Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway Environmental Impact Report

Draft EIR Public Meeting
Introductions
Project Team

- Rich Deal – Transportation Agency for Monterey County (Lead Agency)
- Stefania Castillo – Transportation Agency for Monterey County
- Greg Maher – Alta Planning + Design
- Megan Jones – Rincon Consultants
- Kate Giberson – Harris & Associates
- Kari Zajac – Rincon Consultants
Meeting Outline

- Project Overview
- Environmental Review Process
- Summary of Draft EIR
- Public Comments on Draft EIR
- Open House Forum
  - Questions & Answers
  - Formal Comment
Project Overview
Project Vision

28-mile multi-use trail
- Safe, accessible, and separated alternative to cars
- Connect people to open space and recreation
- Enhance connections between communities
- Function as habitat corridor
- Complement the built environment
Trail Width

GREENWAY (up to 150’)

8’ - 12’

16’ max

GREENWAY (up to 150’)

OVERHEAD CLEARANCE
12’ max
Environmental Review Process
Purpose and Requirements

- CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act
- Inform decision making
- Disclose potentially significant environmental impacts
- Identify mitigation measures
- Consider alternatives
- Foster public participation and interagency coordination
The EIR Process

NOTICE OF PREPARATION FOR EIR

DRAFT EIR

FINAL EIR

EIR CERTIFICATION & DECISION ON THE PROJECT

TAMC SOLICITS INPUT ON SCOPE OF DRAFT EIR

TAMC SOLICITS COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIR

PUBLIC HEARINGS

WE ARE HERE
Purpose of Today's Meeting

- CEQA process overview
- Summarize Draft EIR findings
- Accept comments
  - Environmental issues
  - EIR adequacy
Summary of Draft EIR
Issue Areas Analyzed

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use & Planning
- Noise
- Public Safety & Services
- Recreation
- Traffic
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities & Service Systems
- Wildfire
Environmental Impact Analysis

- Impacts identified per CEQA Guidelines and regulations
- Mitigation measure(s) avoid or reduce impacts to below thresholds
- Impact determinations:
  - Less than significant
  - Less than significant with mitigation
  - Significant and unavoidable
Summary of Project Impacts

- Draft EIR Table ES-1
- 63 impacts identified
  - 38 less than significant
  - 25 less than significant with mitigation
  - 0 significant and unavoidable
Key Resource Topics

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Public Safety & Services
Aesthetics

- Scenic vistas, visual character, and night lighting
  - Structure design
  - Amenity design
  - Dark sky-compliant lighting
Farmland and agricultural conflicts
  • Land conservation
  • Reduce construction-related conflicts
  • Fencing and signage
  • Solid waste and litter removal
Special status species
- Pre-construction surveys
- Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation
- Habitat mitigation and monitoring plan
- Compensatory mitigation
- Worker environmental awareness program
- Biological monitoring

Sensitive habitat
- Avoidance
- Mitigation and monitoring plan
- Construction best management practices
- Invasive weed prevention and management
Biological Resources

- Wetlands
  - Jurisdictional Delineation
  - Restoration
  - General avoidance and minimization
Cultural Resources

- Archaeological resources
  - Construction monitoring
Hazards & Hazardous Materials

- Soil contaminants
  - Soil sampling and remediation
  - Soils management plan

- Airport hazards
  - Noticing/signage
  - Fencing
Public Safety & Services

- Calls for police protection
  - Safety provisions determined by law enforcement
  - Safety patrols
  - Protocols for illegal camping
  - Monitoring and reporting
  - Adaptive management

- Solid waste
  - Litter removal
# Alternatives

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<tr>
<th>Evaluated in EIR</th>
<th>Rejected from Further Consideration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. No Project</td>
<td>SR 218 Alternative</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Increase Use of Existing Roadways</td>
<td>SR 218 Overcrossing</td>
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<td>3. Substitute Crossings</td>
<td>Widening South Boundary Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Frog Pond Wetland Preserve Northerly Alignment</td>
<td>Bicycles Excluded in Frog Pond</td>
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Alternatives Evaluated in EIR

1. No Project
   - No new trail

2. Increase Use of Existing Roadways
   - Follow existing roads. No trail through Del Rey Oaks, Frog Pond, or to Ryan Ranch

3. Substitute Crossings
   - No overcrossings, alternative South Boundary Road crossing

4. Frog Pond Wetland Preserve Northerly Alignment
   - Realigned to follow existing trail in northern portion of preserve
2. Increased Use of Existing Roadways
4. Frog Pond Wetland Preserve Northernly Alignment

Alt 4

Proposed
Alternatives Considered but Rejected

- **SR 218 Alternative**: Safety risks, lose ATP funding, would not meet objectives.
- **SR 218 Overcrossing**: Footprint would encroach into Frog Pond, extensive grading, utility conflicts.
- **Widening South Boundary Road**: Realignment of roadway with similar trail already planned, would not meet objectives.
- **Bicycles Excluded in Frog Pond**: Would not meet project objectives, safety risks for bicyclists.
1. No Project

2. Increase Use of Existing Roadways

3. Substitute Crossings

4. Frog Pond Wetland Preserve Northerly Alignment

- Environmentally Superior
- Reduced impact for all issues, would not meet objectives
- Reduced impact for most issues, meets most objectives
- Impacts comparable to project
- Reduced biological impacts at Frog Pond
Next Steps

- Deadline for comments on Draft EIR: January 3, 2020
- Final EIR (Response to Comments): Spring 2020
- Certification of Final EIR: Spring 2020
- Decision on Project: Spring 2020
Public Comments

- Focus: Environmental issues and EIR adequacy
- Submit written comments to:
  Transportation Agency for Monterey County
  55 B Plaza Circle
  Salinas, California 93901
  Attn: Rich Deal, PE, TE, PTOE
  rich@tamcmonterey.org
- Deadline: Friday, January 3, 2020 @ 5:00 PM
Open House Forum

Questions and Answers

Formal Comment
Northern Marina Segment

Alternative at-grade crossing for proposed bridge

No objects are proposed along the trail within Airport Safety Zones

Connection to future development
Reservation Rd and Inter-Garrison

Alternative Alignment

Proposed FORTAG Alignment

Alternative at-grade crossing
Cal State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB)

**Main Gate**

**The Dunes**

**Campus Town**

*Alternative Alignment*

*Proposed FORTAG Alignment*

*Alternative at-grade crossings*
CSUMB - Marina Neighborhood Connection

Proposed FORTAG Alignment
Connections to:

01 | Hilby Avenue
02 | Broadway Avenue
03 | San Pablo Avenue
Alternative Alignment to Angelus Way Plumas Ave (PG&E Easement)

- PG&E easement - recapture backyard right-of-way
- Tunnel effect behind Plumas Ave homes vs. user safety
- Missed opportunity to connect parks
Frog Pond
Northern Alignment Alternative

- Avoids impacts to wetland
- Opportunities for removal of invasive plants and restoration of habitat
- Better separation of bike trail from walking path
At-Grade Crossing Alternative to Tunnel
Carlton Drive / SR 218

- Eliminates tunnel
- Requires crosswalk warning system
- Traffic signal not warranted
Laguna Grande Regional Park

Alternative Alignment

Proposed FORTAG Alignment

Existing North Fremont Multi-Modal Corridor
Ryan Ranch Segment

Alternative Alignment

Roundabout at S Boundary Rd (planned)

Wildlife Corridor

Proposed FORTAG Alignment

S Boundary Rd cycletrack (planned)

Shark Fin Parcel

Ryan Ranch Business Park