



Frequently Asked Questions

October 2021

In the recent months, the County of Alameda Department of Public Works has received several questions regarding the Niles Canyon Trail. This document provides information related to these inquiries.

1. In Sunol, where does the Niles Canyon Trail end?

During planning process (2014 to 2016), stakeholders developed ending points for the trail at either the San Francisco Public Utility Commission's Water Temple or at the Niles Canyon Railway Station in Sunol. The community's preference, as voiced during the planning process, was to end the trail at the railway station.

2. Are the Tyler Ranch Staging Area and the Niles Canyon Trail related projects?

The Tyler Ranch Staging Area is a project under development by the East Bay Regional Park District and is not related to the Niles Canyon Trail. However, Alameda County has discussed with the East Bay Regional Park District the potential of using portions of the staging area's parking to support future trail users.

3. I never received information regarding the trail planning, how can I participate?

The project's sponsors have held a robust outreach process since 2014 with the following events:

- October 14, 2014 *Community Meeting #1* in Sunol
- November 2014 *Stakeholder Field Walk*
- January 27, 2015 *Community Meeting #2*
- April 14, 2015 *Fremont City Council Meeting*
- May 12, 2015 *Union City Council Meeting*
- June 18, 2015 *Community Meeting #3*
- October 11, 2015 *Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll*

- September 30, 2017 *Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll*
- September 22, 2019 *Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll*
- March 11, 2021 *Virtual Community Meeting*
- July 15, 2021 *Environmental Impact Report Scoping Session*

To learn about the history of the project, please see www.nilescanyontrail.org.

The next step in the process is to review the draft environmental impact report, which will evaluate the trail options. This report will be available in early 2022. Please check www.nilescanyontrail.org for updates.

4. What are some of the design features at locations where the trail crosses a private driveway?

The Niles Canyon Trail will cross private driveways within the Alameda County or other public agencies' property. The design of the trail crossing will provide adequate sight distance for trail users and vehicles to see one another. The crossings will feature signage and pavement markings consistent with State of California standards.

5. What trail option is the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) evaluating?

As described in the Notice of Preparation released by Alameda County on June 28, 2021, "in accordance with Section 15126.6 of the State CEQA Guidelines, an EIR must describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the

location of the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project, but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project, and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives.”

6. Will the Water Temple alternative will also be addressed in the EIR?

As alternatives to the preferred trail alignment (see response 1) which ends at the Niles Canyon railway station, the EIR is evaluating the south Canyon trail and trails with rails alternatives as described in the reports illustrated at www.nilescanyontrail.org. In addition, the EIR will evaluate several additional options near Brightside and along Foothill Road based upon comments received from the public. As required by CEQA, the EIR will also evaluate the No Project alternative.