
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

DATE: January 9, 2026

TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

SUBJECT: **Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project — MONTEREY COUNTY**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the proposed Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project (Proposed Project). DPR has directed the preparation of an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) in compliance with CEQA.

Project Location: The project is located within Garrapata State Park, along Highway 1 at Soberanes Point, Carmel California, 93923. The Park is located approximately four miles south of Carmel-By-The-Sea, Monterey County.

Project Description: The Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail (Project) is a proposed Class 2 pedestrian trail totaling approximately 5 miles of new, re-routed trail and 3 miles of decommissioned trail. The re-aligned trail will be longer than the existing trail since it will be constructed at a lesser grade but still maintain access to the top of Rocky Ridge and connect with the Soberanes Canyon Trail like the existing trail does.

The Rocky Ridge trail is currently closed due to safety concerns. The trail currently has failed step sections that were a direct result of the steep trail that, in its current alignment, is highly subject to erosion. The trail is currently closed due to hiker safety concerns. In the past, efforts were made to deal with the erosion using water bars and replacement of steps as they became undermined, but the trail was ultimately shown to be unmaintainable and a plan to re-route the trail per the Proposed Project was developed.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts: Potentially significant impacts on biological resources were identified in the Initial Study. All impacts are reduced to a less than significant level with the implementation of mitigation measures. Additionally, the Project also includes Standard Project Requirements and Project Specific Requirements to ensure that all potential impacts are further reduced to a less than significant level.

Hazardous Waste Sites: Pursuant to Section 15087(c)(6) of the Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act, State Parks acknowledges the non-existence of hazardous waste sites within the project area reviewed by this MND.

IS/MND Document Review and Availability: The public review and comment period for the IS/MND will extend for 30 days starting **January 9, 2026 and ending February 9, 2026**. The IS/MND can also be viewed and/or downloaded on the DPR website at the following web addresses:

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=579

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=982

Comments/Questions: Comments and/or questions regarding the IS/ND may be directed to Amberly Morgan, ECORP Consulting, 2525 Warren Drive, Rocklin CA 95677 amorgan@ecorpconsulting.com or Jim Doran, California Department of Parks and Recreation, One Capitol Mall (Suite 410), Sacramento, CA 95814 or email: ceqa.nsc@parks.ca.gov