




AGENDA ITEM NO.  
**C26**

# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: February 6, 2018

Date: January 24, 2018

To: Board of Supervisors

From:  Thomas K. Mattson, Public Works Director

Subject: Walnut Drive-Northridge Road Left-turn Pocket and McKay Community Forest Northridge Access Point, with Supplemental Budget (4/5 Vote Required)

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the attached plans and specifications to construct a left-turn pocket at the Walnut Drive-Northridge Road intersection and parking and trailhead facilities for the McKay Community Forest Northridge Access Point;
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to advertise the above-mentioned project as required by Section 22037 of the California Public Contract Code, with bids to be opened at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 2018;
3. Direct that \$134,303 from trust account 3704 be committed for development of the McKay Community Forest Northridge Access Point; and
4. Approve the following supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 (4/5 vote required):

Revenue:	1710716-705701	Parkland Dedication-McKay Forest	\$134,303
	1710716-585810	Inter-Governmental Transfer	\$175,375
Expenditure:	1710716-8613	Parking Lot	\$309,678

Prepared by Hank Seemann

CAO Approval

Karen Clower

REVIEW:

Auditor MSW County Counsel Sm Human Resources \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF ITEM:

Consent  
 Departmental  
 Public Hearing  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor Wilson Seconded by Supervisor Bass

Ayes Bass, Fennell, Sundberg, Bohn, Wilson  
Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Abstain \_\_\_\_\_  
Absent \_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting of: \_\_\_\_\_

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: 2/6/18

By:   
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

## SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Grant from the State Housing-Related Parks Program; Eureka Community Planning Area Parkland Dedication Fees; Measure Z

## DISCUSSION:

Public Works has developed a project to construct a left-turn pocket on Walnut Drive near Northridge Road in Cutten concurrent with parking and trailhead facilities for the McKay Community Forest. This combined project would provide safety improvements at the Walnut Drive-Northridge Road intersection and enable public access for the McKay Community Forest. Site location maps are provided in Attachment 1.

Walnut Drive near the intersection with Northridge Road is a two-lane arterial roadway with a posted speed limit of forty-five (45) miles per hour. Northridge Road is a collector road serving a neighborhood situated between Walnut Drive and the McKay Community Forest. Motorists traveling southbound on Walnut Drive near Northridge Road are often accelerating after having traveled through lower-speed portions of Walnut Drive or Campton Road. Public Works proposes to create a left-turn pocket for the southbound lane of Walnut Drive to improve the safety of left-turn movements onto Northridge Road. Motorists turning left onto Northridge Road from the southbound lane of Walnut Drive would be able to queue in the turn-pocket without blocking the travel lane and backing up traffic flow. Addition of a left-turn lane at this intersection would reduce the risk of rear-end and side-impact collisions. This safety improvement project would upgrade the Walnut Drive-Northridge Road intersection to match the configuration approximately one thousand and five hundred (1,500) feet to the north, where the southbound lane of Walnut Drive includes a left-turn pocket for turning movements into the Humboldt Community Services District facility.

The McKay Community Forest was established in 2014 with the acquisition of one thousand (1,000) acres of forestland utilizing grant funds. Since the acquisition, Public Works has focused on developing plans for public access. Public Works proposes to create an access point along Northridge Road with parking and trailhead facilities ("Northridge Access Point"). This location is optimal because new off-street parking can be developed on county property adjacent to the road, with relatively few constraints. Public Works conducted neighborhood meetings in March and August 2016 to discuss alternative locations for the parking area and to hear residents' concerns and suggestions. Based on these discussions, the preferred location for a new parking area is the north end of Northridge Road, to situate the parking area at the edge of the neighborhood (not directly across from any home) and closer to Walnut Drive for enhanced visibility and easy access by Sheriff's deputies and Parks staff. In addition, the initial site design focuses on providing parking for access to trails within the community forest, and defers consideration of other amenities such as picnic tables or playground equipment.

The design for the Northridge Access Point includes twenty-six (26) standard vehicle parking spaces, four (4) equestrian parking spaces, two (2) accessible parking spaces, portable restroom, gate, stormwater features and signs (entrance sign, kiosk and trailhead sign). The passenger vehicle and accessible parking spaces would be paved with asphalt and the equestrian parking section would be surfaced with compacted gravel. The project includes drainage and stormwater features to conform to the low-impact development standards of the county's municipal stormwater permit. The vegetation between the parking area and road would be managed to provide a visual buffer while allowing sightlines to aid law enforcement. The intent is to initially provide a portable restroom and then pursue a permanent restroom with water and sewer service in the future. Timber within the project area was harvested in October 2017 in anticipation of constructing the parking area in the spring of 2018. Trails beyond the immediate trailhead area will be developed as separate projects in the future.

Public Works proposes to construct the Walnut Drive left-turn pocket and facilities for the Northridge

Access Point as a single construction contract for cost savings, because the work items for both projects are similar and the project locations are nearly adjacent. Contracting the projects together will result in at least \$35,000 in cost savings by having only one contractor mobilization, achieving economy-of-scale savings on material costs and allowing excavated material from work on the roadway (if suitable) to be used as fill material for the parking facility.

Construction of the left-turn pocket on Walnut Drive as described above is recommended to enhance safety based on current conditions and is not contingent upon future construction and use of the Northridge Access Point. Development of the Northridge Access Point increases the importance of the upgrade to Walnut Drive and creates an opportunity to leverage multiple funding sources to achieve the road improvement. Funding for the project would come from a state Housing-Related Parks Program grant, Eureka Community Planning Area Parkland Dedication (Quimby Act) fees, and Measure Z.

On January 26, 2016, the Board approved Resolution Number 16-13 which authorized an application to the Housing-Related Parks Program administered by the California Department of Community Development. In October 2016 the county was awarded a grant of \$175,375 to develop the McKay Community Forest Northridge Access Point. The Building and Planning Department administered the grant application and the grant agreement. Based on the term of the grant agreement, reimbursable work must be performed prior to June 30, 2018. Staff has been told that the grant term cannot be extended.

Parkland Dedication fees are collected during approval of major subdivisions within the Eureka Community Planning Area pursuant to the Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477) and Section 314-110.1 of the Humboldt County Code to support planning and development of park and recreation facilities. On September 3, 2013, the Board amended the list of projects eligible for Parkland Dedication funds to include the McKay Community Forest. The current balance in the Parkland Dedication fee account for the Eureka Community Planning Area is \$185,386.

The Measure Z contribution would support the safety improvements on Walnut Drive. The proposed Measure Z contribution is approximately 85% of the cost of the road improvement portion of the project. The Housing-Related Parks Program grant will fund the remaining portion of the road improvement costs.

The work to be done, in general, consists of traffic control, clearing and grubbing, grading, installation of earth retaining structures (gabions), road widening and the surfacing of the roadway and parking lot with aggregate base and hot mix asphalt, road striping and markings. The design plans have been reviewed by a certified access specialist.

Public Works recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the attached plans and specifications, advertise the project and proceed to construction.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The estimated total project cost is \$459,678. This total cost includes the engineer's estimate for construction of \$383,065, construction oversight cost of \$57,460 and a 5% contingency of \$19,153. Of the estimated total project cost, approximately \$175,686 is associated with the Walnut Drive turn-pocket and approximately \$283,992 is associated with the McKay Community Forest Northridge Access Point. The Housing-Related Parks Program grant is \$175,375. The proposed contribution from Parkland Dedication fees is \$134,303. The proposed Measure Z contribution is \$150,000. The recommended actions include a supplemental budget request to incorporate the Housing-Related Parks Program grant and Parkland Dedication fees in the appropriate FY 2017-18 budgets. Measure Z funds are already allocated for this project at expenditure line 1100298-2323. The recommended actions will not impact the Humboldt County General Fund.

This project conforms to the Board of Supervisors' core role of providing for and maintaining infrastructure as identified in the Board's Strategic Framework.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

California Department of Housing and Community Development; Building and Planning Department

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Potential alternatives include the following:

1. The project could be postponed. This alternative is not recommended because the Housing-Related Parks Program grant funding would be lost due to the grant deadline of June 30, 2018.
2. The project could construct the Northridge Access Point portion of the project only. Under this alternative, Public Works would recommend keeping the parking area closed until the left-turn pocket on Walnut Drive is in place. This alternative is not recommended because cost saving opportunities would be lost and public access to the McKay Community Forest would be delayed.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Site Location Maps
2. Plans and Specifications