



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FILING REQUESTED BY AND WHEN FILED, RETURN TO:

Marin County Parks and Open Space District
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 260, San Rafael, CA 94903
www.marincountyparks.org
(415) 473-6387

FILED

SHELLY SCOTT
03/13/2025

MARIN COUNTY CLERK
By **A. Oxlaj Arevalo**, Deputy
21 - 2025 - 32

To: Marin County Clerk
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 234
San Rafael, CA 94903

Date: March 13, 2025

Project Title: LAGOON PARK: CASCADES FOUNTAIN RENOVATION

Project Location: Lagoon Park, Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, Marin County, California

Assessor's Parcel: 179-270-12

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of the Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to repair and renovate the existing Cascades Water Fountain at Lagoon Park, a public facility owned and operated by the County of Marin. The Cascades Water Fountain is a historic feature that is well-loved by the community and an important focal point on the Civic Center campus. The fountain was designed in 1962 by Frank Lloyd Wright Architects and includes three jets that cause water to flow and cascade through a series of eight round circular concrete and stone-lined basins, which ultimately spill into the lagoon. The fountain has been inoperable since 2019 after several years of repeated problems with the pump, which has been replaced multiple times, and debris that has clogged the pipes and/or pump. The proposed project would repair and update the fountain system and would include a new intake vault and pipe, equipment vault, a new dry-type pump, new UV sanitizer, new jets, and new plumbing, electrical, mechanical, and drainage systems. The existing concrete and stone fountain would be left in place.

Water for the existing fountain water system was drawn up from the lagoon via an existing intake pipe which extends into the lagoon approximately 100 feet. Water was drawn into an existing wet well where it was pumped up to the three jets. The system was operated by a small controller in a cabinet, fed by a larger electrical panel in a larger cabinet in the landscape nearby.

The new intake vault would be located over 100 feet away from the lowest basin to promote good mixing of the lagoon water and prevent accumulation of stagnant, nutrient-rich water in the system. The new intake vault would be located at the water's edge and be approximately 4 feet long by 4 feet wide by 6 feet deep. A new intake pipe would be routed back to a new equipment vault proposed closer to the Cascades Water Fountain. Lagoon water would be drawn from the intake pipe to the equipment vault. The new equipment vault would be an approximately 15 feet long, 8 feet-8 inches wide, by 6 feet-7 inches tall poured in place concrete vault located under an existing asphalt pathway in the park. The vault would be accessed by a side hatch door from the exterior and down some concrete stairs to the vault floor. Located within the vault would be a pump and filter basket, a UV sanitizer, and a hose bib with domestic water to be used to clean the filter basket. Debris would be disposed of outside the vault. There are back-of-wall and floor drains from the equipment vault that would flow to a rock dissipator in the nearby landscape area. The equipment vault would have a simple ventilation system with vents located in the nearby landscape area. Lagoon water that has been filtered, pumped, and UV-sanitized would move up to three new jets located in the existing basins via new distribution lines. Water would then flow through the jets and cascade through the existing concrete and stone-lined basins and ultimately spill into the lagoon. The new jets and existing spillways would have the option to be illuminated with new low-voltage LED lights that could be turned off and color-adjusted. The new electrical system would be controlled by a new controller located in the equipment vault, fed by the existing power source located in a new larger cabinet nearby. There would be a wind sensor included to turn off or lower the jets in windy conditions. In drought conditions, if the lagoon water dropped below a certain level, the fountain system would turn off. Additionally, a manual shut off would be included for maintenance and repairs. Existing intake and distribution lines would be abandoned in place and replaced with new lines. All new construction and plumbing, mechanical, electrical, and drainage systems would meet current local building codes.

No vegetation would be impacted. There are a few existing trees, including oaks, nearby; any trenching required within the root zone of the trees would be hand dug, and roots avoided. The lagoon is a man-made landscape water feature that and not subject to regulatory permit authorizations.

Construction access would occur from the driveway adjacent to the existing restroom via Armory Drive, which is maintained by Marin County Parks. The existing Jury Parking lot may be utilized for contractor parking, construction equipment, and

storage area. Equipment would likely include a small backhoe, jack hammer, cement saw, and cement mixer and pump. Project implementation would likely begin in Summer 2025 and is expected to require up to 4 months to be completed. If construction extends to the rainy season, erosion and sedimentation control best management practices would be used.

Public Agency Approving Project: Marin County Parks

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: Chris Chamberlain, Director

Reasons for Exemption: Marin County Parks has reviewed the project along with its environmental setting and has determined it to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the following section of the California Administrative Code:

Section 15301: Existing Facilities. The proposed project consists of the repair and renovation of the existing fountain at an existing public facility involving no expansion of the current use. Implementation of the project would not result in cumulative impacts, significant impacts on the environment due to unusual circumstances, or affect the significance of historical resources. Even though the Cascade Water Fountain is historically significant, implementation of the proposed repair and rehabilitation project would not adversely affect the structural or visual integrity of the feature or its historical significance. The project is not located within an officially designated scenic highway or on a hazardous waste site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Lead Agency Contact Person:



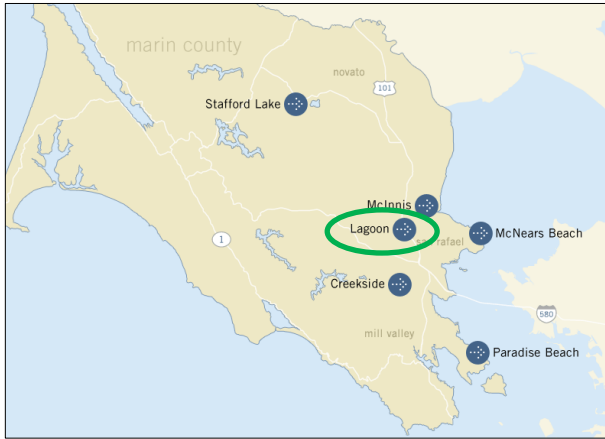
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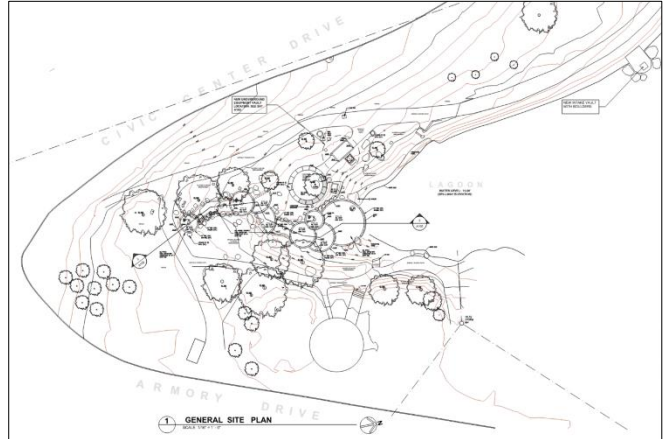
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION – GRAPHICS

Lagoon Park – Cascades Water Fountain Repair and Renovation Project

March 13, 2025



Lagoon Park Vicinity Location



Site Plan



Project Location



Fountain Running



Fountain Not Running