



168 W. Alisal Street, 2nd Floor, Salinas, CA 93901

Date: August 23, 2016

To: Legislative Committee

From: Carl P. Holm, AICP, Interim Parks Director

RE: LAGUNA SECA RACETRACK EROSION CONTROL PROJECT (TURN 6)
BLM RIGHT OF WAY GRANT

BLM granted Monterey County a temporary Right of Way Grant (ROW) on BLM lands within the Fort Ord National Monument. A briefing paper with maps is attached for reference. **(Attachment 1)** Per the conditions of the ROW, which is set to expire December 31, 2016, BLM applied action items including a requirement for Monterey County to have a plan of development for water diversion and acceptable termination of an existing temporary drain pipe. Monterey County has a compliance deadline of September 1, 2016 to reach agreement on a plan. **(Attachment 2 - extension request letter)**

Monterey County engaged services of Cotton Shires and Associates (CSA) to evaluate the site and develop alternatives for consideration. A proposed mitigation alternative, Alternative 5c, has been selected based on the input and feedback from County staff, BLM staff and our consultants (CSA). The proposal is to redirect the racetrack drainage back towards Turn 5 by connecting to the existing drainage system then diverted to a new siltation basin to be located in the open area adjacent to and above Turn 5. **(Attachment 3)** The goal of creating a new siltation basin is to collect and separate the sediment before it enters the lakebed.

The proposal includes:

- Removing an existing, temporary, above-ground drain line leading down the ravine approximately 600-feet
- Retaining an existing concrete drain inlet along with the rock trench that was developed in 2006
- Closing off the affected area and rerouting Trail 47, due to the proximity of the trail to the +/- 40 foot drop off at the main ravine.
- Inspecting (with camera) the 15-inch outlet pipe from the lakebed, down towards the lower ponds to assess its condition and capacity to accommodate additional run-off/drainage.
- Continuing annual inspection and cleaning of the drainage system for the racetrack.
- On-going monitoring of the mitigation efforts.

The final item is the proposal to develop a riprap buttress (shown as option 4A in CSA's analysis - **Attachment 4**) at the base of the main ravine to address the potential for slope failure and long term protection of the Turn 6 embankment. This option should be noted, but not yet engineered or designed. Instead, the area would be monitored to determine the effectiveness of the preferred mitigation alternative identified above. The riprap buttress would be modified to lower the height to avoid covering the crevice where it is assumed that raptors have nested.

Note, no grading (re-contouring) or natural vegetative restoration is a part of the proposal. BLM may require erosion control measures in disturbed areas as was done with the installation of the 600-foot temporary line that was done in 2012. This would include a top layer of barley seed, straw-rolls and/or jute netting and straw cover.

The proposed alternative was discussed – in concept – with Eric Morgan (BLM), and received a favorable response. Mr. Morgan discussed this proposal with BLM staff, which resulted in a letter dated August 24 (**Attachment 5**). In general, BLM is pleased that the County now has a Geotechnical Analysis Report to aid in storm water management and reclamation/restoration. BLM is looking for a concrete proposal now from the County to accompany a new right-of-way authorization to remove unneeded facilities and restore/stabilize the gully threat below Turn 6.

The preferred mitigation alternative will be developed along with the required, revised ROW application, and presented to BLM for their consideration and approval. This next phase of work requires further analysis and engineering and design by a qualified professional (Construction Documents) so that the new system can be implemented. It is anticipated that this phase of work would begin next Fiscal Year.

Attachments