COUNTY OF PLACER
Community Development Resource Agency

Michael J. Johnson, AICP
Agency Director

ENVIIRONMENTAL
COORDINATION SERVICES

Gina Langford
Environmental Coordinator

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT EIR FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Placer County has released a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project listed below:

PROPOSED PROJECT: **Hidden Falls Regional Park Project**
(PEIR T20070444, State Clearinghouse# 2007062084)

COMMENT REVIEW PERIOD: June 17, 2009 to July 31, 2009

PROJECT LOCATION: Between north Auburn and the City of Lincoln in Placer County

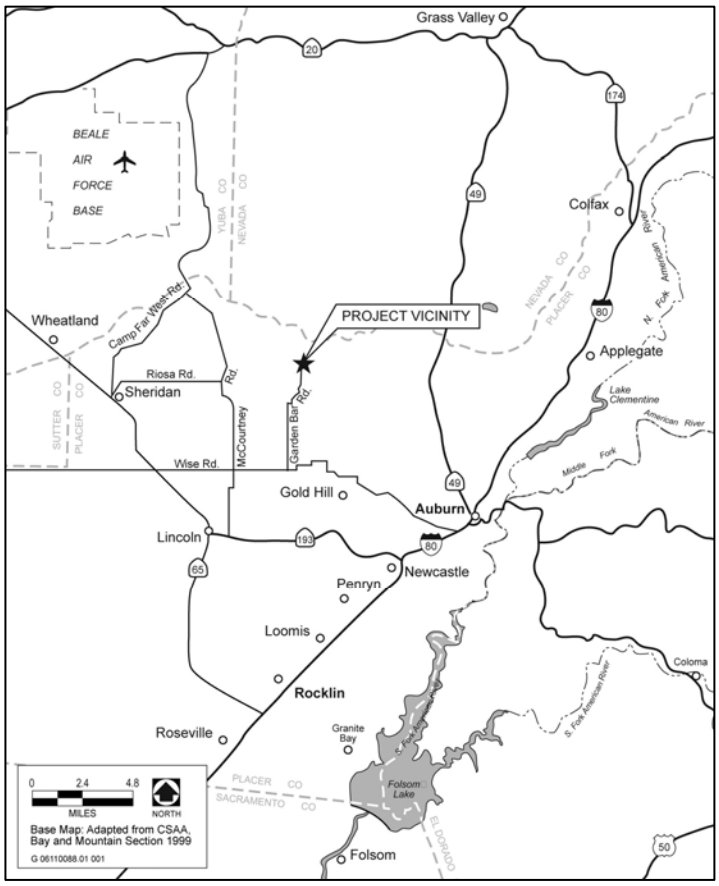
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Hidden Falls Regional Park Project involves access and passive recreation improvements at a regional park proposed by the Placer County Department of Facility Services consistent with the Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program. The proposed project would include improvement of access, construction of a multiple-use trail system, and implementation of other passive recreational facilities that would be located within Hidden Falls Regional Park. Facilities proposed within the Park include the following:

1. Approximately 14 miles of new multiple-use, natural-surface trails in addition to more than 10 miles of existing ranch roads for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians;
2. Development of a nature/cultural education/commercial kitchen/conference center at the existing ranch house or other suitable location within the facility development zone;
3. American's with Disabilities (ADA) accessible trails including access for ADA vehicles;
4. Bridge crossings over Coon Creek and other streams to support the trail network, provide emergency access, and connect to the existing trail system within the Didion Ranch portion of the Park;
5. Permanent restroom facilities;
6. Groundwater wells for drinking water, restrooms, and fire suppression;
7. Fire suppression facilities (i.e., helistops for emergency use and an emergency water system);
8. Equestrian facilities (e.g., horse watering facilities, hitching posts);
9. Picnic areas throughout the Park to accommodate use, including covered pavilions;
10. A disc golf course may be developed that would generally coincide with areas of shaded fuel breaks and other upland areas where the foot traffic pattern would not impact sensitive areas;
11. Drinking fountains;
12. Designated fishing locations along Coon Creek and/or ponds developed in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG);
13. Film and theater production, subject to County Film Permit requirements;
14. Managed hunting of legal game and nuisance animals (e.g. feral pigs) during times of Park closure;
15. Interpretive programs, including signage, displays, and/or guided tours;
16. A group camping area with one or more formalized fire pits, a group tent area, and/or bunkhouses for scheduled, supervised overnight use within the facility development zone;
17. Parking areas for automobiles and horse trailers and expansion of the Didion Ranch parking area;

18. Events consistent with passive recreation and nature enjoyment such as cross-country training and meets; Events with an aggregate of less than 200 people on-site at any given time, not including regular use of the Park, would obtain reservations through the standard reservation system of the Placer County Parks Division.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ANTICIPATED: The DEIR identified significant or potentially significant effects associated with hydrology and water quality, land use, geology, soils and seismicity, transportation and circulation, air quality, noise, biological resources, visual resources, cultural resources, and hazardous materials and hazards. With implementation of recommended mitigation measures, all impacts are reduced to less than significant levels except for visual impacts to Garden Bar Road, which would remain significant and unavoidable.

PUBLIC HEARING: A workshop to present information on the project will be held at the Mount Pleasant Grange Hall, 3333 Mount Pleasant Road, Lincoln, on Tuesday, June 23 at 6:30pm. In addition, a public hearing to receive comments on the Draft EIR will be held on Thursday, July 9, 2009 at 10:50am in Placer County Planning Commission Hearing Room, located at 3091 County Center Drive (corner of Richardson Drive and Bell Road in the Dewitt Center), Auburn. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss the project's EIR. Comments related to the merits of the project will be considered at a subsequent hearing to be held on the project's requested entitlement applications.

Comments regarding the subject Draft EIR must be submitted to Maywan Krach, Environmental Coordination Services, Placer County Community Development Resource Agency, 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190, Auburn, CA 95603, or by email at cdraecs@placer.ca.gov, or by fax (530) 745-3003 by **5:00 p.m. on July 31, 2009**. Copies of the Draft EIR and Technical Appendices are available for review at the Community Development Resource Center public counter and the Auburn and Lincoln Public Libraries. It can also be accessed through the County's website at: http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/EnvCoordSvcs/EIR/HiddenFalls.aspx

Newspaper:	Auburn Journal	Publish Date:	Tuesday, June 16, 2009
	Lincoln News Messenger		Thursday, June 18. 2009