



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Date: October 29, 2010

To: Responsible Parties, Agencies with Jurisdiction by law, Trustee Agencies, Involved Federal Agencies, and Agencies/People Requesting Notice

From: Town of Mammoth Lakes
Community Development Department
P.O. Box 1609
437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R
Mammoth Lakes, California 93546
Contact: Ellen Clark, Senior Planner
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Project Title: Town of Mammoth Lakes Trails System Master Plan Project

Lead Agency: The Town of Mammoth Lakes (Town) as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Town's Trails System Master Plan (TSMP) Project (referred to herein as the "Project"). This Notice of Preparation (NOP) is being circulated to agencies, organizations and other interested parties to solicit input regarding the proposed scope of the EIR analysis.

Agencies: The Town requests your agency's views on the scope and content of the environmental information relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the Project, in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15082(b). Any public agencies that respond to this NOP are requested, at a minimum, to:

1. State whether they are a responsible or trustee for the Project, explain why and note the Project elements subject to their regulatory authority.
2. Describe significant environmental issues, alternatives and mitigation measures which they would like to have addressed in the EIR.
3. Provide the name, address and phone number of the person serving as their point of contact for this environmental review process.

Organizations and Interested Parties: The Town requests your comments regarding the significant environmental issues, alternatives and mitigation measures you would like to see addressed in the EIR.

Project Description and Location: The TSMP is a comprehensive trails and public access plan that updates the Town's 1991 Trails System Plan, for the area within the Town's Municipal Boundary. In addition to new trails, paved pathways, soft-surface trails, signage and wayfinding, and associated amenities, the TSMP recommends actions to improve sidewalks, crosswalks, bus stops, bike lanes, bicycle parking, summer maintenance, and snow removal. The TSMP will also integrate and adopt the Sherwins Area Recreation Plan (SHARP) as a component of the TSMP. The SHARP includes proposals for trails, public access, and recreation facilities for winter and summer use within the Sherwins area.

The TSMP addresses the entire area within the Town's Municipal Boundary. This includes trail components within the Town's UGB, which is comprised of a mix of urbanized uses, as well as system components that extend beyond the Town's UGB into mostly undeveloped National forest lands. There are a number of existing facilities that are located mainly north of the Town's UGB within the Shady Rest Park area. As described below, the Soft Surface Trail Concept and related Sherwin Area Trails Special Study (SATTS), both included as appendices to the TSMP, anticipate future trails system components in the Sherwin Area; the SSTC also anticipates future trails within Shady Rest and Mammoth Knolls areas to the north, and the Lakes Basin to the west of the Town's urbanized area.

Environmental Impact Report: Given the conceptual and long-term nature of most of the proposals presented in the Draft TSMP and SHARP, the EIR will be prepared as a Program EIR pursuant to Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines. According to the Guidelines, a Program EIR is appropriate for actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related either geographically, as logical parts in the chain of contemplated actions, in connections with issuance of rules, regulations, plans, or other general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program, or as individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority and having generally similar environmental effects which can be mitigated in similar ways. Program EIRs contain less detail than typical project-level EIRs because the level of detail in the environmental analysis is reflective of the level of detail in the program description itself. As a Program EIR, certain impacts identified and mitigation measures recommended will be inherently limited in specificity due to the conceptual nature of many of the individual TSMP and SHARP projects. As such, subsequent more focused environmental review may take place as individual projects under the TSMP and SHARP are implemented. When subsequent environmental review is required, the Program EIR may be used to focus project-level review on only those significant impacts not adequately considered in the Program EIR, and, to incorporate relevant information and analysis by reference.

In addition to serving as a Program EIR, is important to note that for a limited number (nine) of individual trail components within the TSMP and SHARP that are intended for near-term implementation, "Project-level" analyses will be completed. These projects are collectively referred to as "Priority Projects."

Potential Environmental Effects: The Town has prepared an Initial Study in accordance with Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines to determine if the Project would have significant effects on the environment, and to focus the analyses in the Draft EIR on those issues determined to have the potential for significant effects. As identified in the Initial Study, the environmental issues listed below will be addressed in the EIR. With the exception of Agricultural Resources, Mineral Resources, Population/Housing, and Utilities, the EIR will include all of the environmental issue areas included in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines.

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards (wildland fires)
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Noise
- Public Services (fire protection)
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic

Document Availability: The Notice of Preparation, Project Description, and Initial Study are available for review at the following locations:

Town of Mammoth Lakes
 Community Development Department
 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite R
 Mammoth Lakes, California 93546

Mammoth Lakes Library
 400 Sierra Park Rd
 Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546

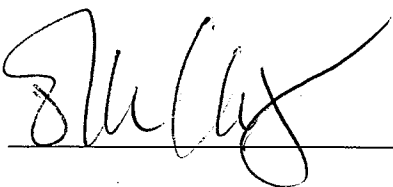
The documents are also available online on the Town's Website at:

<http://www.ci.mammoth-lakes.ca.us>

Responses and Comments: If you would like to submit written comments on the NOP, please send them to Ellen Clark, Senior Planner, with the Town of Mammoth Lakes Community Development Department at the P.O. Box address shown above, by fax at (760) 934-89. Please be specific in your statements describing your environmental concerns. As mandated by state law, the public review period for the NOP is to occur for at least 30 days. The public review period will occur from November 3, 2010 to December 6, 2010. Please submit your response at the earliest possible date, but *not later than December 6, 2010*.

Public Scoping Meeting: In addition to the opportunity to provide written comments in response to this NOP, the Town will conduct a scoping meeting at a date to be determined to solicit oral and written comments from agencies, organizations and interested parties regarding the scope and content of the EIR. The scoping meeting date will be publicly noticed by the Town.

For additional information, please contact Ellen Clark, Senior Planner at: (760) 934-8989 Ext. 269

Signature:  _____

Date: October 27, 2010

Ellen Clark

Senior Planner