

## County of Santa Clara

Environmental Resources Agency  
Planning Office

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### NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

#### OF A DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PLAN/GENERAL USE PERMIT AND FOR THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY COUNTYWIDE TRAILS MASTER PLAN

##### Stanford University S1 Trail Alignment

**Lead Agency:**

Santa Clara County  
70 West Hedding Street, East Wing  
San Jose, CA 95110

The purpose of this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to inform the public and relevant agencies that, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County of Santa Clara has determined that a project-level Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) is required to supplement its Stanford University Community Plan/General Use Permit Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and its Santa Clara County Countywide Trails Master Plan Update SEIR. This NOP seeks comments on the information and analysis that should be included in the SEIR, and includes the following information:

- A brief description of the proposed project (One final trail route will be chosen from three alternative S-1 trail alignments under consideration); and
- A list of environmental issues that are currently intended to be discussed in the SEIR.

You are invited to review this information and send any comments or concerns to Santa Clara County. In particular, if there are any environmental issues that are not already included on the list of issues to be examined in the SEIR, please inform the County in writing prior to the end of the comment period. Please note that CEQA-required environmental impact areas were previously analyzed at a program level, and are listed at the end of this NOP.

As provided by State law, this NOP will circulate for a period of 30 (thirty) calendar days. Your comments must be received by the end of the thirty-day period in order to be considered. **Please reference the Stanford S1 Trail SEIR NOP when commenting and send your comments to:** Tim Heffington, Planner

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**All comments must be received no later than August 8, 2003. (continued)**

**Santa Clara County also invites you to attend a public scoping meeting to comment on the environmental issues to be discussed in the SEIR. This meeting will be held:**

**Date:** Wednesday, July 16, 2003  
**Time:** 7 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium  
1313 Newell Street, Palo Alto, CA

### ***Project Description***

The County of Santa Clara proposes to select an S1 trail alignment that passes through Stanford lands and completes a portion of the Santa Clara County S1 trail, as conceptually presented in the Countywide Trails Master Plan Update. Three potential trail alignments (see attached figure) are under consideration, all three of which pass through the southeastern portion of the campus between Junipero Serra/Foothill Expressway and I-280 (one potential alignment extends slightly below I-280):

#### **Potential Trail Alignment S1-A:**

The potential S1-A alignment extends for approximately 0.98 miles and closely follows the S1 alignment presented in the 1995 Santa Clara County Countywide Trails Master Plan Update. The proposed trail alignment would start at the intersection of Matadero Creek and Foothill Expressway and follow Matadero Creek, southwesterly across Page Mill Expressway and then south on Old Page Mill Road and within its right-of-way towards its terminus at the Old Page Mill Road and Page Mill Expressway intersection, north of the I-280 interchange. The proposed trail alignment, located on Old Page Mill Road or within its right-of-way, would continue on Stanford lands within the City of Palo Alto's jurisdictional boundary line, to the Stanford/Los Altos Hills boundary, which is approximately 3,000 to 4,000 feet north of the I-280 interchange.

This alignment extends from the banks of the Matadero Creek, an environmentally sensitive riparian area, to Old Page Mill Road right-of-way, which is also an environmentally sensitive area. This alignment could result in partial and/or complete closure of the portions of Old Page Mill Road within the unincorporated jurisdiction of Santa Clara County and the jurisdiction of the City of Palo Alto to vehicular traffic.

#### **Potential Trail Alignment S1-C:**

The potential S1-C alignment extends for approximately 1.8 miles and is located entirely on Stanford lands. This alignment would extend from the southeast corner of the intersection of Junipero Serra Boulevard and Page Mill Expressway, continue within a portion of Stanford lands located on the eastern side of Page Mill Expressway, cross Coyote Hill and Deer Creek Roads, and continue south over a hill to the east to link to an existing trail on Arastradero Road at Purissima Road, near the underpass of the I-280 freeway.

This alignment follows alongside the Page Mill Expressway through grasslands. South of Deer Creek Road, the alignment extends upward to the ridge of the hill, passing alongside oak groves and making partial use of existing fire roads/breaks.

#### **Potential Trail Alignment S1-D:**

The potential 2.0-mile S1-D alignment is also known as the "CalTrans" route. It would extend from Stanford lands at the southwest corner of the intersection of Junipero Serra Boulevard and Page Mill Expressway, and continue adjacent to Page Mill Expressway for a length of

approximately 1,500 feet, within the CalTrans right-of-way for Page Mill Expressway, or within the Old Page Mill Road right-of-way (adjacent to Matadero Creek), south to the I-280 interchange (northbound on-ramp). (Old Page Mill Road ends and merges with Page Mill Expressway northeast of the northbound on-ramp to I-280.) From that point, the proposed alignment would turn westward within the I-280 right-of-way for approximately 2,000 feet. From this point the alignment would extend onto Stanford land for approximately 800 feet (adjacent to I-280). The trail would then turn southward under the freeway via the cow tunnel, and extend westward approximately 1,800 feet on Stanford lands, adjacent to I-280. The trail would continue southwesterly, approximately 2,500 feet to the Stanford/Arastradero Preserve boundary.

This alignment extends along Old Page Mill Road and could result in partial or complete closure of the portions of Old Page Mill Road within the unincorporated jurisdiction of Santa Clara County and within the jurisdiction of the City of Palo Alto to vehicular traffic. The alignment follows along the Page Mill Expressway and veers westward using the existing Caltrans right-of-way along I-280 to the cow tunnel, where it skirts an existing tree grove, and extends to the Arastradero Preserve.

Based on the SEIR and other information in the record, Santa Clara County will approve a final trail alignment. The County may also choose portions of one trail alignment and link them with portions of other alignments.

Santa Clara County anticipates approving a 12-foot wide trail with 2-foot shoulders on each side that conforms to the County's design requirements. The SEIR generally would consider a 100-foot width along each potential alignment; the exact alignment will be located within the 100-foot area of analysis. Stanford University will dedicate an easement for a trail as specified in the Stanford General Use Permit and Stanford CP/GUP Application EIR and GUP Conditions of Approval:

Mitigation Measure OS-3B of the Stanford University Community Plan/General Use Permit EIR, states:

**OS-3B: Dedication of Trails**

To replace and expand recreational opportunities in the foothills, Stanford shall also dedicate the trail easements shown on the County Trails Master Plan. Stanford will work with the County Parks Department to clarify the process for developing the easement agreement, to identify the general location and type of uses that will be permitted for the trails being dedicated, and to discuss future construction and management considerations. The proposed location of the trail corridors will need to address conflicts with existing agricultural leases and sensitive riparian habitats along the adjacent creeks. Dedication of the trail corridors does not include a requirement for Stanford to make any improvements to the trail corridors at this time, but such improvement may be agreed to by Stanford and the County Parks Department. Dedication shall be phased as academic and residential development under the GUP proceeds.

In addition, dedication of a suitable S-1 trail alignment will partially satisfy the Conditions of Approval for the Stanford University General Use Permit, which state:

**I. Parks and Recreation Facilities**

2. Stanford shall dedicate easements for, develop, and maintain the portions of the two trail alignments which cross Stanford lands shown in the 1995 Santa

Clara Countywide Trails Master Plan (Routes S1 and C1), according to the following timeline:

- a. In consultation with the County Parks and Recreation Department, Stanford shall identify trail easements and complete Agreements for Trail Easements within one year of GUP approval. For purposes of this condition, the term "easement" includes any other equally enforceable mechanism acceptable to the County Board of Supervisors.
- b. Stanford shall work with the County Parks and Recreation Department to identify responsibilities for trail construction, management and maintenance. An agreement regarding these issues, including but not limited to a time frame for implementation, shall be reached within one year of GUP approval.

In December, 2001, the Board of Supervisors postponed consideration of potential C1 trail alignments.

### ***Potential Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Project***

The proposed dedication of an S1 trail alignment through Stanford lands could result in potentially significant project-level environmental effects because the proposed project could result in disturbance on or near biological resources, potential erosion, and could expose persons to potential safety hazards. The EIR will examine those effects for three potential alignments at an equal level of detail, identify mitigation measures for any significant effects, and analyze whether proposed mitigation measures would reduce significant environmental effects to a less than significant level as defined by CEQA. The following environmental issues are likely to be included in the SEIR:

Land Use Plans and Policies:	The proposed S1 trail alignments would pass through undeveloped lands within Stanford lands designated as <i>Open Space and Academic Reserve</i> and through or near areas designated as <i>Special Conservation</i> areas. In addition, trail segments would be in close proximity and/or pass through other jurisdictions. The SEIR would therefore briefly describe land uses and land use designations on and in the vicinity of the potential trail alignments on a project-specific level, and identify relevant goals and objectives that support trail development.
Biological Resources:	Development of a proposed S1 trail alignment could result in trail construction in or near biologically sensitive areas. The SEIR will therefore analyze, at project-specific level, whether trail construction and the ongoing presence of humans along the proposed alignments could have a significant effect on birds, fish and mammals, other than those effects already identified in the Stanford University Community Plan/General Use Permit EIR or the Santa Clara County Countywide Trail Master Plan Update SEIR, at a project-specific level.
Cultural Resources:	The SEIR will analyze whether any of the potential S1 trail alignments could have a potential project-specific effect on cultural resources, particularly archaeological resources, other than those effects already identified in the Stanford Community Plan/General Use Permit EIR or the Santa Clara County Countywide Trails Master Plain SEIR.

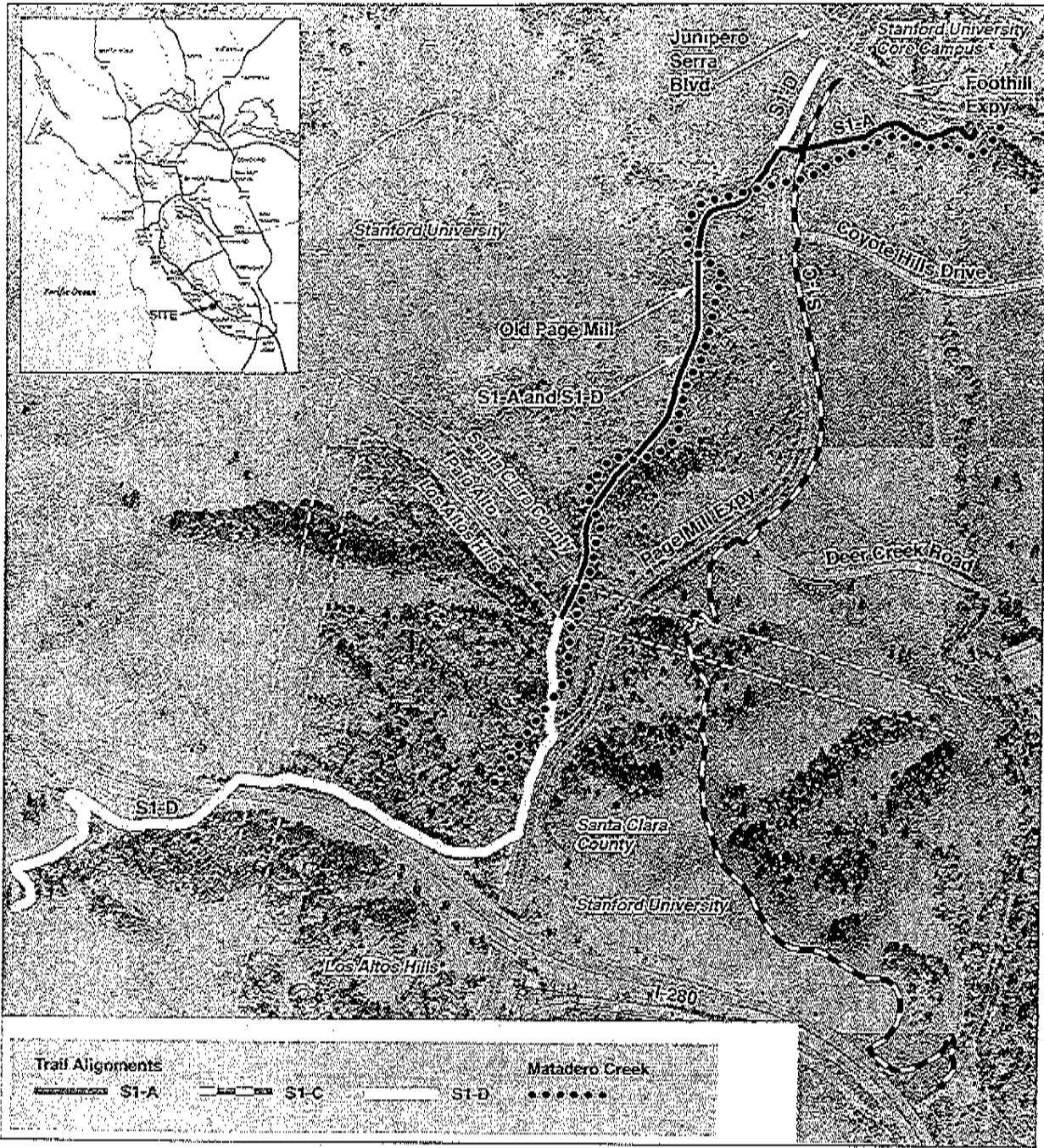
**Geologic Hazards and Soil Stability:** The proposed S1 trail alignments could pass through some areas known to be marginally stable or unstable. In addition, trail construction and operations could result in erosion. The SEIR will analyze whether the potential S1 trail alignments could result in erosion or the exposure of hikers and bikers to unsafe soil conditions.

**Public Safety:** The SEIR will analyze whether any of the potential S1 trail alignments could result in a project-specific need for additional police protection or fire protections services that could in turn require the need for expanded or new facilities.

None of the proposed trail alignments would likely result in a substantial increase in peak hour users, and therefore would not result in substantial changes to volumes of traffic during peak hours beyond those effects already identified in the Stanford University Community Plan/General Use Permit EIR or the Santa Clara County Countywide Trails Master Plan SEIR. The project would include signage that restricts or encourages parking, as appropriate.

The S1 alignment would be subject to applicable mitigation measures already adopted as part of the Santa Clara County Countywide Master Trails Plan, as amended, and the Stanford University Community Plan and General Use Permit Application.

The environmental impact areas analyzed in the Stanford University Community Plan/General Use Permit EIR will be referenced in this SEIR. Mitigation measures from that EIR that are applicable to this trail project will be included within the SEIR.



SOURCE: Stanford University; Environmental Science Associates

Stanford Trails S1 Alignment SEIR / 202493 ■

**Figure 1**  
Potential S-1 Trail Alignments-  
Stanford University