

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: January 28, 2015

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: February 5, 2015

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Cecily Harris, Development Consultant

SUBJECT: Complete the Gap in the Crystal Springs Regional Trail Project

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and accept report about the Complete the Gap in the Crystal Springs Regional Trail Project and Metropolitan Transportation Commission TDA Article 3 Grant Application.

BACKGROUND:

The Crystal Springs Regional Trail (CSRT) is located on the eastern side of the reservoirs in the San Francisco Peninsula Watershed owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). The San Mateo County Parks Department has a Memo of Understanding with the SFPUC to operate and manage the CSRT

In 1996, a Facility Plan was developed by County Parks for the CSRT based on extensive public comment and consultation from CalTrans, SFPUC and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Over the years, County Parks has developed specific plans for trail segments within the CSRT, obtaining permits, seeking funding, and implementing the trail. In 1997, a Crystal Springs Trail Extension Evaluation Report was developed to plan for additional trail extensions.

The 17.5-mile CSRT stretches from the City of San Bruno to the City of Woodside in three trail segments. From San Bruno Avenue to Highway 92 are the San Andreas and Sawyer Camp Trail segments. The 6.2-mile Sawyer Camp Trail runs from Hillcrest Boulevard at the north to Crystal Springs Dam to the south. In 2014, County Parks completed the 0.9 mile South of Dam segment that transformed an existing service road to multi-use trail. In 2016/2017, County Public Works will complete a trail over the already completed Crystal Springs Dam. The Complete the Gap Project eliminates a significant gap in the CSRT connecting the trail over Crystal Springs Dam to the South of Dam section. These three sections will become part of Sawyer Camp Trail. Until the gap

is done, we are unable to permanently open the South of Dam section which disappoints trail users and funders. With the gap filled, a continuous 10.3 miles of CSRT are open.

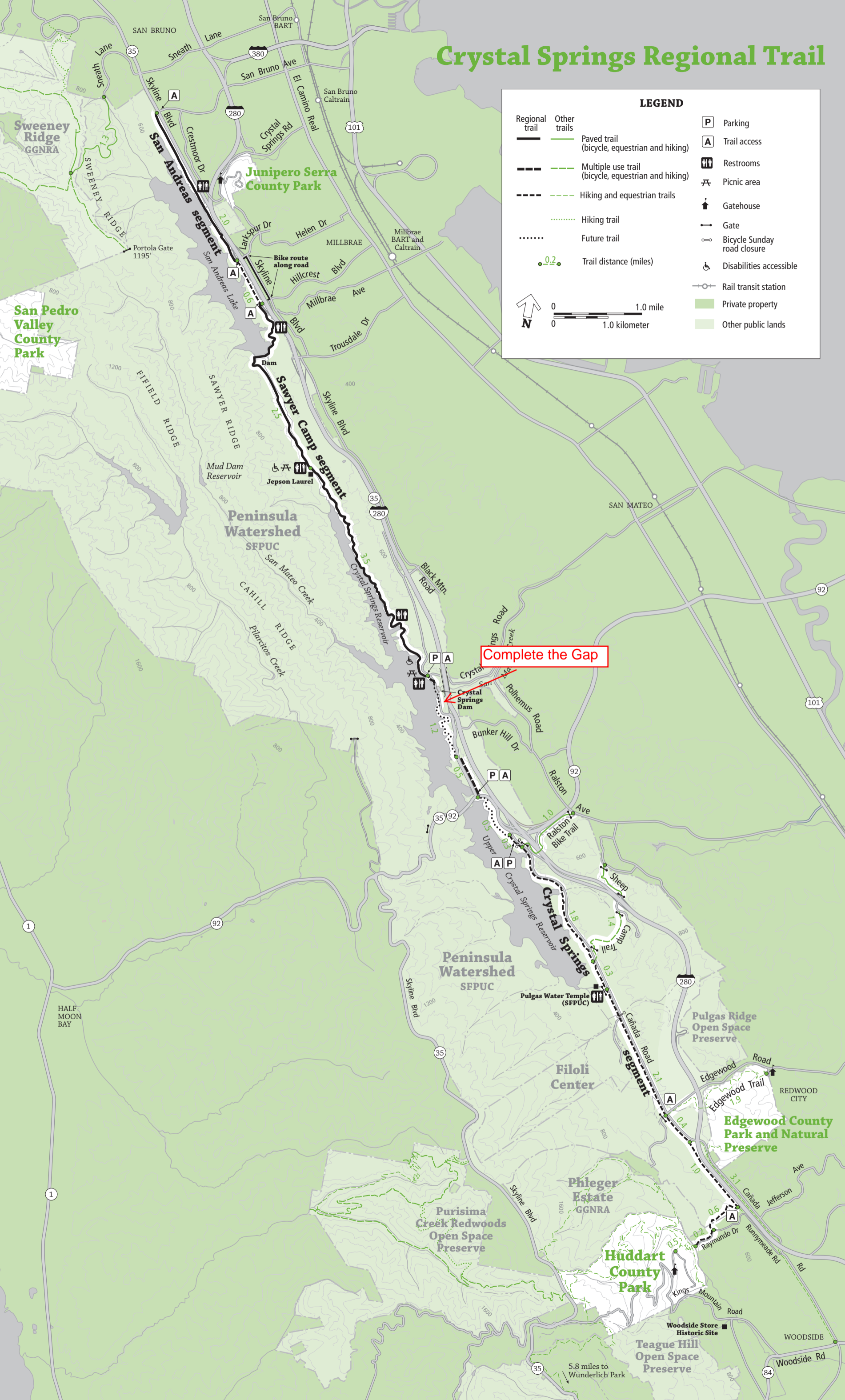
Today the CSRT serves over 400,000 hikers, joggers, equestrians, and cyclists annually and is one of the most popular facilities operated by County Parks. People of all ages can be seen on a given day, from parents with children in strollers to distance runners to groups of walkers. Visitation continues to grow as people seek local places to recreate, socialize, and enjoy nature.

DISCUSSION:

In February 2015, we are submitting a \$100,000 grant application to City/County Association of Governments for a Metropolitan Transportation Commission TDA Article 3 grant. If successful, this grant award will underwrite the development of designs, plans, permits, specifications and cost estimates for the Complete the Gap project. The County will underwrite the balance of funds needed for this planning process. The project would be undertaken in FY 2015/2016 and result in a biddable package to be used to hire a general contractor to build the trail. Construction of the Gap project could be undertaken in FY 2016/2017.

The Complete the Gap project closes a 600-foot gap in the Crystal Springs Regional Trail along the San Francisco Watershed providing 10.3 miles of trail between San Bruno Avenue and Highway 92. Specifically, it closes a gap between the Crystal Springs Dam section and South of Dam section. The Gap project starts at the Crystal Springs Dam, travels along Skyline Boulevard and enters the South of Dam. The gap will be an 8-foot-wide trail. For trail users and wildlife safety, K-rail will be installed on the eastern side and chain link fence on the western side. Directional signs will assist trail users.

Crystal Springs Regional Trail



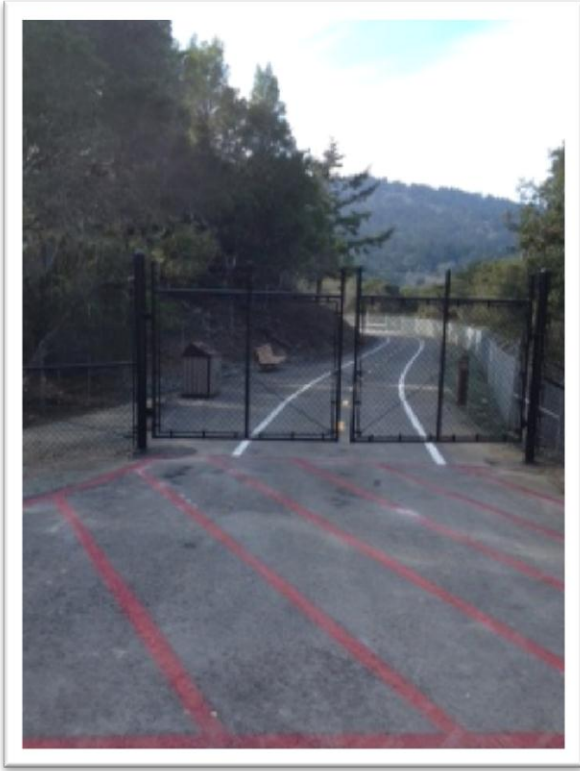
LEGEND

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|--|----------------|--|---|--|-----------------------------|
| | Regional trail | | Other trails | | Parking |
| | | | Paved trail (bicycle, equestrian and hiking) | | Trail access |
| | | | Multiple use trail (bicycle, equestrian and hiking) | | Restrooms |
| | | | Hiking and equestrian trails | | Picnic area |
| | | | Hiking trail | | Gatehouse |
| | | | Future trail | | Gate |
| | | | Trail distance (miles) | | Bicycle Sunday road closure |
| | | | | | Disabilities accessible |
| | | | | | Rail transit station |
| | | | | | Private property |
| | | | | | Other public lands |

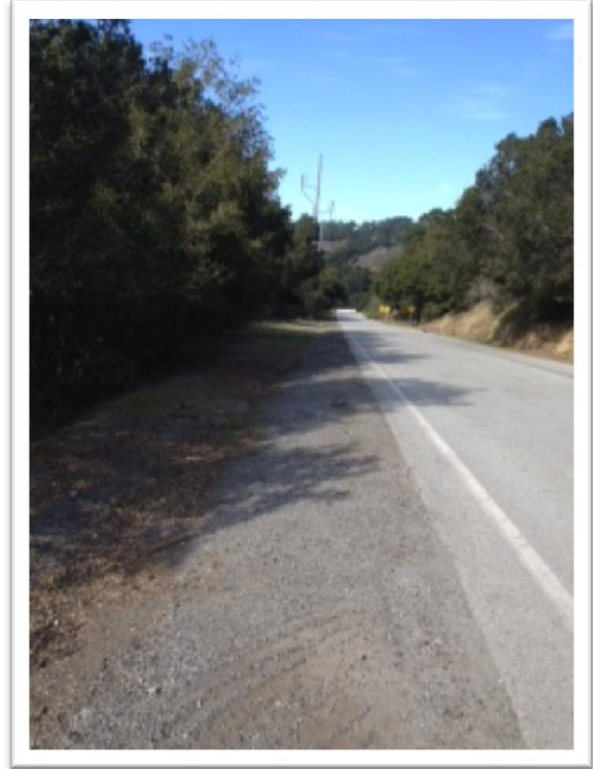
Complete the Gap

5.8 miles to Wunderlich Park

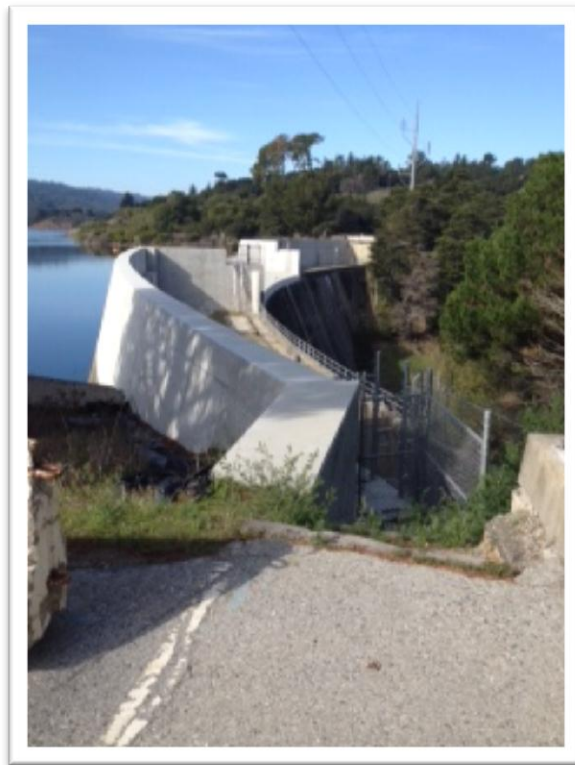
**Complete the Gap in the Crystal Springs Regional Trail
Existing Conditions Photos**



Start of Gap Trail; Northern Entrance of South of Dam Section



Western Road Shoulder of Skyline Boulevard



End of Gap Trail: Southern End of Crystal Springs Dam