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DEDICATION

To all those citizens who have worked for parks and trails in San Mateo County, and in memory of:

Barbara Lind, Division of Parks and Recreation secretary and secretary to the Trails Advisory Committee,

Lew Reed, Woodside horseman, a longtime supporter of public parks and trails in San Mateo County.

And especially, **Harry Dean**, who guided the Trails Advisory Committee along the trails and through the phases of this plan's revision from 1987-1991.

1.0: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This document is the 2001 update of the San Mateo County Trails Plan. Trails planning on a county-wide level dates back nearly 25 years. The 2001 update is the third iteration of the Trails Plan.

In 1991, the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission requested the Trails Advisory Committee to review two trail routes, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and the California Coast Trail.

In 1995, the Trails Advisory Committee proposed an update to the 1990 Trails Plan. However, this plan was not adopted because of a lack of adequate environmental documentation. Since 1995, the Trails Advisory Committee has continued to refine the trail route proposals. The last revision to the Plan was made by the committee in 2001.

The 2001 Trails Plan is intended to fulfill the following objectives:

- Provide an updated Trails Plan with the latest desired alignments
- Link trails among existing and proposed trails in San Mateo County cities and parks, and to adjacent Counties
- Develop a set of policies and guidelines that can be used during detailed trail planning to ensure adequate trails are constructed within constraints presented by the environment
- Provide a plan for access for recreational and educational purposes to portions of the County where no access currently is available
- Improve access to and along the coast
- Provide recreational opportunities to area residents
- Provide commuter routes for alternative types of transportation (e.g., bicycles)

Approximately 304.45 miles of trails are proposed in the Trails Plan; 166.5 miles are existing trails. Two types of trails are included, County Trail Routes and Regional Trail Routes. The Trails Plan includes 28 County Trail Routes. Regional Trail Routes are routes of National, State, or regional recreational significance. These trails extend beyond the borders of San Mateo County. Four Regional Trail Routes are included in the Trails Plan:

- Bay Area Ridge Trail
- California Coast Trail
- Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
- Bay Trail

This update of the County Trails Plan is composed of five primary elements:

- **Proposed Trail Routes** — that when implemented will create a coordinated system of trails throughout San Mateo County
- **Inventory of Existing Trails** — an updated identification of the current trails in the County.
- **County Trails Policies** — a set of statements relating to the implementation of new, proposed trail routes illustrated on the County Trails Plan Map.
- **Design Guidelines** — specific directions that can be used as appropriate in designing individual trails.
- **Use and Management Guidelines** — specific directions that can be used as appropriate to determine the use and management of individual trails.

The proposed trail routes, when considered together, create a vision for a coordinated system of trails throughout San Mateo County. Trails Policies are a set of standards that should be followed during implementation of the Trails Plan. Design guidelines specify parameters for siting, designing, and constructing a new trail. Use and Management Guidelines specify how new trails should be maintained.

1.2 Trails Plan Objectives

The objectives of the Trails Plan are to:

- Provide an updated Trails Plan with the latest general alignments
- Provide connection between municipal trail systems and County trails and other jurisdictions trail systems.
- Link urban area residents with rural public lands of San Mateo County
- Develop a set of policies and guidelines that can be used during detailed trails planning
- Define environmental issues and mitigation measures to consider for trail planning, design, construction, and management
- Streamline future environmental review of specific trail proposals
- Provide access for recreation, transportation, and education benefits
- Improve access to and along the coast, San Francisco Bay and Ridgelines
- Provide trail-related recreation opportunities to County residents
- Provide an inventory of existing trails

2.0: SAN MATEO COUNTY TRAILS

2.1 Introduction

Regional, existing, and proposed trail routes in the County are illustrated on Figure 1. Trail numbers reflect whether the trail is regional (R), existing (E), or proposed (P). Table 2.1 is keyed to Figure 1 and identifies:

- Trail map key and name;
- Potential users that would likely be appropriate for the trail route given its general landscape setting and proximity to urban areas (note: determination of users would be made during the preparation of individual design and management plans as called for in the policies contained in Section 5);
- Trail beginning and ending points;
- Generalized estimates of total length;
- Generalized estimates of trail length completed; and
- Approximate percentage of trail completed.

2.2 Regional Trail Routes

Regional trail routes are those trails of National, State, or regional recreation significance. In all cases, Regional trail routes extend beyond the borders of San Mateo County. Regional Trails are generally envisioned as multiple-use trail routes in that they would accommodate a variety of trail users. In some instances, where topography and other physical constraints dictate, separate trails along the same general trail route may be needed to accommodate different users.

BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL (R1)

This multi-use regional trail will extend for approximately 400 miles along the ridges surrounding San Francisco Bay. The alignment through San Mateo County begins at the San Francisco County line near Fort Funston, traverses Thornton Beach State Park and

extends to the Santa Clara County line almost at Saratoga Gap, a distance of approximately 46 miles. Approximately 34 miles of trails are completed in San Mateo County. The Bay Area Ridge Trail is endorsed by the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County and all the cities therein.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail could pass through or connect the following existing public lands:

- Fort Funston
- Thornton Beach State Park
- Portions of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)
- Milagra/Sweeney Ridge area
- San Bruno Mountain State and County Park
- Fairview Park West
- Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park
- City of San Francisco's Watershed lands
- Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve
- The Phleger Estate lands of GGNRA
- Huddart County Park
- California Service Watershed and Bear Gulch Rd.
- Wunderlich County Park
- El Corte de Madera Open Space Preserve
- La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve
- Windy Hill Open Space Preserve
- Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve
- Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve
- Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL (R2)

The San Francisco Bay Trail is a proposed regional bicycling and hiking route that will extend around the Bay's shoreline for about 400 miles. When complete, the Bay Trail would link 10 cities in San Mateo County. The Bay Trail route has been designated along the shoreline in seven city General Plans. About 58 miles of the Bay Trail are completed in San Mateo County.

From north to south, intermittent segments of the San Mateo County portion of the Bay Trail start along the shoreline at Sierra Point, Oyster Point, and Point San Bruno in the Cities of Brisbane and South San Francisco. A nearly 24 mile long segment exists extending south from Millbrae Avenue in the City of Millbrae to Mariner Park in Redwood Shores. Connecting Menlo Park's Bayfront Park at Marsh Road to the trail along Highway 84 approaching the Dumbarton Bridge, the Bayfront Expressway Trail is a paved, 2-mile trail for pedestrians and bicyclists paralleling the east side of the Bayfront Expressway from Marsh Road to Highway 84 at University Avenue in East Palo Alto. A short section of the Bay Trail goes south through the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve and continues to Bay Road in East Palo Alto. Virtually all of the completed portions of the Bay Trail accommodate hikers and bicyclists.

FIGURE 1

Figure 1
backside