

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

RESOLUTION NO. 21-0077

WHEREAS, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) staff have developed a project description under the Water Enterprise 10-year Capital Improvement Program (WECIP) for certain improvements to the Regional Water System, otherwise known as Project No. CUW2751801, Southern Skyline Blvd Ridge Trail Extension (Project); and

WHEREAS, The objectives of the Project are to (1) provide multi-modal access to the Peninsula watershed in accordance with the Peninsula Watershed Management Plan; (2) extend and enhance the Bay Area Ridge Trail on the Peninsula Watershed via construction of trail segments and associated facilities; (3) ensure watershed protection; (4) protect sensitive habitat; and (5) enhance educational opportunities for local residents; and

WHEREAS, The Project includes a new 6-mile-long ridge trail along State Route 35 (S.R. 35), also known as Skyline Boulevard, to be served by a new 20-car parking lot and two new restrooms; and a new 0.5-mile universal access loop trail along the existing Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail, a new 50-car parking lot, and one new restroom; and

WHEREAS, The Project also includes the implementation of unsupervised access along the 6-mile long ridge trail along S.R. 35 and supervised access (with a docent) along the 0.5-mile universal access loop; and

WHEREAS, On July 26, 2001, by Resolution No. 01-0140, this Commission approved the Peninsula Watershed Management Plan Final EIR and adopted findings and a Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) as required by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and

WHEREAS, On December 18, 2002, by Resolution No. 02-0265, the SFPUC adopted Fifield/Cahill Ridge Trail Alternative E, and amended and finalized the Peninsula Watershed Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Peninsula Watershed Management Plan FEIR addressed the southern skyline ridge trail at a programmatic level of detail; and

WHEREAS, On April 29, 2021, the Planning Commission, under Case No. 2016-016100ENV and its Motion No. 20900, performed the following: reviewed and considered the FEIR for the Project in Planning Department File No. 2016-016100ENV, consisting of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), the Comments and Responses document, and the Errata to the Comments and Response document; found that the contents of said report and the procedures through which the FEIR was prepared, publicized, and reviewed complied with the provisions of the CEQA the CEQA Guidelines, and Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code; found further that the FEIR reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the City and County of San Francisco, is adequate, accurate and objective, and that the Comments and Responses document contains no significant revisions to the DEIR, and certified the completion of said FEIR in compliance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, This Commission has reviewed and considered the information contained in the FEIR, all written and oral information provided by the Planning Department, the public, relevant public agencies, SFPUC and other experts, and the administrative files for the Project and the FEIR; and

WHEREAS, The Project and FEIR files have been made available for review by the SFPUC and the public, and those files are part of the record before this Commission; and

WHEREAS, The Planning Department, Jonas P. Ionin, is the custodian of records, located in Planning Department File No. 2016-016100ENV, at 49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400, San Francisco, California; and

WHEREAS, SFPUC staff prepared proposed findings as required by CEQA (CEQA Findings), including a Statement of Overriding Considerations, and a proposed MMR,P which material was made available to the public and the Commission for the Commission's review, consideration, and action; and

WHEREAS, On April 22, 2014 by Resolution No. 14-0060, this Commission authorized the General Manager to submit on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, an application to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for \$1,000,000 in grant funding for the Project through the Priority Conservation Area Grant Fund Program; and

WHEREAS, The Project is a capital improvement project approved by this Commission as part of the Water Enterprise FY 20/21 10-year Capital Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council holds a trail easement across Skylawn Memorial Park (Trail Easement), which is already designated as Bay Area Ridge Trail, and City, through the SFPUC, owns the roadways extending north and south of the trail easement, which are also already designated as Bay Area Ridge Trail; and

WHEREAS, The Trail Easement contemplates a future assignment of interest by the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council to a third party experienced in developing, managing, and/or administering trails, open space or recreational easements or similar interests, and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, as the grantee, desires to transfer its interest in the Trail Easement to City, at no cost to City; and

WHEREAS, City, through the SFPUC, seeks to accept a transfer of the Trail Easement from the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council at no cost to the City as part of the Project to facilitate consistent management of this portion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, subject to approval of acceptance of the easement by the Board of Supervisors; now, therefore, be it

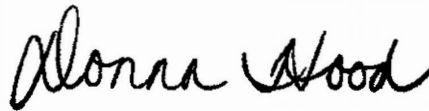
RESOLVED, This Commission has reviewed and considered the entire record of this proceeding, including the FEIR, finds that the FEIR is adequate for its use as the decision-making body for the actions taken herein, and hereby adopts the CEQA Findings, including rejecting alternatives as infeasible and the Statement of Overriding Considerations, attached hereto: <https://sfpuc.sharefile.com/d-se259f46c30104d488df4edd5344ff475> and incorporated as part of this Resolution by this reference, adopts the MMRP attached to this Resolution and attached hereto: <https://sfpuc.sharefile.com/d-s5b20dfe795be4d789c34de2ef4e7bfdd> and

incorporated as part of this Resolution by this reference, rejects Mitigation Measure M-TR-5b (Construction of a Pedestrian/Bicycle/Equestrian Bridge or Roundabout) because specific considerations make this mitigation measures infeasible and there are overriding economic, legal, social, technological, and other benefits of the Project that outweigh the Project's significant impacts, as explained further in the CEQA Findings, and authorizes a request to the Board of Supervisors to adopt the CEQA Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and MMRP in connection with the authorization of funding for Project construction; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Commission authorizes the General Manager to accept and execute an agreement necessary to effectuate the transfer to the SFPUC of the Trail Easement between Lifemark Group, Inc. and Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, at no cost to City, on substantially the same terms as the Trail Easement, which is on file with the Commission Secretary, subject to approval of the acceptance of the Trail Easement by the Board of Supervisors; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Commission hereby approves Project No. CUW2751801, Southern Skyline Boulevard Ridge Trail Extension Project, and authorizes staff to proceed with actions necessary to implement the Project consistent with this Resolution, including advertising for construction bids. The Commission will consider the award of a construction contract at a later date.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its meeting of May 11, 2021.



Secretary, Public Utilities Commission