



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
 CALIFORNIA DIVISION  
 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100  
 Sacramento, CA. 95814  
 September 27, 2004

*Los Gatos Creek Trail  
 Reach 4*

IN REPLY REFER TO  
 HDA-CA  
 File #: 04-SCL-0  
 Document #: P50679

Mr. Bijan Sartipi, District Director  
 California Department of Transportation  
 District 4  
 P. O. Box 23660  
 Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Attention: Ms. JoAnn Cullom, Office of Local Assistance

Dear Mr. Sartipi:

SUBJECT: Proposed Los Gatos Creek Trail Project, City of San Jose, Santa Clara County

This is in response to your September 21, 2004 letter. Enclosed for your use and information is the signed Categorical Exclusion for this project. This concludes the NEPA process and the project may proceed accordingly.

Contact Steve Healow at (916) 498-5849, with any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

*/s/Steve Healow*

For  
 Gene K. Fong  
 Division Administrator

Enclosure

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 7 (2-00)

FAX TRANSMITTAL		# of pages 3	
To	DAI HALL JAC	From	STEVE HEALOW
Dept./Agency	CITY OF SAN JOSE	Phone #	9164985849
Fax #	408-297-2224	Fax #	5008

NSN 7540-01-917-7388 5088-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Los Gatos Creek Trail<sub>2</sub>  
Reach 4

**CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DETERMINATION FORM**

04-SCL-0-SJS  
Dist.-Co.-Ria. (or Local Agency)

K.P./K.P.(P.W.F.M.) E.A. (State project)

Revised 11/2003  
STPLER-5005(071)  
Proj. No. (Local project)  
(Fed. Prog. Prefix  
Proj. No., Agr. No.)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** (Briefly describe project, purpose, location, limits, right-of-way requirements, and activities involved.)

The proposed project is the 1.08 km (0.68 miles) extension of the paved Los Gatos Creek trail from Coe to Auzereta Avenues in the Willow Glen and Midtown areas of central San Jose. The trail would be a Class I trail, with two, six-foot wide travel lanes and two, two-foot shoulders, similar to the existing Los Gatos Creek trail that currently extends from Meridian Avenue in the north, to Lexington Reservoir in Los Gatos in the south.

The southernmost end of the proposed creek trail alignment will begin at the Union Pacific Railroad track alignment on Coe Avenue near Leona Court, in the Willow Glen area of San Jose. These railroad tracks, which have not been used in many years, were recently removed. The trail will be placed within the railroad right-of-way for a distance of approximately 187.8 m (550 ft). The trail will then be placed on the existing railroad trestle bridge that crosses Los Gatos Creek near Lanus Street. A stormwater outfall and associated riprap or concrete apron will be constructed on the northwestern bank of the creek, immediately adjacent to the railroad trestle.

From the railroad trestle bridge, the trail will continue to the north along the western top of bank for a distance of approximately 73m (240 ft). From this point, the trail alignment will proceed northward along the top of bank and will be constructed through an existing paved area where an existing masonry wall at the top of bank will be removed. The trail will continue along an existing asphalt-paved trail, which was originally installed as part of the construction of a mini-storage development for approximately 323.1 m (1,060 ft) to the undercrossing of Interstate 280. This existing trail will be widened and resurfaced as part of the proposed project. The proposed trail will then continue under Interstate 280 for a distance of approximately 91.4 m (300 ft). Under Interstate 280, the trail will be constructed on the creek bank with retaining walls above the predicted 10-year flood elevation. A storm-drain outfall will also be constructed under Interstate 280.

The trail will then continue up to just beyond the top of the bank of Los Gatos Creek along the Reed and Graham property for a distance of approximately 106.7 m (350 ft). The trail will be constructed on precast concrete slabs supported by drilled piers for a distance of approximately 9.1 m (30 ft) because of the narrow top of bank at this location. The trail then continues northward through a paved area to the terminus of Home Street and around the San Jose Water Company property. At this location, the trail will extend onto a paved parking lot on the Del Monte property as it continues adjacent to the western bank of the creek. The trail will end at Auzereta Avenue near the Los Gatos Creek bridge.

**CEQA COMPLIANCE** (for State Projects only)

- Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the following statements (See 14 CCR 15300 et seq.):
- If this project falls within exempt class 3, 4, 5, 6 or 11, it does not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted pursuant to law.
  - There will not be a significant cumulative effect by this project and successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time.
  - There is not a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
  - This project does not damage a scenic resource within an officially designated state scenic highway.
  - This project is not located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Govt. Code § 05992.5 ("Cortese List").
  - This project does not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

**CALTRANS CEQA DETERMINATION**

- Exempt by Statute (PRC 21060)
- Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the above statements, the project is:
- Categorical Exempt, Class \_\_\_\_\_, or General Rule exemption (This project does not fall within an exempt class, but it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment [CCR 15061(b)(3)])

Signature: Environmental Office Chief \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: Project Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DETERMINATION FORM**

**NEPA COMPLIANCE (23 CFR 771.117)**

Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the following statements:

- This project does not have a significant impact on the environment as defined by the NEPA.
- This project does not involve substantial controversy on environmental grounds.
- This project does not involve significant impacts on properties protected by Section 4(f) of the DOT Act or Section 108 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- In non-attainment or maintenance areas for Federal air quality standards, this project comes from a currently conforming plan and Transportation Improvement Program or is exempt from regional conformity.
- This project is consistent with all Federal, State, & local laws, requirements or administrative determinations relating to the environmental aspects of this action.

**CALTRANS NEPA DETERMINATION**

Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the statements above under "NEPA Compliance", it is determined that the project is a:

- PROGRAMMATIC CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (PCE): Based on the evaluation of this project and supporting documentation in the project files, all the conditions of the November 18, 2003 Programmatic Categorical Exclusion Agreement have been met.
- CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CE): For actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant environmental effect and are excluded from the requirement to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Requires FHWA determination.

John Cullom 9/20/04  
Signature: Environmental Office Chief Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: Project Manager/OLA Engineer Date

**FHWA DETERMINATION**

Based on the evaluation of this project and the statements above, it is determined that the project meets the criteria of and is properly classified as a Categorical Exclusion (CE).

Steve Hedges 9-24-04  
Signature: FHWA Project Development Engineer Date

Additional information attached or referenced, as appropriate (e.g. Mitigation commitments for NEPA only; Air Quality studies or documentation of exemption from regional conformity or use of CO Protocol; §108 commitments; §4(f) or Programmatic §4(f), date of COE nationwide permit; § 7 species survey results; Wetlands Finding; Floodplain Finding; additional studies; design conditions. Rev. 11/2003

cc: (No Enclosure)