



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Watershed Committee/Board of Directors  
**Title:** Roads and Trails Management Plan Update - Planning Workshop  
**From:** Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** September 18, 2025

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**TYPE OF ITEM:** Approve      X      Review and Comment

**RECOMMENDATION:** Review and comment on staff's presentation on the Roads and Trails Management Plan update

**SUMMARY:** The Marin Municipal Water District (District) is preparing to update its 2005 Roads and Trails Management Plan (RTMP). The District plans to engage District Board members, stakeholders, and constituents in the update through this initial workshop and subsequent Watershed Committee Meetings. The first step is to gather early community and Board input that will be combined with the Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study (WRMPFS) outcomes to help to guide the planning process, public engagement and environmental review. Staff is working to bring on a consultant team through a Request for Proposals process and will bring the contract to a future Board of Directors meeting for review and approval.

**DISCUSSION:** In April of 2005, the District adopted the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed Roads and Trails Management Plan (RTMP), which describes the best management practices and environmental protection measures the District will implement to maintain watershed roads and trails. Under the RTMP, the District conducts proactive maintenance of service roads to support emergency access and water infrastructure servicing. Similarly, the District conducts maintenance and repairs to watershed roads and trails to protect water quality, support public access and protect natural and biological resources. The District utilizes a combination of staff, volunteers and contractors to carry out annual roads and trails maintenance activities on the watershed.

Since the adoption of the RTMP, the District initiated a feasibility study designed to facilitate a conversation with the community around existing visitation in an effort to help address long-standing issues around various modes of recreation on Mt. Tamalpais. The Watershed Recreation Management Plan Feasibility Study (WRMP Feasibility Study) was approved in April 2024 and evaluated watershed use patterns and opportunities to support safe, inclusive access with an emphasis on protecting the watershed's unique biodiversity, habitat, and water quality.

The WRMP Feasibility Study reviewed existing watershed recreational facilities, visitor use data, biological resources, stewardship and volunteer programs, and visitor management strategies. The WRMP Feasibility Study presents community recommendations and feedback for updates to the District's RTMP, which will be incorporated into this planning process. Staff is developing a request for proposals (RFP) for consultant team to support with the RTMP update and will bring the contract to a future Board of Directors meeting for review and approval. Staff's presentation is designed to solicit early input on components of the roads and trail updates that the Board and the community would like considered in the RTMP update. The RTMP update will include evaluating opportunities for modifications to trails standards and classifications, bike access routes, restoration and stewardship priorities, and visitor management and outreach strategies.

The District is also planning a community open house and workshop at Sky Oaks Ranger Station in the fall of 2025 to gather additional community input on social trail restoration priorities, bike trail standards and routes, and community engagement and education programs. Staff will summarize the input received during this workshop and review various scenarios with the Watershed Committee at the December meeting to get additional input as the planning work gets underway.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Not applicable at this time.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Not applicable.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None.