

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
INITIAL STUDY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

PROJECT NUMBER: 7517-6W7257
CP# 18-30

PROJECT NAME: Clean and Green Adopt-a-Tree, Adopt-a-Block Cleanups and Watershed Connections Route

PREPARED BY: Laura Cremin AB

DATE: September 18, 2018

APPROVED BY: Telma B. Moreira

DATE: 9/20/2018

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Categorical Exemption: 15301 [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 minor alteration of existing facilities involving no expansion of use, pursuant to section 15301(c) of the CEQA guidelines. This project also consists of new gardening or landscaping pursuant to 15304(b).

What changes to the project would mitigate the identified impacts: N/A

USGS Quad Sheet: <u>Richmond</u>	Base Map Sheet #: <u>J-4</u>	Parcel #: <u>N/A</u>
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GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. **Location:** The project is located in North Richmond [Figures 1-3].
2. **Project Description:** The purpose of this project is to implement a suite of multiple-benefit urban greening projects in the community. North Richmond, a Community of Concern and Priority Development Area at the mouth of the San Pablo Creek and Wildcat Creek watersheds, is challenged by lack of street trees, illegally-dumped materials, and poor infrastructure. This project is needed to expand the urban forest to reduce heat islands, improve water quality of the creeks through trash reduction and removal, and increase the community's awareness of and safe access to their local natural resources.

This project is part of the North Richmond Watersheds Connections grant. The **Clean and Green Adopt-a-Tree, Adopt-a-Block, and Watershed Connections Route** (project) will be implemented in one phase that is distinct from the other elements of the grant. The Fred Jackson Way Rain Gardens and Fred Jackson Way First Mile/Last Mile Urban Greening elements are separate phases.

The aims of each primary component of the project are to:

- 1) **Clean and Green Adopt-a-Tree:** Increase the urban canopy by planting 50 street trees on private property in collaboration with homeowners. A Neighborhood Adopt-a-Tree Program Outreach will recruit homeowners and community members for tree adoption and continued tree care resources and support. These efforts include tree planting, assessment, and reporting. 42 trees will be planted on private property, and 8 trees will be planted in the public right-of-way.
- 2) **Clean and Green Adopt-a-Block:** Lead County-funded Adopt-a-block cleanups, anticipated to remove 4,500 pounds of trash from the creeks and watersheds annually, as well as leverage ongoing trash reduction efforts by providing "jewel boxes" (artful trash and recycling receptacles) at litter hot spots. These efforts include community outreach and education, monthly cleanup events, and trash removal assessment and reporting.
- 3) **Clean and Green Watershed Connections Route:** Improve watershed awareness, access, and walkability with wayfinding, artwork, and interpretive elements, such as painted footprints, along the Watershed Connections route. These efforts include community outreach and education, development of signage and interpretive elements, installation, assessment, and reporting.

No tree removal will be necessary. Tree and shrubbery trimming may be necessary throughout the project area. In order to minimize damage to trees, any roots exposed during construction activities will be clean cut. The project will maintain the existing drainage pattern and will not create new impervious areas. Appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented.

One lane will be open during construction activities. Emergency vehicles will have access at all times.

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

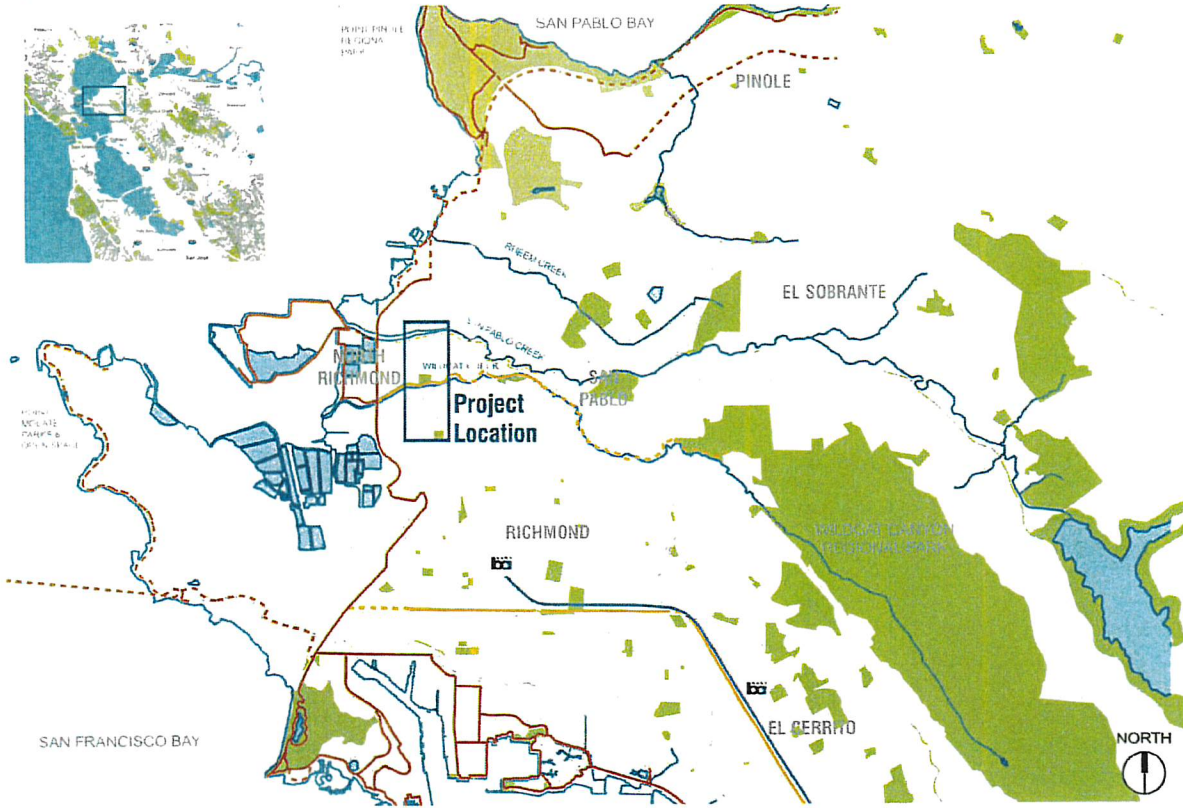
Yes No maybe (Nature of concern):

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

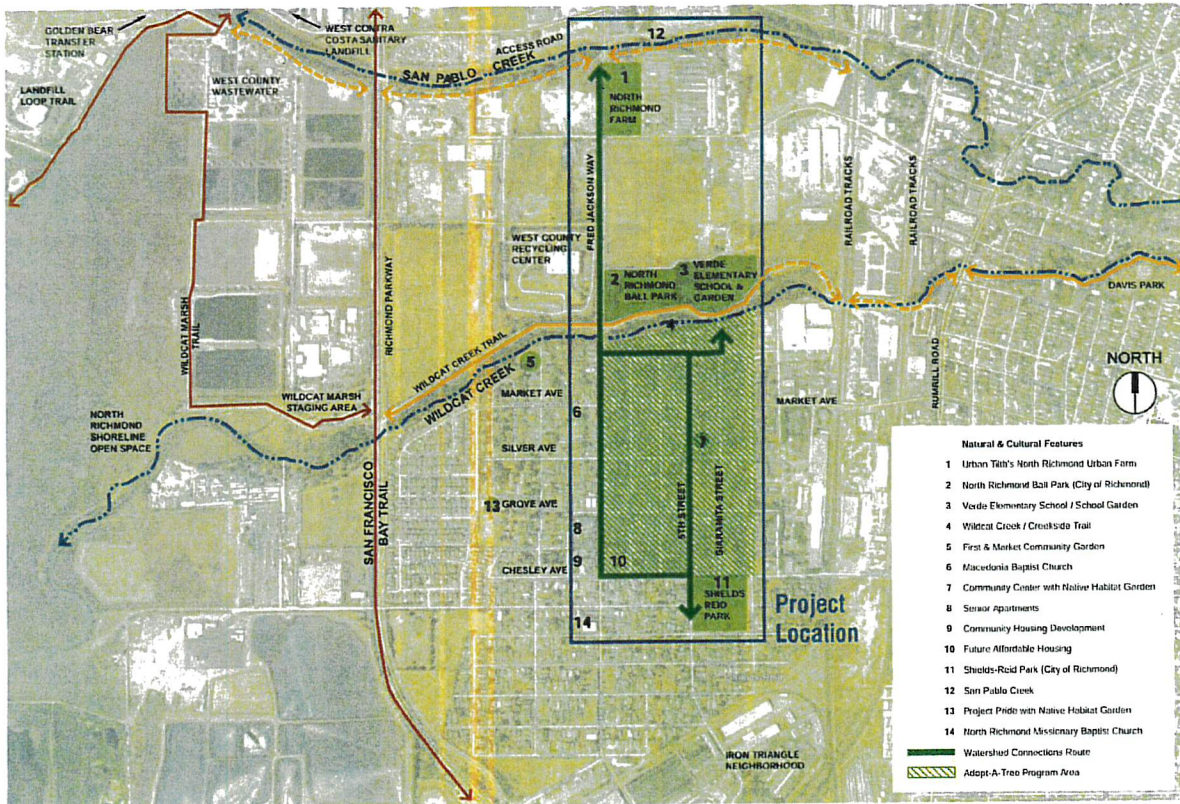
Yes No

5. **Is the project within the Sphere of Influence of any city?** No

EXHIBIT A: PROJECT MAPS AND GRAPHICS



Regional Map: North Richmond and Vicinity



Neighborhood Scale Map

NORTH RICHMOND WATERSHED CONNECTIONS A MULTI-BENEFIT URBAN GREENING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

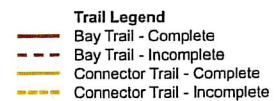
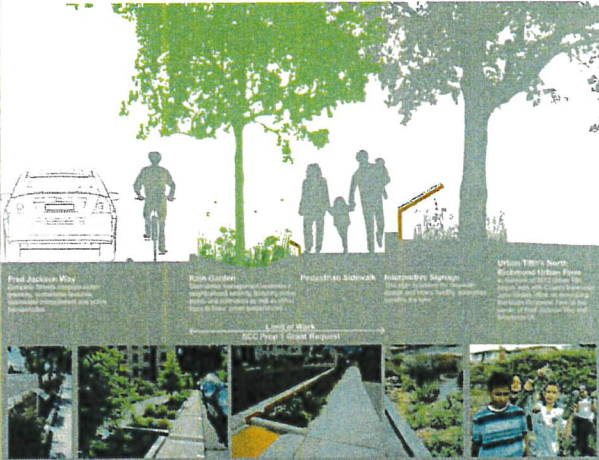


Figure 1



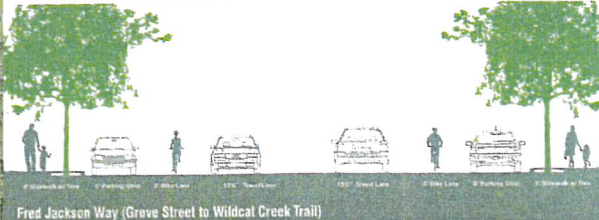
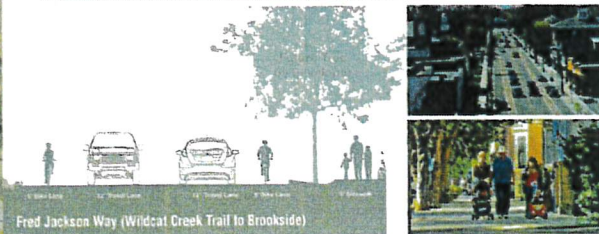
Fred Jackson Way Rain Gardens **Separate project**

- Project Lead:** Urban Tilt
- Urban Greening: 6 Trees, 3,475 s.f. planting area with native species
 - Stormwater Management: 3,475 s.f. rain garden treats 3,110,400 gallons of stormwater annually



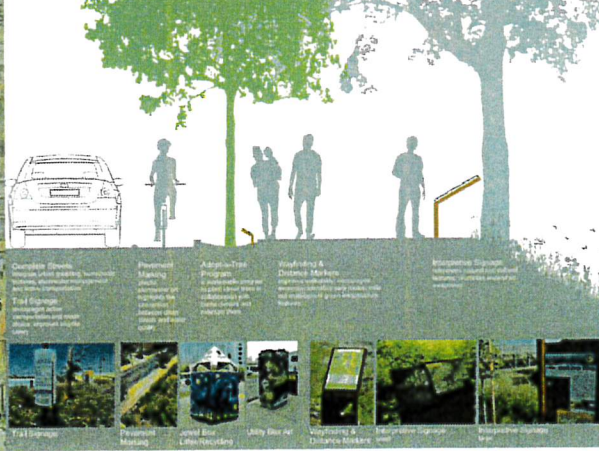
Fred Jackson Way First Mile/Last Mile Urban Greening **Separate project**

- Project Lead:** Contra Costa County Public Works Department
- Urban Greening: 37 Trees (shown conceptually, see design plan for layout)
- This is a Contra Costa County Department of Public Works Project. The ATP-funded project includes ADA accessible sidewalk with street trees along 0.3-mile roadway from Grove Avenue to Wildcat Creek Trail. It extends an additional 0.3 miles north to Brookside Drive to construct sidewalk and Class II bike lanes for a total of 0.6 miles of continuous pedestrian and bicycle access.



Clean & Green Adopt-a-Tree Program & Walkable Watersheds

- Project Lead:** The Watershed Project
- Urban Greening: Adopt-a-Tree Program / 50 Trees (refer to design plan for opportunity sites)
 - Walkable Watersheds: 4 interpretive features, 15 wayfinding markers, painted pavements, art
 - Water Quality / Litter Reduction: 3 "jewel boxes" (litter/recycling receptacles with mosaic art)



NORTH RICHMOND WATERSHED CONNECTIONS
A MULTI-BENEFIT URBAN GREENING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Figure 2



Design Plan:
Clean and Green Adopt-A-Tree Program
NORTH RICHMOND WATERSHED CONNECTIONS
A MULTI-BENEFIT URBAN GREENING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

- Legend**
- ### Assumed Owner Occupied
 - ### Assumed Non-Owner Occupied
 - Public Parks and Open Space
 - Adopt-a-Tree Opportunity Site
118 potential locations
50 adopt-a-trees requested
 - Watershed Connections Route



Figure 3

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Contra Costa County
Dept. of Conservation & Development
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

County Clerk
County of: Contra Costa

Project Title: **Clean and Green Adopt-a-Tree, Adopt-a-Block Cleanups and Watershed Connections Route**
Proj. No. WO7257, CP#18-30

Project Applicant: **Contra Costa County Public Works Department**

Project Location – **Specific:** Unincorporated North Richmond, primarily along Fred Jackson Way

Project Location: North Richmond, CA Project Location – County: **West Contra Costa**

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The purpose of this project is to implement a suite of multiple-benefit urban greening projects in the community. North Richmond, a Community of Concern and Priority Development Area at the mouth of the San Pablo Creek and Wildcat Creek watersheds, is challenged by lack of street trees, illegally-dumped materials, and poor infrastructure. This project is needed to expand the urban forest to reduce heat islands, improve water quality of the creeks through trash reduction and removal, and increase the community's awareness of and safe access to their local natural resources.

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Name of Public Agency Approving Project: **Contra Costa County**
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: **Contra Costa County Public Works Department**

Exempt Status:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial Project (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268; | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption: <u>15301 Class 1(c), 15304 (b)</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)); | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Statutory Exemption, Code No.: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)); | <input type="checkbox"/> General Rule of Applicability [Article 5, Section 15061 (b)(3)] |

Reasons why project is exempt: This activity is no subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article 5 Section 15061 (b)(3) of the CEQA guidelines.

Lead Agency Contact Person: **Laura Cremin - Public Works Dept.** Area Code/Telephone/Extension: **(925) 313-2015**

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: _____

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

AFFIDAVIT OF FILING AND POSTING	
I declare that on _____ I received and posted this notice as required by California Public Resources Code Section 21152(c). Said notice will remain posted for 30 days from the filing date.	
_____ Signature	_____ Title

Applicant:
Public Works Department
255 Glacier Drive
Martinez, CA 94553
Attn: **Laura Cremin**
Environmental Services Division
Phone: (925) 313-2015

Department of Fish and Game Fees Due
 EIR - \$3,168.00
 Neg. Dec. - \$2,280.75
 DeMinimis Findings - \$0
 County Clerk - \$50
 Conservation & Development - \$25

Total Due: \$75.00
Total Paid \$ _____
Receipt #: _____