



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/RESOURCE AGENCY
Environmental Coordination Services
County of Placer

DATE: January 30, 2017

TO: California State Clearinghouse
Responsible and Trustee Agencies
Interested Parties and Organizations

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Placer County Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Network Expansion Project

REVIEW PERIOD: January 31, 2017 – March 1, 2017

Placer County (County) is the Lead Agency for the Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Network Expansion Project, and is preparing a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Network Expansion Project to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.). The purpose of this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to provide responsible agencies and interested persons with sufficient information in order to make meaningful responses as to the scope and content of the SEIR. Your timely comments will ensure an appropriate level of environmental review for the project.

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was previously certified in 2009 (State Clearinghouse No. 2007062084) to establish Hidden Falls Regional Park. This NOP is being released because the County is proposing to expand the Hidden Falls trails network into areas currently owned by the Placer Land Trust (or where the Placer Land Trust holds a Conservation Easement) and where Placer County either has existing trail easements or owns nearby parcels.

Project Description: Hidden Falls Regional Park currently includes approximately 30 miles of trails that are open to the public. The proposed project would expand the trail system into areas northeast, west, and east of the existing park, where the County holds existing trail easements or owns property. In total, approximately 30 additional miles of trails would be added, along with the construction of two additional bridges over Coon Creek between the existing regional park trail network and Taylor Ranch (as well as one additional bridge over Coon Creek within Hidden Falls Regional Park that was analyzed under the prior EIR), additional parking, access areas, and other improvements, and possible improvement of off-site access roads. The park features in the expansion area would include accessibility features compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, drinking water fountains and restrooms, on-site groundwater wells, fire suppression facilities, equestrian features (e.g., horse watering, hitching posts), picnic areas, benches, bear-proof trash receptacles, and interpretive displays.

The parcels involved in the expansion to the northeast are either owned by Placer Land Trust, or are held in a Conservation Easement by Placer Land Trust, with associated trail easements held by the County. Other connecting areas west and east of the existing park are owned by Placer County or the County holds trail easements within the areas. The proposed project would require the County's approval of a modified Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to cover the existing Hidden Falls Regional Park as well as the expansion areas. This modified CUP would supersede the existing CUP for the regional park, and would cover the development and operation of the existing and expanded trail network and the associated parking and roadway improvements needed.

The SEIR will be evaluating the feasibility of parking and access improvements that would make optimal use of the existing parking area at Mears Place, would create opportunities to use already-permitted parking off Garden Bar Road on a limited, reservation-based basis, and would provide new vehicle access to and parking for trail network expansion areas to the north. The SEIR will also be considering a system whereby park access permits could be issued to adjacent landowners who would provide overflow parking spaces to visitors during periods of high park use, and management strategies that would link available parking to potential park users before they arrive at the site.

Project Location: The proposed trail expansion area is located northeast, west and east of the existing Hidden Falls Regional Park, located at 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190, Auburn, California 95603 / (530)745-3132 / Fax (530)745-3080 / email: cdraecs@placer.ca.gov

Falls Regional Park, and south of the Bear River in Placer County. The project area is approximately 40 miles northeast of Sacramento (see Figure 1, Regional Location Map). The existing Hidden Falls Regional Park area encompasses approximately 1,200 acres, and includes a parking area at Mears Place, as well as an already-permitted future parking area located off of Garden Bar Road. Figure 2 shows the project area including regional highways (e.g., State Route 49) and local roads including Big Hill Road through the center of the project area; Mt. Pleasant Road to the south; Bell Road, Cramer Road, and Lone Star Road providing access from State Route 49; and Garden Bar Road to the west.

The proposed expansion areas to the northeast of the existing park consist of the areas known as Taylor Ranch (321 acres) and Harvego Bear River Preserve (1,773 acres), as well as privately-owned parcels with trail easements, such as the Liberty Ranch (313 acres). The trails will also cross the Kotomyan Preserve (160 acres) and the Outman Big Hill Preserve (80 acres). These areas are owned by the Placer Land Trust and are to be held as conservation land in perpetuity. Access is currently constrained by limited roadways and surrounding private property. Entry to these areas is currently limited to guided tours led by the Placer Land Trust. Placer County has trail easement rights within these properties. Additionally, trail connections are proposed from a recently-acquired parcel off of Garden Bar Road to the western end of the existing park, and from the eastern end of the park to the Taylor Ranch Preserve, through parcels either owned or held in easement by Placer County. Figure 3 shows the existing regional park and the boundaries of the proposed trail network expansion areas.

For more information regarding the project, please contact Lisa Carnahan, at (530) 889-6837. A copy of the NOP is available for review at the Auburn Public Library, the Rocklin Public Library, the Lincoln Public Library, the Placer County Community Development Resource Agency (Auburn), and on the Placer County website:

<http://www.placer.ca.gov/departments/communitydevelopment/envcoordsvcs/eir>

NOP Scoping Meeting: In addition to the opportunity to submit written comments, one public scoping meeting will be held by the County to inform interested parties about the proposed project, and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide comments on the scope and content of the EIR. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Placer County Community Development Resource Center, Planning Commission Hearing Room, 3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA 95603.

NOP Comment Period: Written comments should be submitted at the earliest possible date, but not later than 5:00 p.m. on **March 1, 2017** to Shirlee Herrington, Environmental Coordination Services, Community Development Resource Agency, 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190, Auburn, CA 95603. (530) 745-3132, Fax: (530) 745-3080, cdraecs@placer.ca.gov.

Published in Sacramento Bee, February 1, 2017.

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed trail expansion area is located northeast of the existing Hidden Falls Regional Park, and south of the Bear River in Placer County, approximately 40 miles northeast of Sacramento (see Figure 1, Regional Location Map). Hidden Falls Regional Park encompasses approximately 1,200 acres in the Sierra Nevada foothills, consisting of the properties formerly known as the Spears Ranch and Didion Ranch. The existing park has two access points, with a parking area at Mears Place and an area for a future parking lot off of Garden Bar Road. Figure 2 shows the project area including regional highways (e.g., State Route 49) and local roads including Big Hill Road through the center of the project area; Mt. Pleasant Road to the south; Bell Road, Cramer Road, and Lone Star Road providing access from State Route 49; and Garden Bar Road to the west.

Most of the proposed trail expansion areas are located north and northeast of the existing park and consist of the areas known as Taylor Ranch (321 acres) and Harvego Bear River Preserve (1,773 acres), and of privately-owned parcels with trail easements, such as Liberty Ranch (313 acres). Trails will also cross the Kotomyan Preserve (160 acres) and Outman Big Hill Preserve (80 acres). Additionally, trail connections are proposed from a recently-acquired parcel off of Garden Bar Road to the western end of the existing park, and from the eastern end of the park to the Taylor Ranch Preserve, through parcels either owned or held in easement by Placer County. Figure 2 shows the existing regional park, the recently-acquired parcel off of Garden Bar Road, and the boundaries of the proposed trail network expansion areas. As shown in Figure 3, the majority of the trails expansion area is located between the existing regional park and the Bear River to the north. These areas are owned by the Placer Land Trust and are to be held as conservation land in perpetuity. Access is currently constrained by limited roadways and surrounding private property. Entry to these areas is currently limited to guided tours led by the Placer Land Trust. Placer County has trail easement rights within these properties.

1.2 EXISTING SETTING

Existing Regional Park

The existing Hidden Falls Regional Park covers 1,200 acres and has approximately 30 miles of multi-use trails, with parking located at Mears Place. Trails within the park cross Coon Creek and Deadman Creek in three locations via pedestrian bridges. Coon Creek flows through the park from east to west. Existing park amenities include interpretive displays, restrooms, drinking fountains, picnic areas, benches, trash receptacles, and hitching posts and horse-watering areas for equestrians.

Since fully opening to the public in 2013, Hidden Falls Regional Park, with its two waterfall overlooks and other recreational amenities, has grown substantially in popularity and visitation. As a result, the public parking area at Mears Place can become congested during holidays and weekends during good weather and visitors have been turned away during these peak-use periods. Therefore, the County Parks Division has been implementing new measures to help rectify the existing parking issues, and to lessen any impacts on nearby landowners. The County will utilize this knowledge in strategically planning out parking areas for the expanded trails system so that any new parking areas function smoothly from the outset. Actual data from current use will be utilized in the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) to

evaluate long term management strategies, provide for sustainable parking solutions which limit impacts on adjoining neighborhoods, improve the current user experience, and define future opportunities.

The existing 2009 Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Hidden Falls Regional Park, CUP No. 20090391 approved on January 28, 2010, allows an additional parking area at the western end of the park, with access via Garden Bar Road. Therefore, the County is exploring the option to provide limited, reservation-based access off Garden Bar Road that would require only minimal off-site road improvements. The County recently acquired a new parcel off Garden Bar Road that could be utilized for parking. Through an existing easement, this newly-acquired parcel connects to the park. The Mears Place entrance to the park is currently being assessed and reconfigured to provide better circulation and improved sight distance. In addition, this SEIR will be evaluating the feasibility of adding at least one parking area near the Harvego Bear River Preserve and connecting trail areas in order to reasonably provide visitor access to future expanded trail areas. The SEIR will also be evaluating the potential environmental impacts of granting commercial parking permits to adjacent property owners who may be allowed to “rent” parking spaces to park visitors during periods of high park use and/or provide horse boarding and access to the park through private gates. Commercial parking permits would regulate the number and size of allowed vehicles, hours of operation, private gate usage, and other conditions to facilitate orderly use.

It is intended that the trail expansion will result in a modified CUP that will supersede the existing CUP No. 20090391 and encompass the allowed uses on both the existing park and expansion area. As part of this project, the type and size of allowed events and facilities will be clarified and analyzed. The types of events and facilities to be considered and clarified include, but are not limited to those already allowed by the current CUP (such as nature education facilities, scheduled, supervised overnight group camping, disc golf, accessible amenities, deprivation hunting, and reservation-based events such as cross-country training and meets), as well as new uses such as small venue ceremonies (i.e. weddings and memorials involving less than 25 attendees and no reception), rentals and concessions. All current and proposed uses would need to complement the passive recreational and nature enjoyment features characteristic of this regional park.

Expansion Area Characteristics

The proposed trail network expansion areas are mainly located northeast of the existing park, and south of the Bear River, with other connecting trails directly to the east and west of the park. Figure 3 depicts the boundaries of the trail expansion areas and shows that the project area has few roads and includes expansive undeveloped areas within the Coon Creek and Bear River watersheds. The area is characterized by blue oak woodland and oak-foothill pine woodland and is included in the proposed *Placer County Conservation Plan*, currently under development by the County.

The Harvego Bear River Preserve, Taylor Ranch, Kotomyan Big Hill Preserve, and Outman Big Hill Preserve (Figure 3) are owned in fee by the Placer Land Trust. The Liberty Ranch property is privately owned; however, the Placer Land Trust holds a conservation easement on the property and Placer County has a dedicated trail easement within the property that connects to the other Placer Land Trust parcels. Taylor Ranch Preserve (321 acres) has an existing 4-mile loop trail that also crosses the 160-acre Kotomyan Preserve to the west. Coon Creek flows across Taylor Ranch and into Hidden Falls Regional Park. Liberty Ranch (313 acres) is a cattle ranch currently under Williamson Act contract. This area has no existing trails; its intermittent drainages are tributary to the Bear River. The County's trail

easement on the Liberty Ranch property is limited generally to a previously surveyed 25 foot wide corridor, whereas the trail easements on the remainder of the expansion area are “blanket” in nature. Therefore, there is less opportunity for trail alignment refinement on the Liberty Ranch property than there is within the rest of the expansion area under the current status of easement rights. The adjacent Outman Big Hill Preserve (80 acres) has no existing trails. Harvego Bear River Preserve (1,773 acres) has a working cattle ranch. The area has an extensive network of existing ranch roads and some trails built by the Placer Land Trust and consists of oak woodlands and grasslands adjacent to the Bear River. The area’s intermittent drainages are tributary to the Bear River.

The recently-acquired parcel to the west of the park is characterized by blue oak and oak-foothill pine woodlands, but Coon Creek does not run through this parcel. The County-owned parcels and easement areas directly east of the park abut Coon Creek, and connect the existing park with the Taylor Ranch parcel.

The lands adjacent to these areas consist of rolling hills and are primarily private lands used for agriculture, grazing, and rural residences. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) owns the area in between the two portions of the Harvego Bear River Preserve and south of the Bear River.

1.3 PROJECT ELEMENTS

Placer County has partnered with the Placer Land Trust to preserve approximately 2,500 acres of open space located north and east of Hidden Falls Regional Park. These lands, as well as connecting areas directly east and west of the existing regional park that are either owned or held in easement by Placer County would accommodate the proposed future expansion of the public trail network from the regional park up to the Bear River. Combining the 30 miles of existing trails in the park with additional existing and new trails in the trail network expansion areas would provide more than 60 miles of multi-use trails. The expanded trails network would connect to the existing trail system in the regional park via existing easements between the park and existing trails in Taylor Ranch and Kotomyan Preserve, with additional connections through Liberty Ranch and Outman Big Hill Preserve to future and existing trails and ranch roads within the Harvego Bear River Preserve.

The County’s discretionary actions would include approval of an amended CUP covering the existing Hidden Falls Regional Park and the expansion areas, including the designated lands to the northeast, the parcel west of the existing park that was recently acquired by the County and the areas east of the park that connect to Taylor Ranch. This permit and the County’s SEIR would cover:

- Expanding the Hidden Falls Regional Park trails network from 30 miles to approximately 60 miles through the construction of new trails within the lands owned or held in conservation easements by Placer Land Trust;
- Project-level review of proposed trail corridors and a program-level review of other areas within the Placer Land Trust parcels where trails or other amenities may be constructed;
- Constructing two additional bridges over Coon Creek between the existing regional park trail network and Taylor Ranch
- Adding parking and access areas and improvements, including parking and access for the northern areas of the expanded trail network as well as evaluating other areas for parking improvements;
- Improving off-site access roads which would provide access to new parking areas; and

- Identifying and clarifying the type and size of events and facilities allowed within the existing Hidden Falls Regional Park and expansion area.

Trails and Amenities

The trails would be used for hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding, and would connect to existing County trail easements and areas either owned or held in conservation easement by the Placer Land Trust. As with the existing park areas, no motorized vehicles, other than maintenance and emergency response vehicles, and vehicles that provide accessibility assistance consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act and related law, would be allowed within the trails expansion area. The expanded trails network would include existing trails, existing roads and paths, and new trails based on a conceptual trail layout developed by the County and the Placer Land Trust. The preliminary layout for approximately 30 miles of new multi-use trail construction is shown in Figure 3 and is based on each area's opportunities and constraints, including topography, drainage crossings, locations of cattle operations, and scenery. The layout may be refined further based on the results of constructability assessments and biological and cultural resources surveys. Additional trails and appurtenant amenities may be developed specifically for the benefit of visitors with physical handicaps, above and beyond minimum compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Placer County recently conducted and is planning additional biological surveys (reconnaissance-level wildlife field surveys, special-status plant surveys, and wetland delineation) and a tree assessment in the proposed improvement areas. The County is also conducting cultural resources surveys, including a records search and an archaeological pedestrian survey of the proposed new trails, parking areas, and road improvement areas.

The park features in the expansion area would include accessibility features compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, drinking water fountains and restrooms, on-site groundwater wells, and fire suppression facilities, equestrian features (e.g., horse watering, hitching posts), picnic areas, benches, bear-proof trash receptacles, and interpretive displays.

Bridges

The existing trails in Hidden Falls Regional Park are connected by three bridges across Coon Creek/Deadman Creek and rock/culvert passages and timber bridges over intermittent streams. Within the existing park boundaries, there is one additional bridge over Coon Creek which was analyzed under the prior EIR and is still planned for construction. To provide connectivity within the park's expanded trail network, the County would construct two additional bridges across Coon Creek in the area that connects to Taylor Ranch. One tributary of Coon Creek that lies between Hidden Falls and Taylor Ranch would require spanning with multiple culverts, box culverts, or a bridge. These bridges would provide access for pedestrians, equestrians, emergency vehicles, and small maintenance vehicles, and would be designed to minimize impacts on stream hydrology and wildlife habitat. The County would also construct foot bridges over intermittent drainages throughout the expanded trails network. The foot bridges would be designed to fit the rustic character of the surroundings and may require construction or replacement of culverts or construction of rock-lined stream crossings.

Parking and Access

The SEIR will evaluate the feasibility of parking improvements that would make optimal use of the existing parking area at Mears Place, would create opportunities to use reservation-based parking off Garden Bar

Road, and would provide new vehicle access to and parking for trail network expansion areas to the north. A potential on-site parking area has been identified within the Harvego Bear River Preserve area, as indicated on Figure 3. The SEIR will also consider a system whereby use permits could be issued to adjacent landowners who would provide overflow parking spaces to visitors during periods of high park use, and management strategies that would electronically alert visitors to parking availability before they arrive at the site.

Planning for the proposed new or expanded parking areas will be based on evaluation of parking demands derived from existing peak period traffic surveys which identified the number of vehicles accessing the park and the number of vehicles turned away after the existing parking facility filled, as well as the average visit duration. However, to achieve other resource management goals, parking availability during periods of peak demand would likely remain limited and may be managed through an online reservation system.

The SEIR's traffic and parking analysis will address the effects of implementing the project with the anticipated parking supply and management systems with regards to overflow parking demands and vehicle travel on adjoining streets during peak season Saturday conditions.

Roadway Improvements

The SEIR will also evaluate potential roadway improvements and the County has and will be collecting traffic count data to determine Saturday peak-hour traffic volumes, current roadway capacities, intersection levels of service (LOS), design limitations, and safety issues (roadway width, design speed, and sight distance limitations). Proposed roadway improvements will be identified by estimating potential future traffic volumes and roadway improvements needed to accommodate trail usage.

Construction, Operation and Maintenance

The trails and other features described above would be constructed over several years as funding allows. Trail and bridge construction would coincide with favorable weather conditions. The trails would be constructed using a combination of methods, including both the use of construction equipment and hand clearing of vegetation. Helicopter use may be required to access the most remote areas of bridge construction. Trail widths would vary as needed based on safety considerations and the requirement to avoid biological or cultural resources. Vegetation clearing would be scheduled outside the breeding season of migratory birds, including raptors. The proposed trail system and recreational facilities would be designed to be as low maintenance as practicable, although some regular maintenance of the trails and ancillary facilities would be required, including clearing vegetation, maintaining trails, and removing fallen trees. All operation and maintenance activities are expected to be similar to those currently undertaken in the existing park.

2.0 PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND SCOPE OF THE EIR

Placer County has determined that a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) should be prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of expanding the Hidden Falls Regional Park trails network. The SEIR will incorporate the content of the 2009 Hidden Falls Regional Park EIR and will explain the basis for incorporating the previous EIR's conclusions regarding such topics as population

and housing and mineral resources. As required by CEQA, the SEIR will describe existing conditions and evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed project and a reasonable range of alternatives, including the no-project alternative. It will address direct, indirect, and cumulative effects. The SEIR will identify feasible mitigation measures, if available, to reduce potentially significant impacts. Based upon preliminary environmental review, it was determined that the proposed project would not result in significant impact to the following three resource areas and, therefore, these areas do not require further analysis in this SEIR: Population, Employment and Housing; Mineral Resources; and Recreation.

The following environmental effects will be evaluated in the SEIR:

Aesthetics. This section will assess the potential impacts of added parking facilities and additional trails on scenic vistas, scenic resources, visual character, and light and glare. This section will use photographs of existing public views and descriptions of proposed parking facilities to evaluate impacts. The impact evaluation will describe how the County's thematic/stylistic design guidelines for Hidden Falls Regional Park will guide the design and selection of rustic amenities to reduce their aesthetic impacts.

Agriculture and Forestry. This section will address potential impacts on Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance; conflicts with existing zoning or Williamson Act contracts; and conversion of farmland or forest land to other uses.

Air Quality. The air quality analysis will evaluate potential air pollutant emissions from trail construction and expanded trail visits using current Placer County Air Pollution Control District methods and will incorporate the air quality and climate change goals, projections, and impact findings from the 2013 General Plan Update.

Biological Resources. The biological resources section will address potential impacts on vegetation, wildlife habitat, special-status species, sensitive natural communities including wetlands, and trees/oak woodlands. This section will assess both direct impacts from construction and indirect effects from long-term trail use, visitation, and maintenance. It will also address potential impacts on wildlife migration corridors and any potential conflicts with the provisions of the proposed *Placer County Conservation Plan*.

Cultural Resources. This section will evaluate potential impacts on archaeological, historical, paleontological, and tribal cultural resources within the trail corridors and proposed parking areas. The assessment will describe the cultural setting, known resources, and methods used to identify and assess impacts; will evaluate potential impacts; and will present the mitigation measures that would be used during construction to reduce cultural resource impacts to less than significant.

Geology and Soils. This section will assess the potential geological and soils impacts of trail and parking area construction, including from grading and potential roadway improvements. The soils evaluation will evaluate whether trail, bridge, or parking lot construction could result in substantial soil erosion, and will describe how the trails and bridges will be designed to minimize erosion to the extent practicable. The seismic evaluation will identify the potential for unstable soil or dangerous geological conditions (e.g., landslides, earthquakes) and will describe how those risks would be minimized by accounting for geology and soil factors in the structural design, construction, and operation of the trails and bridges.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions. This section will enumerate the project's greenhouse gas emissions based on construction and long-term operation and maintenance of the expanded trail network and the impact of those emissions on adopted plans, policies, or regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials. This section will address potential impacts from the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or releases of hazardous materials during construction and operations. The hazards evaluation would also evaluate potential exposure of trail users and any new structures to wildland fires.

Hydrology and Water Quality. This section will assess potential impacts on hydrology and water quality, including the potential for trail construction and the new bridges to affect Coon Creek water quality or hydrology, including from erosion or from restricting flow during high flows. This section would also evaluate whether installing wells for drinking water supply would deplete groundwater supplies.

Land Use. This section will evaluate the project's potential land use effects on adjacent parcels and land uses and consistency with Placer County's 2013 General Plan Update and regional plans and policies, as well as applicable habitat conservation planning currently underway as part of the *Placer County Conservation Plan*.

Noise. This section will evaluate potential short- and long-term noise impacts from trail construction and ongoing use. Noise levels generated by construction equipment and trail use will be estimated using noise modeling software and compared to County noise standards and ambient noise levels estimated based on existing land uses, including existing roadways and ranching operations.

Public Services. The expanded trail network has the potential to increase demands on law enforcement, fire protection, and other emergency services, such as search and rescue, beyond those of the existing Hidden Falls Regional Park. The SEIR will use updated records from law enforcement and other public services from the existing park uses to evaluate the need for public services in the expanded trail network areas and determine whether additional facilities are needed that could affect the environment during construction and operations.

Traffic and Transportation. This section will identify potential traffic (and parking) impacts based on existing conditions, the selected configuration for access roads and parking areas, and County level of service (LOS) standards. This evaluation will provide a quantitative assessment of increases in traffic levels and potential adverse circulation effects at intersections, known parking locations, and potential future parking locations. This section will also evaluate circulation and safety of trail users where trails cross roadways.

Utilities and Service Systems. This section will address potential impacts of adding drinking water supply, restroom facilities, and storm water drainage to serve the project area. It will also evaluate potential impacts on landfill capacity and how Placer County would comply with solid waste laws and regulations.

Cumulative Impacts. Implementation of the proposed project could potentially result in significant impacts to the above resource areas. When taken together with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probable future projects, the project's contribution to the overall cumulative effect of all these activities could be considerable and will be evaluated in the SEIR.

ALTERNATIVES TO BE EVALUATED IN THE EIR. In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR Section 15126.6), the SEIR will describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project that are capable of meeting most of the projects' objectives, and that would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project. The SEIR will also identify any alternatives that were considered but rejected by the lead agency as infeasible and briefly explain the reasons why. The EIR will provide an analysis of the No-Project Alternative and will also identify the environmentally superior alternative.

3.0 PROJECT APPROVALS

Anticipated approvals and permits required prior to construction are listed below. All other regulatory framework will be discussed in the applicable sections of the SEIR.

3.1 APPROVALS REQUIRED BY PLACER COUNTY

The proposed project would require the following Placer County actions:

- Certification of the SEIR for the Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails Network Expansion Project and adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan; and a
- Conditional Use Permit Modification

The access-roadway improvements and utilities required to accommodate the expanded trail network may also require encroachment permits from the County Department of Public Works and Facilities and wastewater permits from the County Environmental Health Division.

3.2 APPROVALS ISSUED BY OTHER AGENCIES

The proposed project would require the following actions by entities other than Placer County:

- Clean Water Act Section 404 permit amendment for stream crossings at Coon Creek and other streams (United States Army Corps of Engineers);
- Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation (United States Fish and Wildlife Service);
- Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification amendment (Regional Water Quality Control Board – Central Valley Region);
- Clean Water Act Section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (Regional Water Quality Control Board – Central Valley Region);
- Streambed Alteration Agreement amendment for stream crossings (California Department of Fish and Wildlife); and
- Encroachment permit for any construction within the floodplain of Coon Creek (Central Valley Flood Protection Board).

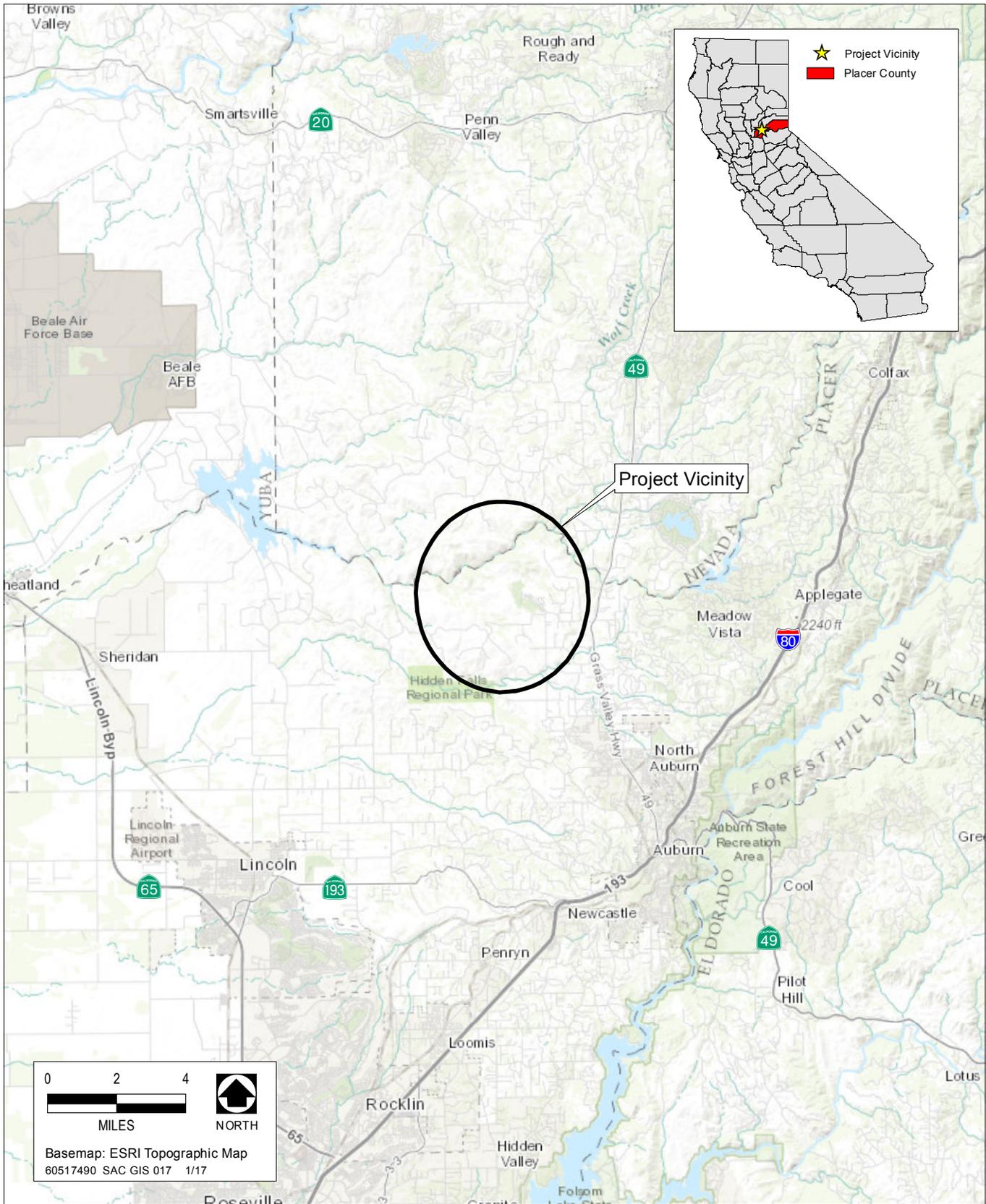
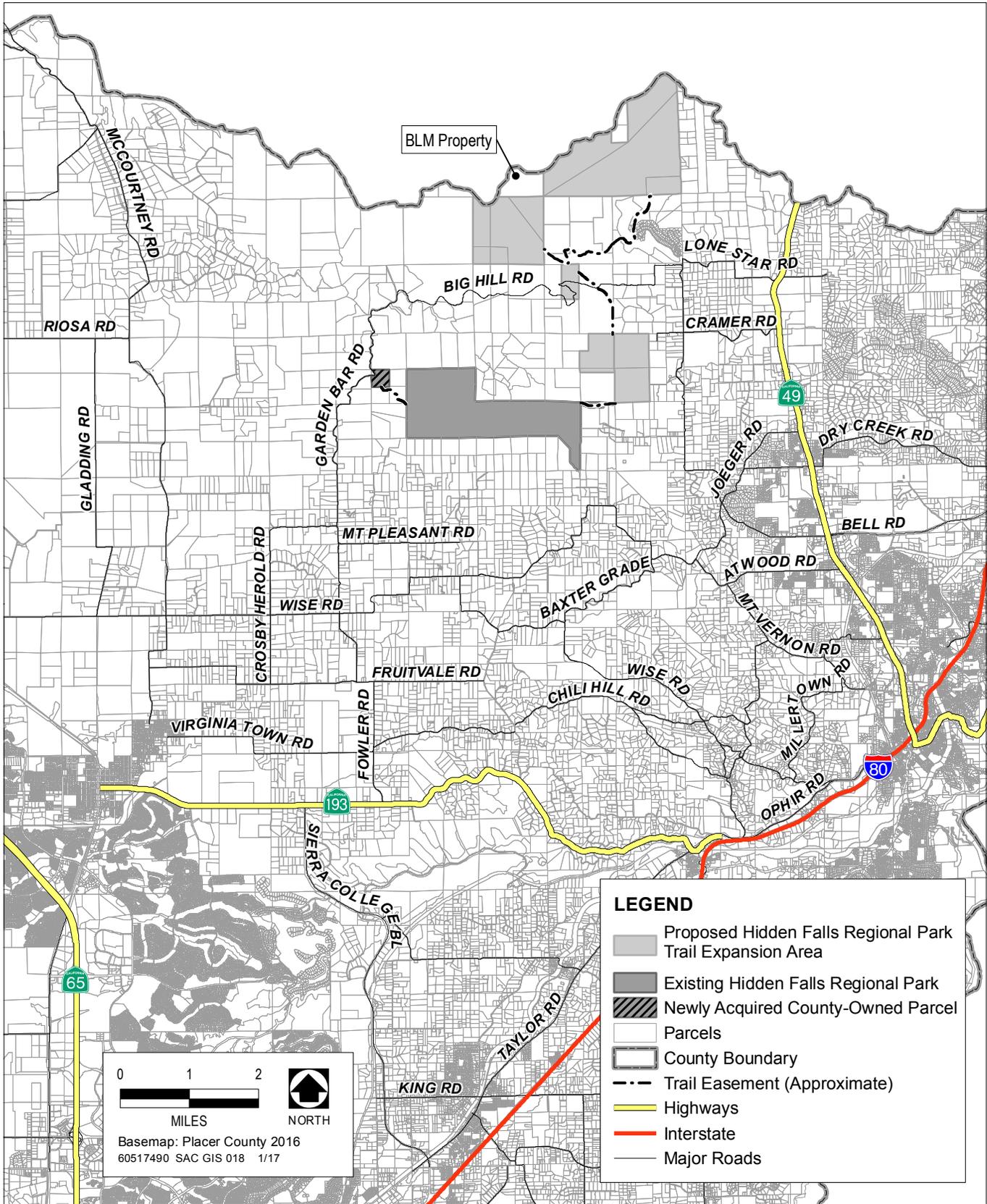


Figure 1: Regional Location Map

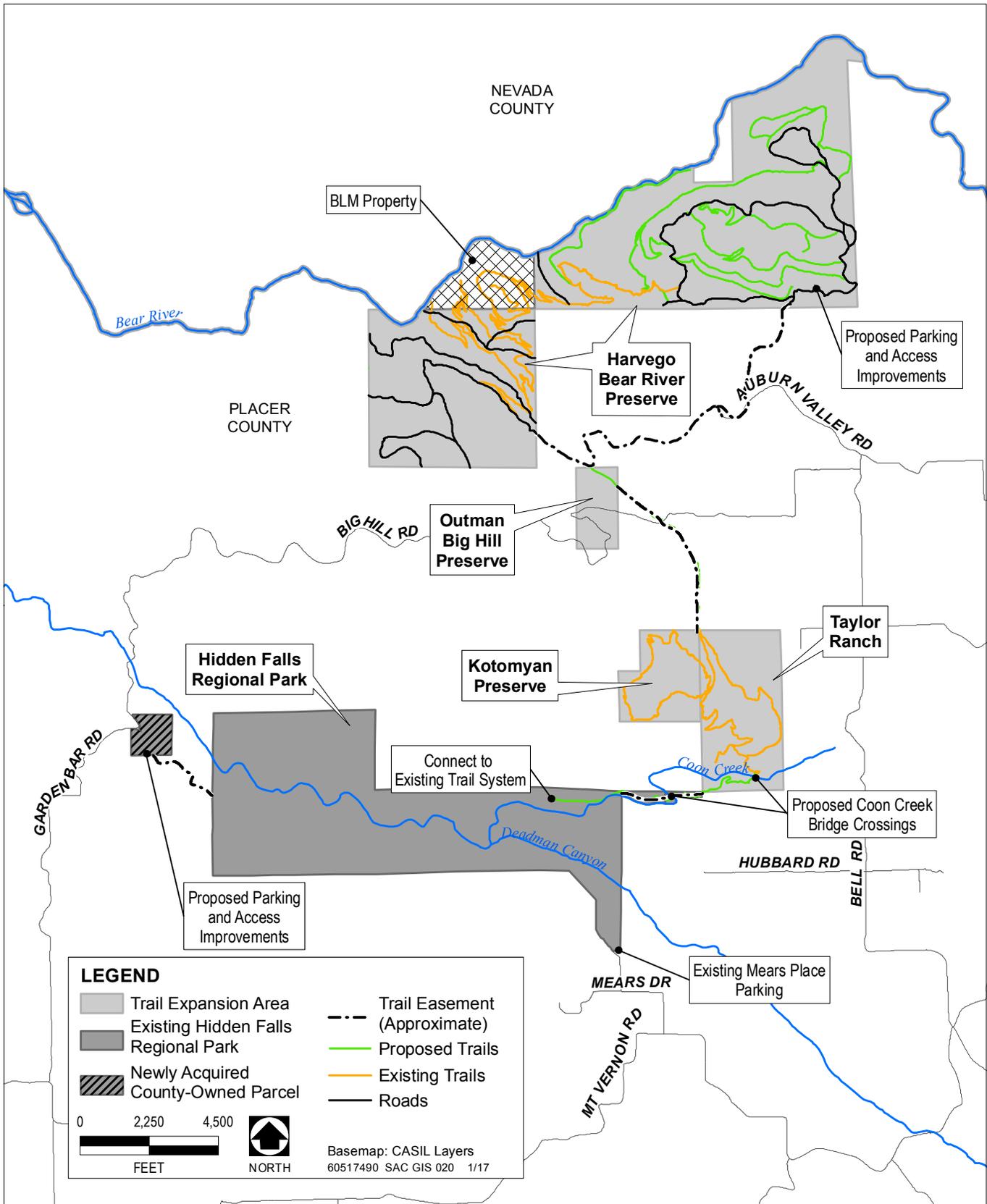
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Source: Placer County 2016

Figure 2: Project Vicinity Map

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Source: Placer County 2017, PLT 2017

Figure 3: Project Map

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