

**Contra
Costa
County**

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
INITIAL STUDY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE**

PROJECT NUMBER# 0676-6P1025
CP# 12 - 03

PROJECT NAME: **Hillside Drive Sidewalk Gap Closure Project**

PREPARED BY: **Kimani Birden**

DATE: **January 12, 2012**

APPROVED BY: Christine Lorie

DATE: January 24, 2012

RECOMMENDATIONS:

☒ **Categorical Exemption [Class 1(c)]**

☐ **Negative Declaration**

☐ **Environmental Impact Report Required**

☐ **Conditional Negative Declaration**

The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The recommendation is based on the following: The project consists of the minor alteration of existing public structures, involving negligible expansion of use; pursuant to Section 15301(c) of the CEQA guidelines.

What changes to the project would mitigate the identified impacts: **n/a**

USGS Quad Sheet: **Richmond**

Base Map Sheet #: **J7**

Parcel #: **n/a**

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- 1. Location:** The project is located in west Contra Costa County in the unincorporated community of El Sobrante (Figs.1-3).
- 2. Project Description:** The purpose of this project is to close a sidewalk gap (approximately 225 feet long) on the east side of Hillside Drive just before Castro Ranch Road. The sidewalk gap is earthen, uneven and does not provide all weather access to pedestrian traffic. The closure of this sidewalk gap will improve access to Olinda Elementary School, Kennedy Grove Regional Recreational Area, and transit stops. The western side of Hillside Drive currently has no sidewalk facilities; therefore the proposed Hillside Drive Sidewalk Gap Closure Project will improve the surrounding communities' pedestrian access.

The project will construct 225 feet of new sidewalk on the eastern side of Hillside Drive south of the Castro Ranch Road intersection. The proposed sidewalk will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Additionally, the project will construct three ADA compliant curb ramps. Shrub and tree branches will need to be trimmed before the placement of the new sidewalk, and in order to minimize potential damage to trees, any roots exposed will be cut cleanly. No tree removal will occur. A new crosswalk will be striped between Hillside Drive and Olinda Road along the eastern side of Hillside Drive for improved access to Olinda Elementary School. Utility, sign, and culvert extension may be necessary in support of the project. Culvert extension will occur on the roadway end of the culvert. One lane will be open during construction at all times. Real property transactions, including right-of-way acquisition and encroachment permits may be necessary in support of this project.

General Plan Conformance with the City of Richmond may be necessary.

- 3. Does it appear that any feature of the project will generate significant public concern?**

☐ yes ☒ no ☐ maybe (Nature of concern):

- 4. Will the project require approval or permits by other than a County agency?**

☐ yes ☒ no

- 5. Is the project within the Sphere of Influence of any city?** City of Richmond