

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Development of the Redding Police Department Facility Siting and Construction of a Police Facility and Conversion of Parkland and/or Park Facilities State Clearinghouse No. _____

SUBJECT

Siting, construction, and operation of a new Redding Police Department facility at one of three site locations, all of which are situated immediately west of Redding City Hall. Two of the sites involve conversion of parkland or parkland and park facilities in order to provide sufficient area for construction of the two-story police facility. There were originally five site alternatives under consideration. *Sites 1 and 3* involved a greater loss of parklands and park facilities (e.g., Tiger Field, tennis courts, and playground) and are no longer being considered.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Redding Police Department proposes to construct a two-story, 67,500-square-foot police station; a 10,200-square-foot support building; and covered, secured parking area at one of three locations immediately west of City Hall between Cypress Avenue and Parkview Avenue. The proposal includes conversion of parkland or parkland and park facilities on two of the three potential sites. The proposal also includes the construction of up to a 200-foot-high telecommunications tower/monopole to ensure a reliable public-safety communications system (see page 1 of the attached Initial Study for greater detail).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The sites are surrounded by developed lands consisting of residential and commercial uses to the south, the Redding Library and Tiger Field to the west, Cypress School and commercial development to the north, and Redding City Hall to the east. The sites themselves have no undisturbed natural areas and have been previously developed.

Site 2 would occupy the Civic Center Softball Park in its entirety, which is currently developed with a lighted softball field that would be removed (3.6 acres). A portion of the parking lot used by City Hall and the adjacent previously disturbed vacant land is also a part of the site.

Site 4 would occupy the turf area east of the fenced softball field (1.1 acres), a portion of a parking lot used by City Hall, and adjacent vacant land. The turf area is used in peak season for a softball field, and that use would be eliminated.

Site 5 would occupy the area currently occupied by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) facility, the adjacent vacant land to the east, and a portion of the parking lot used by City Hall. The Cal Fire facility would be removed.

FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION

The City of Redding conducted an Initial Study (attached), which determined that the proposed project could have significant environmental effects. Subsequent revisions in the project proposal create the specific mitigation measure identified below. The project, as revised and as agreed to by the City, avoids or mitigates the potentially significant environmental effects identified, and the preparation of an environmental impact report will not be required. There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the City, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment. If there are substantial changes that alter the character or impacts of the proposed project, another environmental impact determination will be necessary.

The project includes measures to mitigate the potentially significant impacts that would result from conversion of parkland and/or park facilities. The conversion would cause substantial impacts to existing facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated.

Prior to approval of the project, the lead agency may conclude, at a public hearing, that certain mitigation measure(s) identified in the Mitigated Negative Declaration are infeasible or undesirable. In accordance with CEQA Section 15074.1, the lead agency may delete those mitigation measures and substitute other measures which it determines are equivalent or more effective. The lead agency would adopt written findings that the new measure is equivalent or more effective in mitigating or avoiding potential significant effects and that it, in itself, would not cause any potentially significant effect on the environment.

- 1. Based on the whole record (including the Initial Study and any supporting documentation) and the mitigation measures incorporated into the project, the City of Redding has determined that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.**
- 2. The Mitigated Negative Declaration, with its supporting documentation, reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the lead agency, which is the City of Redding.**

DOCUMENTATION

The attached Initial Study documents the reasons to support the above determination.

MITIGATION MEASURES

1. Within 3 years from the date of commencement of construction of the project, any parkland and/or park facilities lost or converted to non-park and -recreation uses shall be mitigated. Mitigation shall take the form of payment to the Park Development fund as an in-lieu fee in an amount equal to the replacement costs of the parkland and/or recreation facilities that are displaced. In the alternative, construction of replacement facilities shall be commenced.

PUBLIC REVIEW DISTRIBUTION

Draft copies or notice of this Mitigated Negative Declaration were distributed to:

- State Clearinghouse
- Shasta County Clerk
- Butte Environmental Council
- Defenders of Wildlife
- California Native Plant Society
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board
- All property owners within 300 feet of the property boundary

PUBLIC REVIEW

- (✓) Draft document referred for comments October 1, 2009.
- () No comments were received during the public review period.
- () Comments were received but did not address the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration findings or the accuracy/completeness of the Initial Study. No response is necessary. The letters are attached.
- () Comments addressing the findings of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and/or accuracy or completeness of the Initial Study were received during the public review period. The letters and responses follow (see Response to Comments, attached).

Copies of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Initial Study, documentation materials, and the Mitigation Monitoring Program may be obtained at the Planning Division of the Development Services Department, City of Redding, 777 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA 96001. Contact Senior Planner Jim Wildauer at (530) 225-4020.

September 29, 2009

Date of Draft Report

Douglas DeMallie, Planning Manager

Date of Final Report

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Attachments:

- A. Location map
- B. Initial Study
- C. Mitigation Monitoring Program
- D. Comments and Response to Comments (if any)