



July 7, 2020

Mr. Joe LaClair  
 San Mateo County Planning Services Director  
 455 County Center, 2nd Floor  
 Redwood City, CA 94063

**Via Email**

**Re: Southern Skyline Boulevard Ridge Trail Extension Project  
 General Plan Consistency Determination**

Dear Mr. LaClair:

The City and County of San Francisco, through the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), submits this letter seeking a general plan consistency determination under California Government Code Section 65402(b) from the San Mateo County Planning and Building Department for the SFPUC’s Southern Skyline Boulevard Ridge Trail Extension Project. The purpose of the Project is to construct a six mile link of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, adding to the existing 34-miles of Ridge Trail in San Mateo County. The proposed trail is described in the County of San Mateo Trails Master Plan of 2001. The project would allow the City of San Francisco’s (City) to open a portion of the SFPUC watershed to recreation via controlled public access. The Project includes the construction of trails, walls, fencing, trailhead infrastructure, restrooms, interpretive signage and a Universal Access loop trail on SFPUC watershed lands, within unincorporated San Mateo County.

Government Code Section 65402(b) requires that, prior to constructing a public building or structure in another city or county, the SFPUC must request your review of the Project’s conformity with the County’s adopted general plan. If a planning agency does not report back regarding conformity with its general plan within 40 days of this request, the project is deemed to be in conformity with the general plan.

You should be aware that although Section 65402(b) provides for the above review, under the doctrine of intergovernmental immunity, cities and counties are exempt from a requirement to conform to zoning ordinances, building codes, and the general plans of other cities and counties when they lease or acquire property for public purposes in other cities and counties. See *Lawler v. City of Redding* (1992) 7 Cal. App. 4th 778, 782-783 (Government Code Sections 53090 and 53091 prevail over the provision of Section 65402(b)), and an early case involving Sonoma County and the City of Santa Rosa, *Akins v. County of Sonoma* (1967), 67 Cal. 2d 185, 194.

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Project has been prepared by the San Francisco Planning Department, Environmental Planning Division, and was published on June 25, 2020, and can be viewed at the following location: <https://sfplanning.org/environmental-review-documents>. Upon adoption of the Final EIR and acquisition of requisite permits, construction is planned to begin in spring/summer of 2021.

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**Harlan L. Kelly, Jr.**  
 General Manager



Project components proposed for areas south of S.R. 92 include a new six mile southern skyline ridge trail along S.R. 35, a 20-car parking lot, and two restrooms. Along the proposed southern skyline ridge trail, the SFPUC would install a prefabricated bridge to span a gulch that intersects the trail alignment. Primary project components proposed for areas north of S.R. 92 include a new 0.5-mile universal access loop trail (that would provide Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant access and parking), and a 50-car parking lot and restroom near the watershed's Cemetery Gate, as well as the transfer of a public access easement (from the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council to the SFPUC) along an existing segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail through Skylawn Memorial Park.

Work at the site would include six mile trail grading and paving parking lot grading and paving, small foundation excavation, forming and pouring of concrete pads, retaining walls, and installation of the one pre-fabricated bridge, two pre-fabricated restrooms, several types of fencing, gates, and signage .

This letter is provided to satisfy the notice of requirements of Government Code Section 65402(b), and does not necessarily require any action or reply on the part of the County. However, if you do wish to respond, please send any reply to this submission to my attention at the address on this letterhead. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (415) 554-2482 or [mtienken@sflower.org](mailto:mtienken@sflower.org). Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Tienken  
Project Manager