

City of San Leandro

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SAN LEANDRO NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of San Leandro to Study the Feasibility of a San Leandro Creek Trail Planning Effort will be Funded by a \$200,000 State Grant

San Leandro, CA: Earlier this month, the City of San Leandro issued a Request-for-Proposals for a consultant team to help prepare a San Leandro Creek Trail Master Plan. The San Leandro Creek Trail Master Plan will be a feasibility study, anticipated to start in November 2015, which will analyze the possibility of having a multi-use trail along segments of San Leandro Creek. The study is being funded by a \$201,510 grant that was awarded to the City from the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in July, 2014.

The City of San Leandro is currently seeking a consultant team with engineering, planning, transportation, and trail design experience to help prepare the Master Plan. The intent of this effort is to gain an improved understanding of where and how a Creek Trail might be implemented. The Request-for-Proposals does not constitute a bidding process for actual construction of the trail, and no plans are in place to initiate a construction process at this time.

The City does not anticipate that construction of a creek trail will be feasible along the entirety of the study area, which runs from Lake Chabot to the MLK Regional Shoreline in Oakland. The first segments of a creek trail have already been constructed in Downtown San Leandro adjacent to the Creekside Plaza office development. City staff does not expect trail construction to be feasible in all locations because many areas lack sufficient public right-of-way, particularly in residential areas.

The Master Plan process will involve extensive community input and outreach, and the Cities of San Leandro and Oakland encourage public input and involvement at future public meetings and community workshops. Specifically, the scope of work will include:

- 4 Technical Advisory Committee Meetings,
- 4 Citizen Advisory Committee meetings,
- 3 public workshops, and
- 3 focus groups.

Additional outreach, coordinated by the Friends of the San Leandro Creek, is also anticipated. In addition to the City of San Leandro, partners in this project include the City of Oakland, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, and Merritt College.

If such a multi-use trail were eventually developed following community input, it could generate many public benefits. A multi-use trail could be used by walkers, runners, and cyclists to enhance access to schools, churches, parks and business in the community. A new trail would also offer a unique opportunity to provide an amenity for residents, employees, and visitors to San Leandro and Oakland. Further, a multi-use trail could also bring increased awareness to the creek while improving water quality, increasing habitat for native species, addressing homelessness issues, and protecting areas of historical, cultural, and ecological significance.

It has come to the City's attention that a flyer containing inaccuracies and misinformation has been circulating around neighborhoods in both the cities of San Leandro and Oakland. To stay informed please call or email Anjana Mepani, Planner II at 510-577-3348, or amepani@sanleandro.org. Additional information is also posted on the project webpage: <https://www.sanleandro.org/depts/cd/projects/sl creek/default.asp>.

About San Leandro

One of the most diverse cities in the nation located at the center of the dynamic San Francisco Bay Area, San Leandro is a safe, vibrant community of 87,000 residents with well-maintained neighborhoods, excellent public libraries, twenty-one public parks, quality local schools, and a wide range of shopping, dining, and entertainment options. The western border of the city

consists of over eight miles of pristine shoreline and amenities on San Francisco Bay while a regional park and nature areas fall on the eastern border. San Leandro businesses enjoy multiple advantages including close proximity to the Oakland International Airport and Port of Oakland, two major freeways, two BART stations, and access to a large and well-educated workforce. Through a public-private partnership known as Lit San Leandro (www.LitSanLeandro.com), a fiber optic network encircles San Leandro's industrial and commercial core offering businesses virtually unlimited internet connectivity.

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