



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Board of Directors
Title: Bay Area Ridge Trail Dedication – Mt Tamalpais Watershed East
From: Shaun Horn, Watershed Resources Director
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: February 03, 2026

TYPE OF ITEM: X Action Information

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Bay Area Ridge Trail dedication resolution for 11.26 miles of fire road on the Mt. Tam Watershed

SUMMARY: The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council has requested that the Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors designate several road segments along the east side of the Mt. Tamalpais watershed that currently represent gaps in the Bay Area Ridge Trail route. These segments on District lands include Pine Mountain/San Geronimo Ridge (3.01 miles), Fairfax–Bolinas Road (0.42 miles), Liberty Gulch Road (1.94 miles), Bullfrog Road (0.39 miles), Rock Springs–Lagunitas Road to Alpine Lake (4.56 miles), and East Ridgecrest Boulevard (0.22 miles), for a total of approximately 11 miles (Attachment 1).

All segments are existing fire roads that currently allow biking, hiking, and equestrian use. As a result, no change in use is required to proceed with dedication of these segments as part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

DISCUSSION: The Bay Area Ridge Trail's mission is to plan, promote, and sustain a connected hiking, cycling, and equestrian trail along the ridgelines surrounding San Francisco Bay—linking people, parks, and open space for present and future generations. Over the past three decades, approximately 400 miles of trail and roadway have been designated as part of the Ridge Trail system throughout the Bay Area. The District has partnered with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council since the organization's incorporation in 1989. In September 2005 the Board approved dedication of road segments along the San Geronimo Ridge Road and Peters' Dam access road, totaling a distance of about 5 miles to become a part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. That action established an important precedent for recognizing existing District roadways as components of the Ridge Trail where such designation is compatible with District land management objectives.

The current request builds upon that prior Board action by proposing designation of an additional 11.26 miles of existing District fire roads along the east side of the Mt. Tamalpais watershed that currently serve as gaps in the Ridge Trail route. All proposed segments already allow hiking, biking, and

equestrian use, and no change in use designation is required. Dedication of these segments would formally recognize their role within the regional Ridge Trail system and further advance the vision of a continuous 500-mile trail encircling the San Francisco Bay Area.

The proposed Ridge Trail segments on District lands would continue to be managed by Watershed Management staff in accordance with District land management policies, watershed regulations, and the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed Road and Trail Plan. Following approval, the designated routes would appear on maps distributed by the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and be identified in the field by small Ridge Trail markers affixed to existing signposts at locations coordinated with District staff.

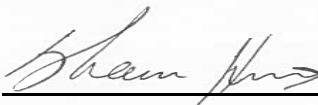
Approval of the designation request would reaffirm the District's long-standing partnership with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and its continued support of regional trail connectivity while maintaining existing watershed management practices.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: The proposed action is limited to designation of existing fire roads as part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. No construction, physical improvements, or changes to existing use are proposed, and the designation does not result in any change to current management or access. Therefore, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this action may have a significant effect on the environment and thus the proposed action is not subject to review under CEQA.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Proposed Resolution with Attachment of the Map of District Watershed Road Segments for Dedication

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Watershed	 Shaun Horne Watershed Resources Director	 Ben Horenstein General Manager