



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
P.O. BOX 1609, MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546  
(760) 934-8989, fax (760) 934-8608

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**DATE: APRIL 5, 2011**  
**TO: RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**FROM: ELLEN CLARK, SENIOR PLANNER**  
**MARK WARDLAW, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**  
**RE: TRAILS SYSTEM MASTER PLAN AND CEQA ADOPTION PROCESS UPDATE**

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This memorandum provides an update on the progress of the draft Environmental Impact Report for the Trails System Master Plan (TSMP), and, a description of the steps and schedule to complete a revised draft TSMP for Commission consideration.

#### **Draft Environment Impact Report (EIR)**

The consultant work is continuing on the Draft EIR, following the circulation of the Initial Study for the project at the end of 2010. Staff received the first set of administrative draft chapters and draft traffic study from the consultant team and provided comments on them in March. Additional chapters including aesthetics, land use, recreation and public services are expected in the next two weeks, with remaining chapters including traffic, air quality, noise, hydrology, biological resources and cultural resources to follow in April and May.

Completion of the Draft EIR is now scheduled in June; the current estimated project schedule for delivery of the EIR includes the following milestones:

- Administrative Draft Chapters, except Biology/Cultural Resources: April 8
- Completion of draft supplemental biological and cultural resources reports: April 8
- Final biological and cultural resources reports: May 6
- Draft EIR Released: June 3
- 45-Day Public Review Period Ends: July 18
- Final EIR and Response to Comments Available: August 18

The delay in completing the EIR is due to unanticipated additional work for certain key analysis topics. Since the last update to the Recreation Commission, the need for some additional work to complete the biological and cultural resources impact assessment has emerged, which has delayed the overall EIR schedule. This work was not foreseen in PCR's original scope of work and schedule, which assumed the EIR could rely on biological and cultural resources studies completed in 2009 by LSA Associates. However, because LSA was not directed by previous staff to include any analysis of the SHARP study area, or provide analysis at level of detail sufficient for the more specific project-level analyses that will be included in the EIR, supplemental work by PCR has been determined to be necessary. In addition,

some technical studies that the Forest Service had hoped to provide for the SHARP area were not completed due to competing priorities and USFS budget constraints.

### **Trails System Master Plan Adoption**

Although adoption of the TSMP is contingent on completion of the EIR, additional work is also needed to finalize the TSMP itself, which was released as a draft in February 2009. MLTPA will take the lead on compiling and making these changes with support from the Town staff, and with review by the appointed Trails Committee of the Recreation Committee (Vice-Chair Colasardo and Commissioner Turner). Trails Committee review of the revised draft TSMP will allow an efficient completion of the final draft which will then be submitted for full Commission consideration. The errata are expected to be generally technical in nature, and are not expected to materially alter the scope of the previously reviewed Draft TSMP or the EIR.

Examples of errata and updates to be included in the revised draft are changes to reflect:

- Integration of the TSMP with other long-range and strategic recreation planning efforts since 2009 including RECSTRATS and concepts for the Mammoth Lakes Trails System.
- Changed physical conditions since 2009, particularly the completion of Lake Mary Bike Path and other trail segments, and development and implementation of the trails system signage and wayfinding program.
- Evolution of discussions between the Town, Forest Service and other partners regarding implementation, management and maintenance of the trail system.
- Completion of district planning and mobility planning work which has refined trails concepts and priorities for some areas of town, particularly Snowcreek, Main Street and Old Mammoth Road.
- Completion of the SHARP process and work of the SHARP TTC to identify and refine ideas initially presented in the Sherwin Working Group proposal included in the Draft TSMP.

Although these changes will reflect the outcomes of projects and initiative that have been thoroughly vetted through other public processes, it is nonetheless important that an opportunity is provided for review and comment on the revised draft TSMP, including from the Recreation Commission. The following tentative process and schedule is proposed for review and adoption of the revised draft TSMP:

- Town staff and MLTPA complete review of Draft TSMP and compilation of proposed errata: April 30
- Trails Committee review of proposed errata list: May 13
- Recreation Commission Presentation and review of proposed errata list and DEIR: June 7
- Planning Commission Presentation and review of proposed errata list and DEIR: June 8
- Redline Revised Draft TSMP: August 5
- Trails Committee Review of Revised Draft TSMP: Mid August
- Recreation Commission Review of Revised Draft TSMP: September 7
- Planning Commission Review and Public Hearing: September 14
- Town Council Public Hearing and Adoption: October 5