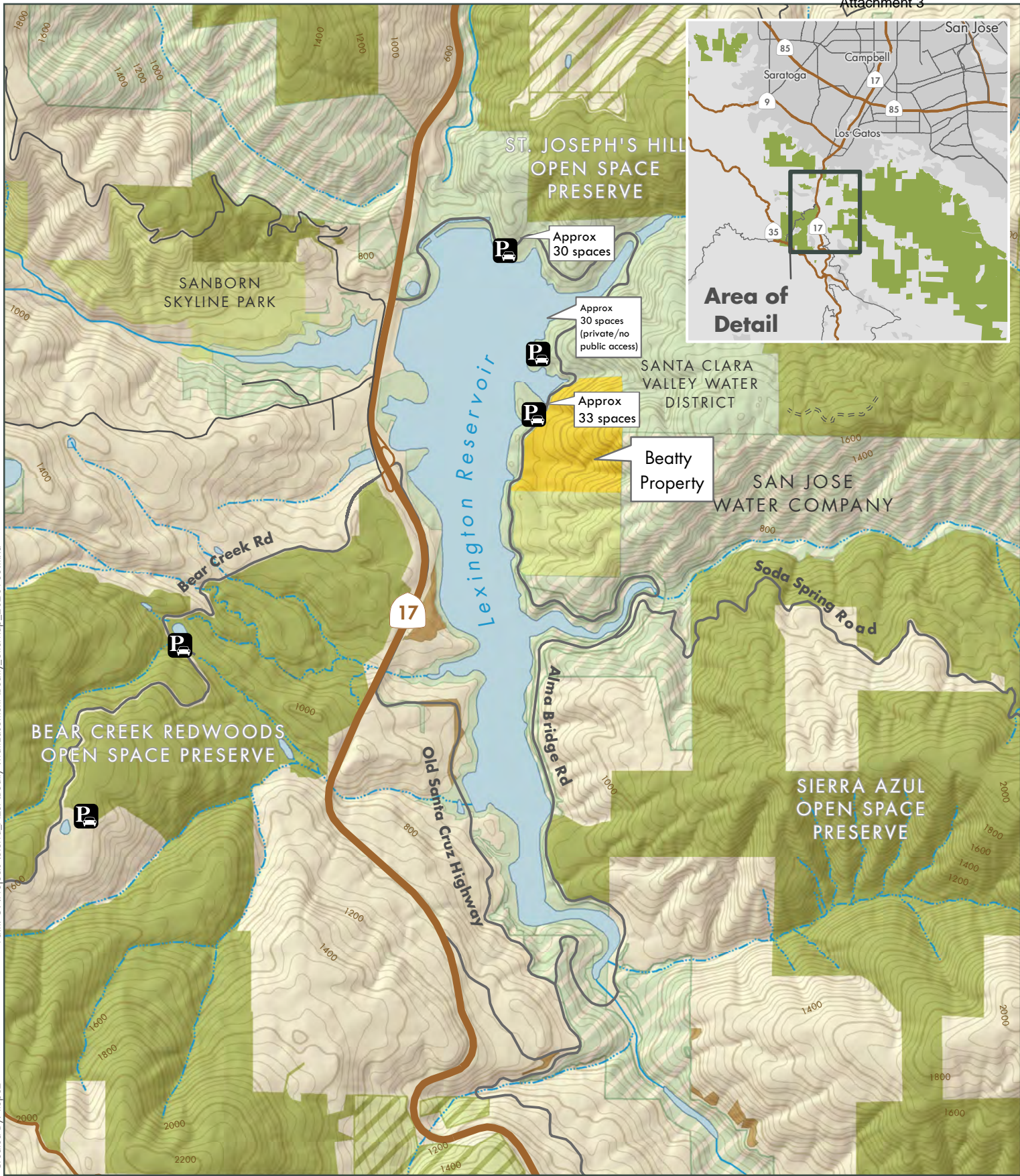
Karine Tokatlian, Resource Management Specialist II, Natural Resources

Bryan Apple, Capital Projects Field Manager, Land & Facilities

Staff contact:

Leialani Hufana, Planner II, Planning Department

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Created By: Iopez



Beatty Property Site Map

ATTACHMENT 1

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
(Midpen)
1/8/2020

- MROSD Preserves
- Other Protected Lands
- Private Property
- Watershed Land
- Former Beatty Property



While the District strives to use the best available digital data, these data do not represent a legal survey and are merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.

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Crossing 3a: Potentially Complete Feasible Trail Route Map

	Midpen Preserves	Potential East-West Trail Routes
	Other Protected Lands	Option 1
	Private Property	Existing Trail New Trail
	Preferred Highway Crossing Location	Option 2
	Unpreferred Highway Crossing Location	New Trail
	Highway or Major Road	Potential North-South Trail Routes
	Existing Road	Existing Trail New Trail
	Existing Trail	

Miles 0 0.25 0.5 October 2019

While the District strives to use the best available digital data, these data do not represent a legal survey and are merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.

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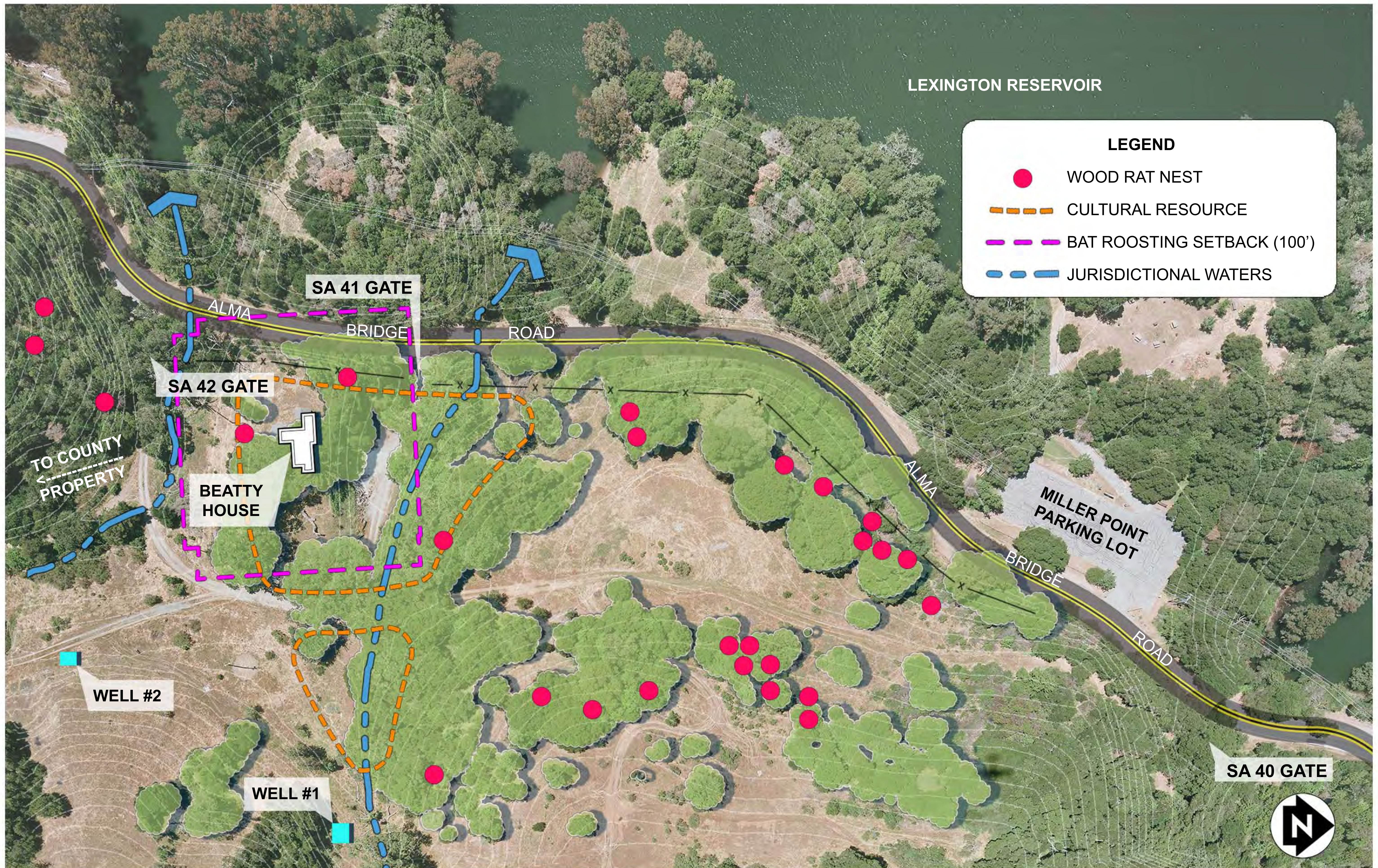


Crossing 5a: Potentially Complete Feasible Trail Route Map

	Midpen Preserves	Potential East-West Trail Routes
	Other Protected Lands	Option 1
	Private Property	Existing Trail New Trail
	Preferred Highway Crossing Location	Option 2
	Unpreferred Highway Crossing Location	New Trail
	Highway or Major Road	Potential North-South Trail Routes
	Existing Road	Existing Trail New Trail
	Existing Trail	

Miles 0 0.25 0.5 October 2019

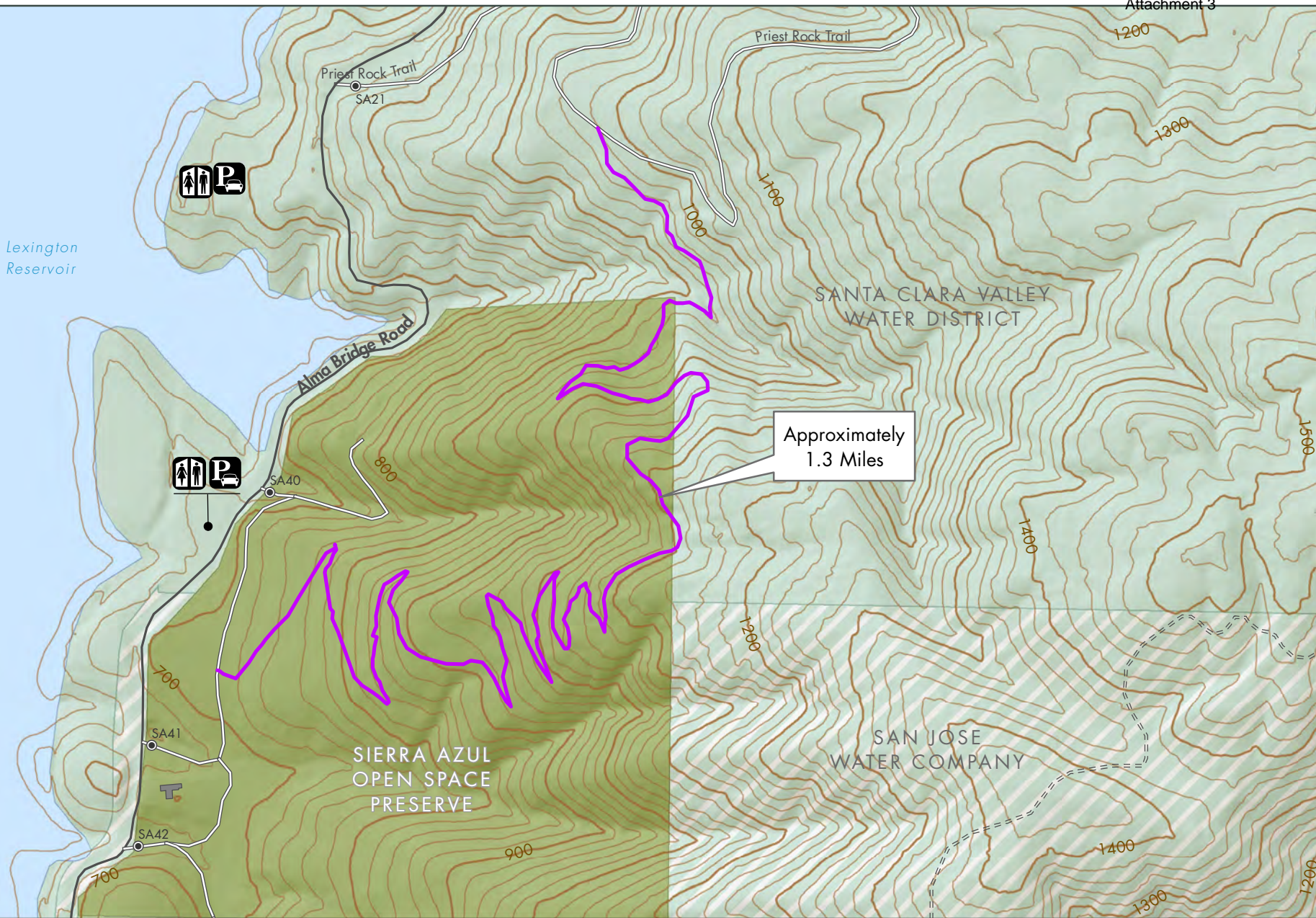
While the District strives to use the best available digital data, these data do not represent a legal survey and are merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.



BEATTY PARKING AREA

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

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Beatty Conceptual Trail Option

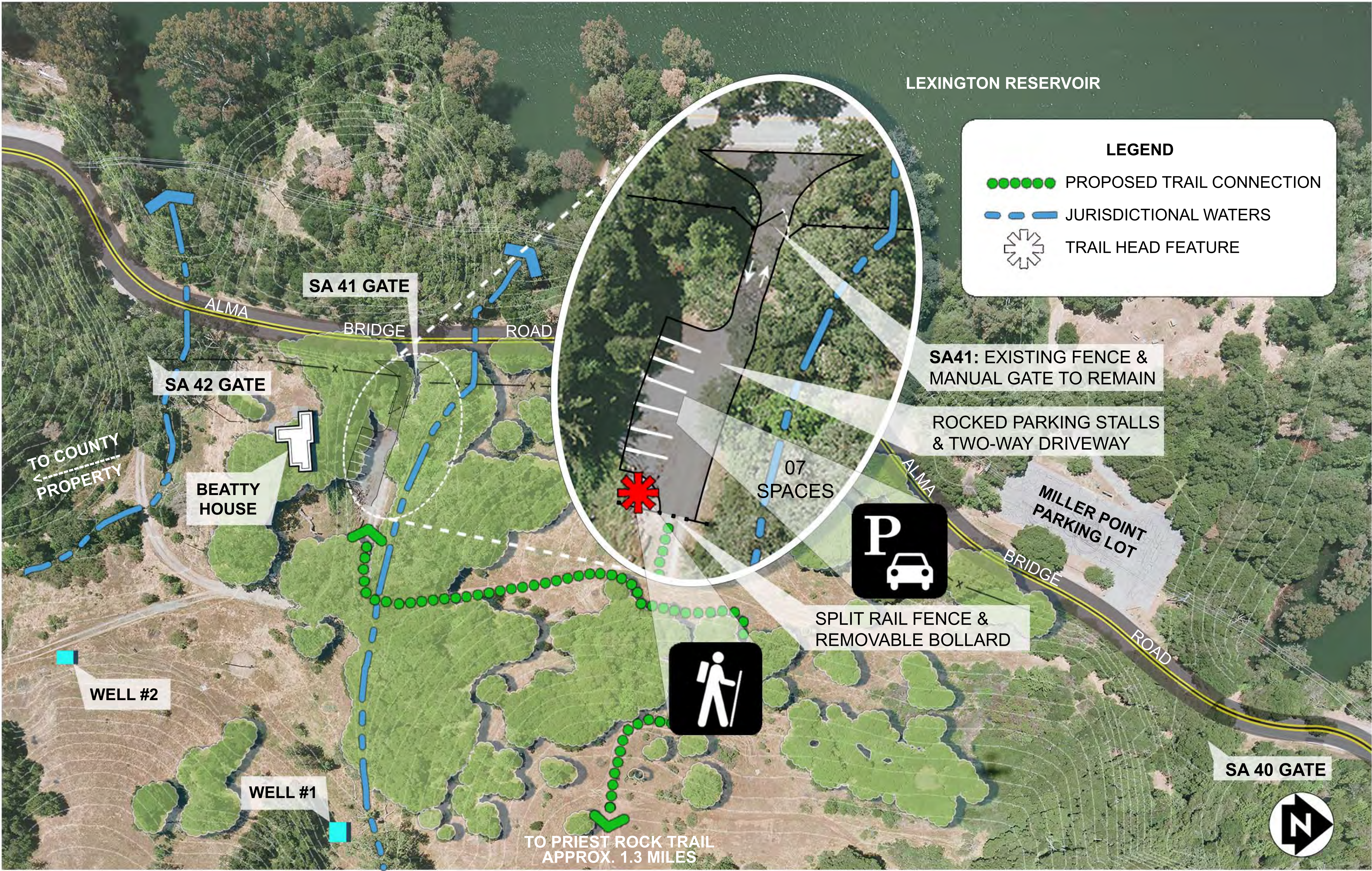
-  MROSD Preserves
-  Watershed Land
-  100- ft Contour
-  20- ft Contour
-  Property Scouting Line (Flagged)
-  Paved Road
-  Unpaved Seasonal Road

ATTACHMENT 4

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(Midpen)
1/3/2020

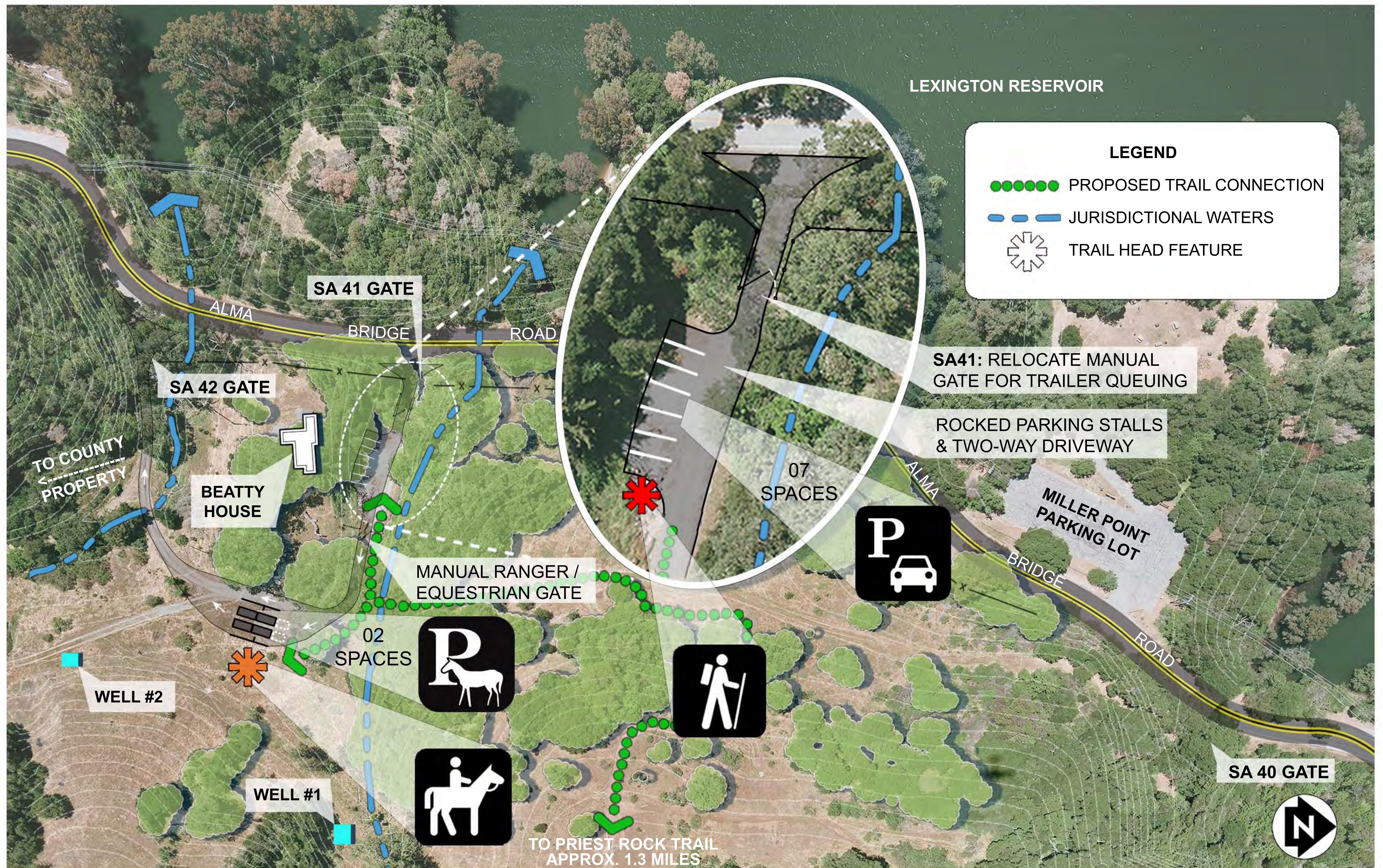


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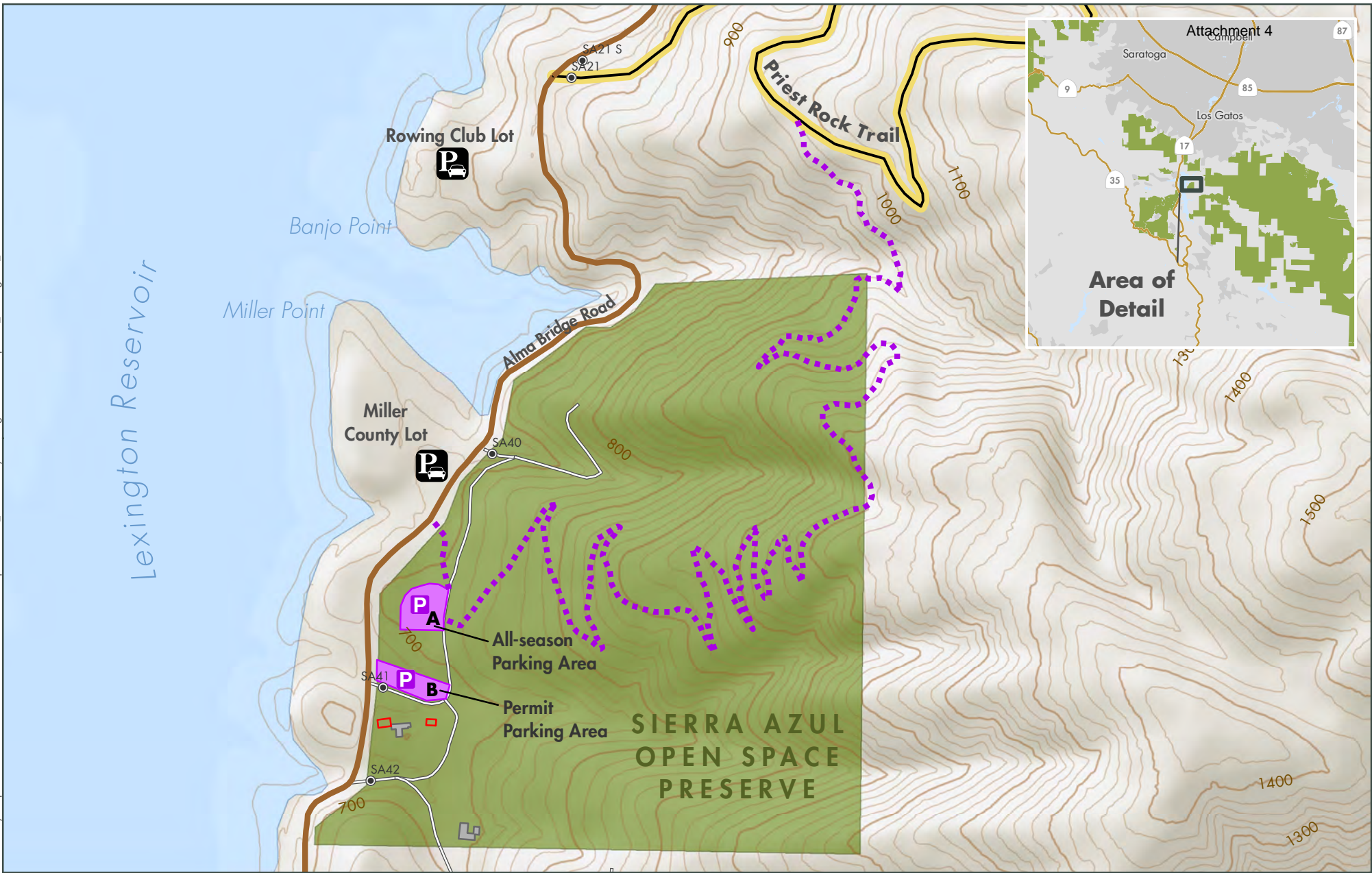
BEATTY PARKING AREA

OPTION 1: VEHICULAR SEASONAL PERMIT PARKING











BEATTY PARKING AREA

OPTION 2: VEHICULAR + EQUESTRIAN SEASONAL PERMIT PARKING



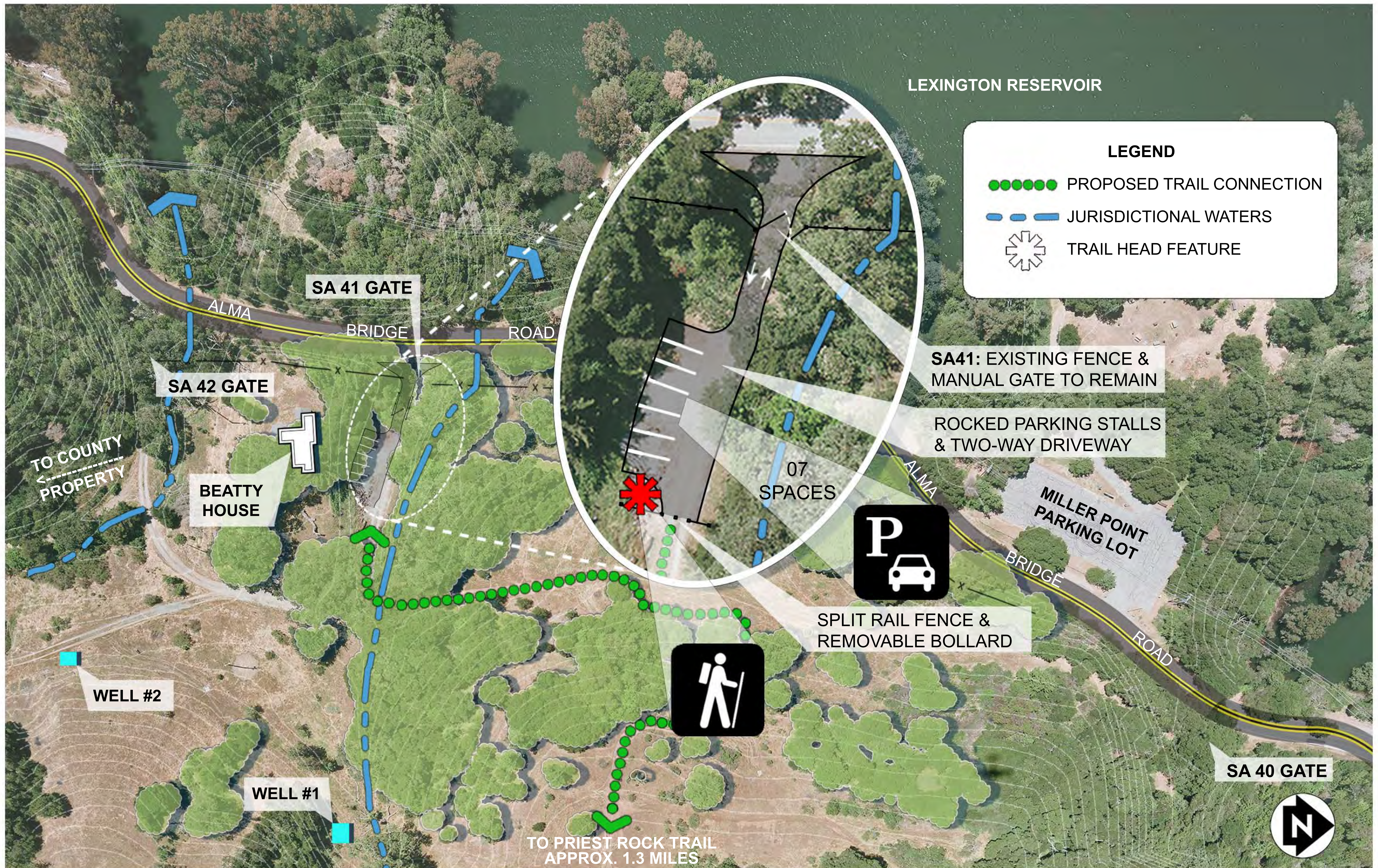
Beatty Parking Area and Trail Connections - Project Elements

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  MROSD Preserves |  Road |  Unpaved Seasonal Road |
|  Existing Parking Area |  Hiking, Bicycling, Equestrian Trail |  Juan Bautista and Bay Area Ridge Trail |
|  Proposed Parking Area |  Proposed Beatty to Priest Rock Trail Connection | |

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(MROSD)
January 2021



While the District strives to use the best available digital data, these data do not represent a legal survey and are merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.



BEATTY PARKING AREA

Option 2: Seasonal Permit Lot Concept