



Liaison Committee Meeting  
Livermore Area Recreation & Park District and East Bay Regional Park District

Monday, April 27, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Robert Livermore Community Center - 4444 East Ave, Livermore, CA 94550

## **AGENDA**

### CALL TO ORDER

### ROLL CALL

### ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of October 23, 2025 Meeting Notes

### INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Doolan Canyon Regional Preserve: Public Access and Conservation Next Steps
2. Public Access Opportunities in the LARPD Area
3. South Bay Aqueduct Trail
4. Altamont Hills Acquisition
5. Quint Property Acquisition

### ADJOURNMENT

#### Liaison Committee Members:

- East Bay Regional Park District Board Members Dennis Waespi and Olivia Sanwong
- Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board Members Maryalice Faltings and Philip Pierpont

**Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Livermore Area Recreation & Park District and East Bay Regional Park District**

Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 1:00 PM

Meeting Location:

Robert Livermore Community Center - 4444 East Ave, Livermore, CA 94550

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## **Attendees**

East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD): Director Olivia Sanwong, Director Dennis Waespi, General Manager Sabrina Landreth, Deputy General Manager Max Korten, Assistant General Manager of Operations Lisa Goorjian, Division Lead of Interpretation and Recreation Sandi Funke, Division Lead of Government and Legislative Affairs Erich Pfuehler, Division Lead of Planning, Trails, Cultural Resources, and GIS Brian Holt, Legislative and Policy Management Analyst Lisa Baldinger, Legislative Assistant Elsa Grandvoinet

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD): Director Jan Palajac, General Manager Matt Fuzie, Community Services Manager Jill Kirk, Community Outreach Supervisor David Weisgerber, Recreation Supervisor Joseph Benjamin, LARPD Foundation Board Trustee Marc Roberts

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

## **Informational Presentations**

### **I. Environmental Education and Recreation Programs in the Murry Township Service Area**

EBRPD Division Lead of Interpretation and Recreation Sandi Funke provided a presentation highlighting EBRPD's programming within the Murry Township Service Area. She reported public programming in this region attracts between 15,000 and 25,000 attendees annually, with the Visitor Center receiving between 15,000 and 21,000 visits per year.

Funke discussed several program highlights, including Black Birders Week and innovative community activities such as Pokémon Go programs offered in partnership with the Livermore Library. EBRPD also serves local schools, with 165 classes, representing nearly 4,000 students, participating in field trips last year, and an additional 25 classes (about 700 students) visited by the mobile visitor center.

She noted that EBRPD participates in nearly all Livermore school science nights and collaborates frequently on local school events. The Park District and LARPD also work closely

to provide joint training and professional development opportunities, creating career pathways between the two organizations.

LARPD General Manager Matt Fuzie asked whether eagles could still be seen at Del Valle. Funke confirmed the eagles are present year-round.

Fuzie commented Pokémon Go has been popular, even with his own daughter, and wished there were a similar app for bird watching. Funke responded that there is one, eBird, which provides interactive bird tracking and community science engagement.

Fuzie also shared that LARPD began developing adaptive recreation programs two years ago to serve residents with varying abilities. Demand for these programs, he said, has far exceeded capacity. He added participation in outdoor recreation, camping, and outdoor education programs has grown dramatically.

LARPD Recreation Supervisor Joseph Benjamin described LARPD's school programming, which is divided into series: classroom, field, and watershed, all aligned with California's History and Social Science curriculum. He also mentioned youth programs such as Junior Rangers, Ranger Explorers, and Sprouts for preschool-aged children, all designed to spark interest in environmental careers.

Fuzie noted that both agencies strive to engage children early and continue to provide opportunities as they grow older. He added demand for organized recreation is increasing, particularly as travel sports teams become more expensive for local families. LARPD, he said, already operates a swim team and is looking to expand athletic programming.

Fuzie explained LARPD currently works with approximately 150 volunteers, conducting regular trainings and helping them find meaningful roles. LARPD is focused on fostering a community culture of volunteerism, environmental stewardship, and civic pride.

Finally, Fuzie shared planning is underway for July 4th community events, with a goal of keeping the celebration local to reduce traffic and impacts. LARPD is exploring alternatives to fireworks, such as a fun run or other community-based activities.

## **2. Informational Update on District Plan Engagement Efforts**

EBRPD Division Lead of Planning, Trails, Cultural Resources, and GIS Brian Holt provided an overview of the District Plan update process. He explained the 2013 Master Plan, created following the passage of Measure W, was primarily focused on capital projects. The new District Plan will take a more programmatic and community-driven approach, emphasizing engagement and public accessibility.

Holt described the process as involving three rounds of community engagement and three corresponding work periods before final approval. Engagement has occurred at multiple levels - local government, staff, and community members.

EBRPD Legislative and Policy Management Analyst Lisa Baldinger outlined how the Government and Legislative Affairs team has collaborated with local government entities throughout the engagement process. She reported recurring themes such as education and programming, equitable access and transportation, funding partnerships, ecosystem restoration, infrastructure and trail connectivity, wildfire management, and climate resilience.

Holt added staff feedback aligned with these themes, and that EBRPD is working to increase visibility of the District Plan survey to gather broader community input. Survey responses have indicated interest in expanded programming, better facilities, and more staffing to support growth. He also noted the need to improve engagement with underrepresented groups, as survey participation skewed toward older and white respondents. Consultant PlaceWorks is assisting with the effort.

Fuzie asked whether the public had requested non-traditional park services. Holt replied survey data showed interest in natural and cultural resource programs, more sports field access, and improved amenities such as bike racks, reflecting increased bicycle and e-bike use.

Fuzie then asked whether residents wanted the Park District to provide transportation services or simply to locate parks closer to existing transportation options. Holt said both ideas were raised. He added while EBRPD typically focuses on large open space parks, improving trail and transit connectivity is central to its accessibility strategy.

Holt also noted public interest in expanded ADA accessibility and enhanced signage, including interpretive, directional, multilingual, and entrance signs.

Fuzie inquired how often staff would return to the Board during the plan's development. EBRPD Deputy General Manager Max Korten responded engagement with the Board had already begun and would continue throughout the process. EBRPD General Manager Sabrina Landreth added presentations would occur as often as needed to ensure transparency and collaboration.

LARPD Community Outreach Supervisor David Weisgerber noted LARPD's District Plan renewal process is underway as well. Staff engagement has already begun, and a community survey is expected to launch at the end of the year or early next year.

Fuzie noted how LARPD's plan update will align with the City of Livermore's General Plan update to ensure consistency.

LARPD Foundation Board Trustee Marc Roberts observed that, as the local population grows, smaller neighborhood facilities are under increasing pressure. While city boundaries have not expanded, usage has intensified, necessitating greater maintenance and strategic management of existing resources. He highlighted Sycamore Grove, Brushy Peak, and local trails as areas likely to see the most growth in use.

LARPD Community Services Manager Jill Kirk shared LARPD currently provides after-school care for eight elementary schools, serving between 700 and 1,000 children, and operates summer programs as well.

Fuzie explained LARPD strives to keep program fees as close to operational costs as possible. However, long waitlists continue to create pressure to expand capacity. He also mentioned growing community interest in art programming, though it is not a core LARPD function, and the ever-present demand for pickleball courts.

Fuzie concluded that protecting the surrounding hillsides from development remains a community priority and a shared interest with EBRPD.

### **3. Discussion of Joint Trail Opportunities**

Fuzie emphasized trails remain a major focus for both agencies and expressed appreciation for opportunities to collaborate on related projects.

Korten shared EBRPD has proposed funding in its upcoming budget for trail projects in the Livermore area. The Park District is assessing ongoing projects and identifying new stakeholder priorities.

Holt reported public interest in Doolan Canyon remains strong. EBRPD will present a set of options to its Board later this year. He explained that when the property was first acquired, it was envisioned as a catalyst for future acquisitions. However, new conservation easements have since reduced the available public area.

Holt noted public access is currently constrained by the lack of sidewalks along the access road, the absence of a suitable staging area, and restrictions tied to conservation easements. Possible approaches include designating the site as a conservation and mitigation area, providing limited guided access, or establishing a staging area near a barn property under potential acquisition by the City of Livermore.

Fuzie offered LARPD's support in exploring managed access or educational programming opportunities at Doolan Canyon. Roberts added the long-term goal remains to allow some level of public access while maintaining conservation integrity. EBRPD Director Olivia Sanwong observed the area is seeing significant housing and college growth, which will increase visitation demand.

Holt and Korten described plans to enhance access to Brushy Peak by developing a small staging area at the southern end of the property. They noted a bus station will be located nearby, improving public access. Brushy Peak will also serve as a pilot location for new EBRPD signage standards. Funding for these improvements is included in next year's budget.

Korten reported EBRPD recently completed a study of Del Valle's trail network, similar to one done at Briones Regional Park, identifying social trails and potential reroutes to protect

sensitive habitats. Holt added the Park District is working with other agencies to close regional trail gaps, including potential connections to the west side of Del Valle.

Roberts mentioned past private development proposals, such as a winery, have complicated trail expansion efforts. Fuzie added one key landowner remains opposed to access, creating additional challenges. Korten said EBRPD recently met with the City and welcomed a joint discussion with LARPD to explore solutions.

Fuzie expressed LARPD's ongoing interest in opening the South Bay Aqueduct Trail to the public. He explained previous efforts were stalled due to the need for an agency to assume ownership and management. LARPD had volunteered but was declined.

Fuzie noted the trail network, valued at roughly \$10 million, is largely complete and could be opened with minimal financial investment. EBRPD staff agreed to review the opportunity and follow up on potential collaboration.

#### **4. Liaison Meeting Format and Frequency**

Sanwong recommended future liaison meetings continue to be held in Livermore, which was supported by all attendees. She also suggested upcoming meetings include opportunities for public participation.

LARPD Director Jan Palajac noted these meetings were historically held on a quarterly basis. Sanwong proposed including the City of Livermore in future discussions, and Landreth recommended forming smaller working groups to focus on specific issues such as trails and access.

Sanwong further suggested inviting the Tri-Valley Conservancy, Zone 7, and the Department of Water Resources to participate in future meetings.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.



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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 27, 2026

TO: LARPD EBRPD Liaison Committee

FROM: Max Korten, Acting General Manager, EBRPD  
 Brian Holt, Acting Assistant General Manager of Acquisition, Stewardship & Planning

SUBJECT: Doolan Canyon Regional Preserve: Public Access and Conservation Next Steps

PAGES: 2

### BACKGROUND

The East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) manages both open parkland and landbank properties that are currently closed to the public. Landbank properties are managed and monitored by the Park District. Park District staff periodically review and update the list of landbank properties that may be ready for planning efforts. The Board of Directors has indicated that options for the opening of Doolan Canyon Regional Preserve (Doolan Canyon) for public access should be evaluated by Park District staff.

Due to various land use changes and exchanges of conservation easements between private landowners and project developers, acquisition of surrounding properties by the Park District never came to fruition – except for the 160-acre Northern Grove property, which was added to Doolan Canyon in 2018.

Pursuant to Board direction, Park District staff evaluated various options for providing public access to Doolan Canyon and presented these options at the November 13, 2025 meeting of the Park District Executive Committee. The options presented included:

- Option 1 – Existing Conditions: Operate as Conservation Land
- Option 2 – Pilot Project: Open Doolan Canyon
- Option 3 – Pilot Project: Managed Access
  - a) Managed by Park District
  - b) Managed by Partner
- Option 4 – Open Olson Property for Picnicking

The Executive Committee conveyed to staff that they did not prefer Option 1, but would recommend to the Board of Directors that some combination of Options 2 through 4 should be pursued. The priority would be Option 2 – Pilot Project: Open Doolan Canyon, but this option would be augmented with public programming envisioned in Option 3 – Pilot Project: Managed Access. The Executive Committee also recommended to the full Board exploration of Option 4 – Open Olson Property for Picnicking.

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## **ANALYSIS**

With key considerations in mind, including natural and cultural resources, potential for public access site improvements, opportunities for public access, and natural hazards, staff proposed to the Board of Directors four options for public access to Doolan Canyon, mirroring those presented to the Park District Executive Committee.

## **DIRECTION PROVIDED BY THE BOARD**

At the April 7, 2026 Board of Directors meeting, staff presented each of these options for consideration. Ultimately, the Board offered support for near-term implementation of Options 3.a and 3.b, which would include a Pilot Project to open Doolan Canyon through managed access. Managed access will be collaboratively provided by the Park District and interested partners. The Board also directed staff to initiate planning for Options 2, opening Doolan Canyon, as well as Option 4, opening the Olson property for picnicking, in the long-term – allowing time for staff to further evaluate the parkland and consider proper procedures for responsible public use. Next steps for planning will be to gather additional information through ongoing land use, biodiversity, and cultural resources studies, community engagement, and discussions with regional partners.

## **Attachments**

- A. East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Staff Report

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**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
 AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

<b>DATE</b>	April 7, 2026
<b>TITLE</b>	Doolan Canyon Regional Preserve: Public Access and Conservation Next Steps
<b>DIVISION</b>	Acquisition, Stewardship & Planning
<b>FROM</b>	Brian Holt, Acting Assistant General Manager of Acquisition, Stewardship & Planning
<b>APPROVED</b>	Max Korten, Acting General Manager

**RECOMMENDATION**

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors direct staff on approach to public access and conservation options at Doolan Canyon.

**BACKGROUND**

The East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) manages both open parkland and landbank properties that are currently closed to the public. Landbank properties are managed and monitored by the Park District. Park District staff periodically review and update the list of landbank properties and evaluate landbank areas that may be ready for a planning effort. The Board of Directors indicated that the opening of Doolan Canyon Regional Preserve (Doolan Canyon) should be evaluated during the Board Priority Study Sessions held in early 2025.

The East Alameda County Conservation Strategy (EACCS) was developed by a consortium of agencies in 2010. The EACCS aimed to develop a streamlined regulatory agency approval process for development permits. Consistent with this process and per Board Resolutions 2008-9-232 and 2012-04-084, the Park District entered into three agreements with the City of Livermore to acquire and preserve land to serve as mitigation for impacts to special-status species resulting from three development projects in the City of Livermore.

The Park District's first Doolan Canyon acquisition was the 640-acre Schmitz property. This property was acquired in partnership with the City of Livermore to serve partially as mitigation for development projects in Livermore. Mitigation was required for impacts to San Joaquin kit fox, California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and burrowing owls. Mitigation for the three projects were combined into one 211-acre conservation easement located in the southeast region of the 640-acre Schmitz property.

Park District staff had been engaged in various conversations regarding other properties surrounding the Schmitz property that were evaluated for their potential to expand Doolan Canyon. Due to various land use changes and exchanges of conservation easements between private landowners and

project developers, acquisition of these properties by the Park District never came to fruition – except for the 160-acre Northern Grove property, which was added to Doolan Canyon in 2018.

An additional acquisition at Doolan Canyon was approved by the Board on February 17, 2026, for the approximately 4.5-acre Olson property. This property is approximately 0.5 miles south of Doolan Canyon along Doolan Road. The property is relatively flat and includes several buildings including a 3,650 sq. ft. barn, a 1,512 square foot unpermitted vacant residence, and several outbuildings. The property includes electrical utilities, but no city water or sewer service. The property provides potential opportunities for picnicking and parking for Doolan Canyon.

Pursuant to Board direction Park District staff evaluated various options for providing public access to Doolan Canyon and presented these options at the November 13, 2025, meeting of the Park District Executive Committee. The options presented included:

Option 1 - Existing Conditions: Operate as Conservation Land

Option 2 - Pilot Project: Open Doolan Canyon

Option 3 - Pilot Project: Managed Access

a) Managed by Park District

b) Managed by Partner

Option 4 - Open Olson Property for Picnicking

The Executive Committee conveyed to staff that they did not prefer Option 1, but some combination of options 2 through 4 should be pursued. The priority would be Option 2 - Pilot Project, Open Doolan Canyon, but this option would be augmented with public programming envisioned in Option 3 - Pilot Project Managed Access. The Executive Committee also expressed interest in Option 4 – Open Olson Property for Picnicking.

## ANALYSIS

Consideration for public access at Doolan Canyon should consider natural and cultural resources, site improvements, public access opportunities, and natural hazards.

### I. Natural and Cultural Resources

As discussed above, the current lands referred to Doolan Canyon Regional Preserve was purchased by the Park District in partnership with the City of Livermore, for the express purpose of providing mitigation to development projects in Livermore for impacts to special-status species by recording a conservation easement. The easement will protect habitat for state and federally listed species including San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF), California tiger salamander (CTS), California red-legged frog (CRLF), and burrowing owls.

As shown on Figure 1: Doolan Canyon Vicinity Map, many properties around Doolan Canyon are already under, or will soon be placed under, a conservation easement. This number of conservation easements in the vicinity speaks to the rich biological diversity in the area.

Biological resource assessments and surveys, undertaken as part of the conservation easement effort, have shown the extensive biological diversity at Doolan Canyon. A total of 29 special status species have the potential to occur in Doolan Canyon, with 7 having been observed on site. These species are the CTS, the CRLF, the burrowing owl, the western pond turtle, the northern harrier, the golden eagle, and the tricolored blackbird. An additional 7 more special status species have a high potential to occur but have not been observed.

Additionally, a total of 44 special status plant species were determined to either have a low or moderate potential to occur in Doolan Canyon. However, no special status plant surveys have taken place to date and no special status plants have been observed. Doolan Canyon also contains notable and sensitive plant communities including wetlands, seeps and alkali wetlands; which make up less than 1% of the vegetation community type in the Park District. Alkali refers to the high clay soils with residual salt content supporting salt tolerant plants. These unusual plant communities are listed as a CDFW sensitive natural community and include yerba mansa wetlands and saltgrass grasslands.

Additionally, the lands of Doolan Canyon are located within the region known to be inhabited by Ohlone peoples. While there have been no comprehensive cultural resource studies completed in Doolan Canyon Regional Preserve, it is anticipated that cultural resources are present throughout the region.

## 2. Public Access Site Improvements

There are limited options for parking at Doolan Canyon. Doolan Road ends at the Doolan Canyon entrance gate. The entrance to the preserve is bound by Cottonwood Creek to the east and a steep hill to the west. With these barriers, construction of a staging area within the preserve boundaries would require extensive grading and site work within the sensitive and undisturbed environment of the preserve. Permitting and funding challenges would constrain even a small, five car staging area.

To potentially address this issue, the Park District Board has recently approved the acquisition of the Olsen property (Board Resolution 2026-26), approximately ½ mile south of Doolan Canyon. The property is flat and populated with nonnative, ruderal grasses and ornamental bushes and trees. It is a developed site containing a renovated barn, with an unpermitted residence inside, and an auxiliary storage building. Development of the property into a staging area, picnic site, or interpretive hub would have less constraints than within Doolan Canyon proper.

However, ensuring a safe access corridor between the Olsen property and Doolan Canyon would require an additional planning effort. As shown on Figure 1: Doolan Canyon Vicinity Map, the intervening property will soon be placed under a conservation easement and will not allow public access. Therefore, constructing a public trail on the property would not be allowed. Using Doolan Road itself is a potential option. Doolan Road is owned by Alameda County, and the county's right-of-way (ROW) would not be included in the conservation easement.

The trail could either be constructed within the ROW, or the road itself could be used for access. The entire road, or half the road, could be closed to car traffic, allowing pedestrian access. Preserve visitors would then be able to use the existing road as a trail. Both options would require the approval of Alameda County and would likely include the vacation of the public road.

## 3. Public Access Opportunities

Doolan Canyon does offer the opportunity for a new public access in Alameda County. There are 676 people living within ½ mile of the preserve, and 2,401 people within one mile. Within 5 miles of Doolan Canyon there are 81 parks already open to the public. According to the California SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities list, there are no disadvantaged communities within 5 miles of Doolan Canyon. Las Positas college is located approximately 2.5 miles from Doolan Canyon and serves nearly 8,500 day and evening students.

Doolan Canyon is located approximately 3 miles north of Highway 580. There is no direct connection to Tassajara Road to the west in Dublin, and nearby neighbors to the east in Livermore would have to travel the length of Doolan Road to reach the preserve. Doolan Road is one lane in each direction and narrows to only one lane as it approaches Doolan Canyon.

Onsite the existing trail network is limited, as shown on Figure 2: Doolan Canyon Recreation Map. There is no existing loop trail on the property, and Cottonwood Creek and the conservation easement does not allow construction within the easement area. Public access is allowed on the existing service road within the conservation easement area. The northern portion of Doolan Canyon will remain in landbank status due to remaining access easement considerations.

#### 4. Natural Hazards

Doolan Canyon’s natural environment presents various operational and public safety challenges. Summers are extremely hot, and the preserve lacks potable water, trees, or other sources of shade. In the winter, rain turns the existing dirt roads to mud, making access extremely difficult. Park District Rangers avoid taking 4WD vehicles onto the property and the grazing tenant only uses ATVs to move around the property during the winter and spring. These conditions may naturally limit visitation to Doolan Canyon in the hot summer months or the muddy winter months.

In addition to weather related hazards, Doolan Canyon has recorded sinkholes located throughout the property. Park District staff observed one directly adjacent to an existing service road proposed for public access. The Doolan Canyon grazing tenant also reported having had trucks getting stuck in the sinkholes. These sinkholes pose a challenge to park operations and public access, especially with the lack of cell phone service in the preserve.

#### Public Access Options

As presented at the Executive Committee on November 13, 2025, staff proposed 4 options for public access at Doolan Canyon. Costs estimates were developed with input from Operations, Public Safety, Design and Construction, Stewardship, and others to estimate both on-time capital costs as well as long-term operations and maintenance costs. All cost estimates below are estimates. These options are:

Option	Description	Costs (approx.)
Option 1. Existing Conditions: Operate as Conservation Land	Doolan Canyon would continue to be managed as it is today, with no public access allowed. Portions of the preserve not included in the current conservation easement could potentially be used as mitigation for future Park District Projects.  Costs would remain at current levels, with annual budget spent on staffing, maintenance, and grazing management.	- Annual: \$30,000
Option 2. Pilot Project: Open Doolan Canyon	Open Doolan Canyon with minimal site improvements. This option would include seasonal closures and use restrictions as determined by staff. Public access would be allowed only on existing service roads, and public use would be monitored during open hours.	- One Time: \$302,500 - Annual: \$175,000

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	One-time costs would include gate and fence improvements and studies to determine impact on trials, ponds, and grassland birds. Annual costs would be the creation of a new Park Ranger position to staff the preserve.	
Option 3a. Pilot Project: Managed Access by Park District	Doolan Canyon would be opened for guided tours only. Tours would be focused on the spring wildflower season. Interest/attendance would be monitored to ensure interest matched Park District investment.  One-time costs would include gate and fence improvements, and rare plant and sensitive natural community surveys. They would also include new shuttles to move people to and from the project tours. Annual costs would include a new Park Ranger position to staff the preserve. It may also include the hiring of new Naturalists to carry out programing. New naturalists would be needed to prevent impacts to current programming.	- One Time: \$331,500 - Annual: \$190,000 to \$280,000
<b>Option</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Costs (approx.)</b>
Option 3b. Pilot Project: Managed Access by Partner	Similar to option 3a, but instead tours would be managed by a Park District partner. Partners could include the Tri-Valley Conservancy, who will hold the conservation easement within the preserve, or Save Mt. Diablo. Interest would be monitored.  One-time costs would include gate and fence improvements, and rare plant and sensitive natural community surveys. Annual costs would include a new Park Ranger position to staff the preserve. Cost sharing with whichever partner gave the tours would also have to be included, but is unknown at this time.	- One Time: \$87,500 - Annual: \$170,000 + partner cost sharing
Option 4. Open Olsen Property for Picnicking	Doolan Canyon remains closed, but the Olsen property is developed into a picnicking site. It would require the installation of picnic benches, trash cans, and shade structures/trees. This would prevent impact on biological resources of Doolan Canyon but still allow public access in the area.  One-time costs would include the construction of the picnic area. This would involve the likely demolition of existing structures, installation of picnic tables, trash cans, gates, a prefabricated restroom, and other site improvements. Ongoing costs would also include a new Park Ranger position to staff the preserve.	- One Time: \$392,000+ - Annual: \$180,000

## FISCAL IMPACT

This item will have no immediate fiscal impact on the Park District budget. The 2026 budget allocated \$150,000 to conduct studies, resources assessments, or other as-needed projects, to build towards public access at Doolan Canyon.

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Input given by the Board of Directors will however have a fiscal impact in the future depending on which option is pursued. Staff will return to the Board for approvals of project contracts, resource studies, plans, etc. as the project evolves.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Figure 1: Doolan Canyon Vicinity Map

Figure 2: Doolan Canyon Recreation Map

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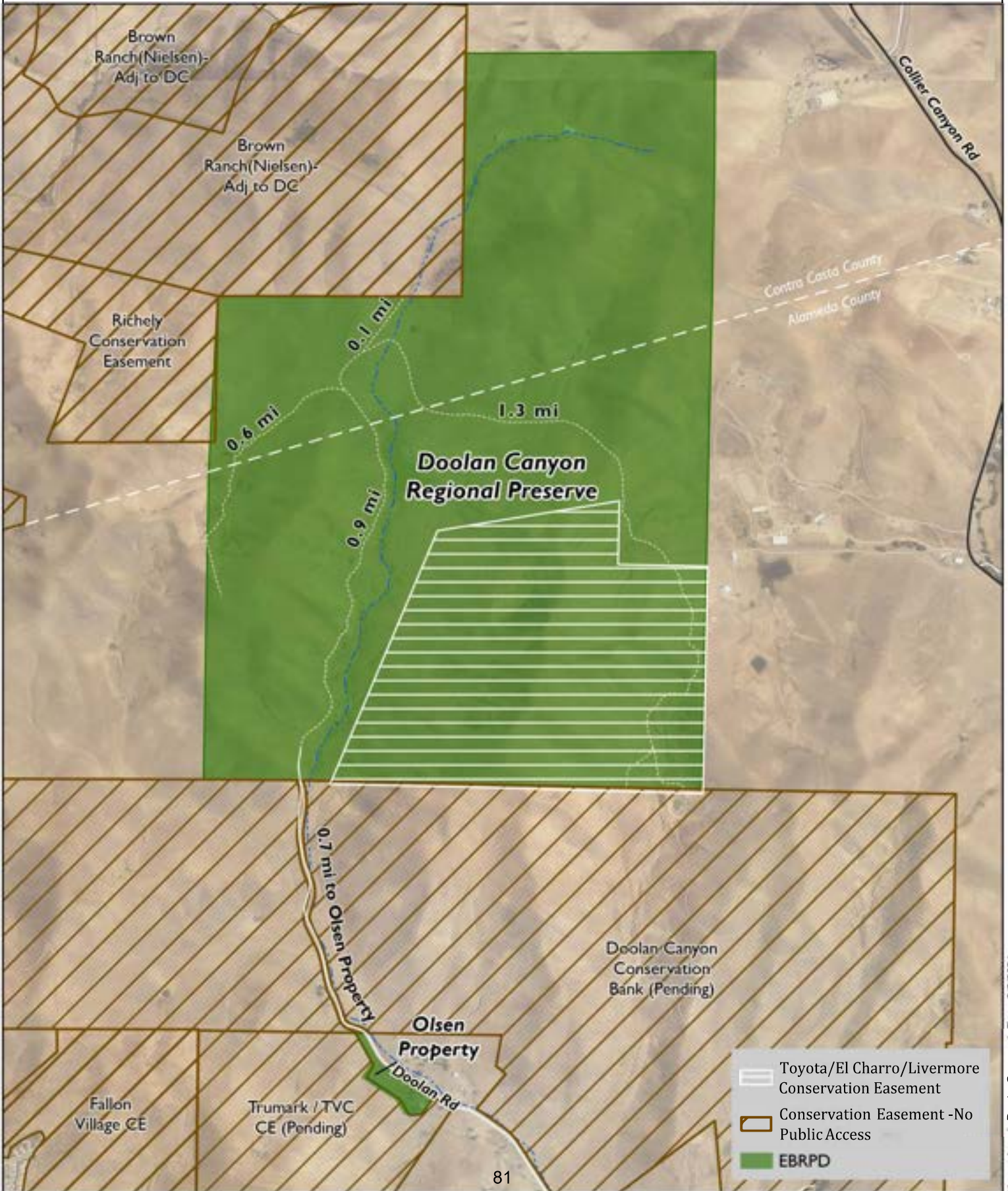
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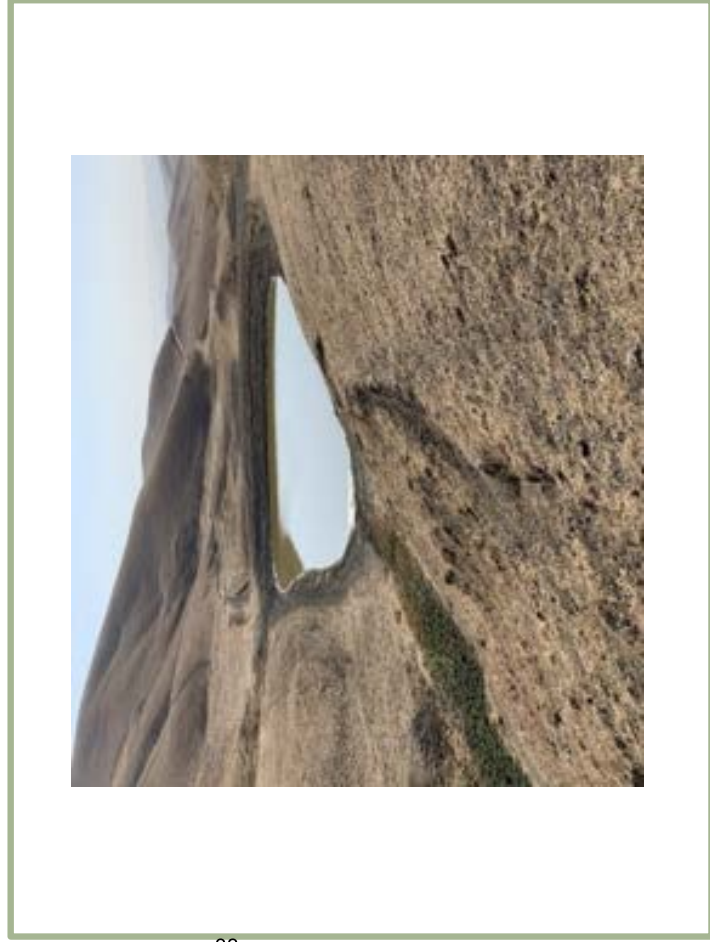




# DOOLAN CANYON REGIONAL PRESERVE: PUBLIC ACCESS AND CONSERVATION NEXT STEPS

April 7, 2026 | Board of Directors

## RECOMMENDATION



The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors direct staff on approach to public access and conservation options at Doolan Canyon.

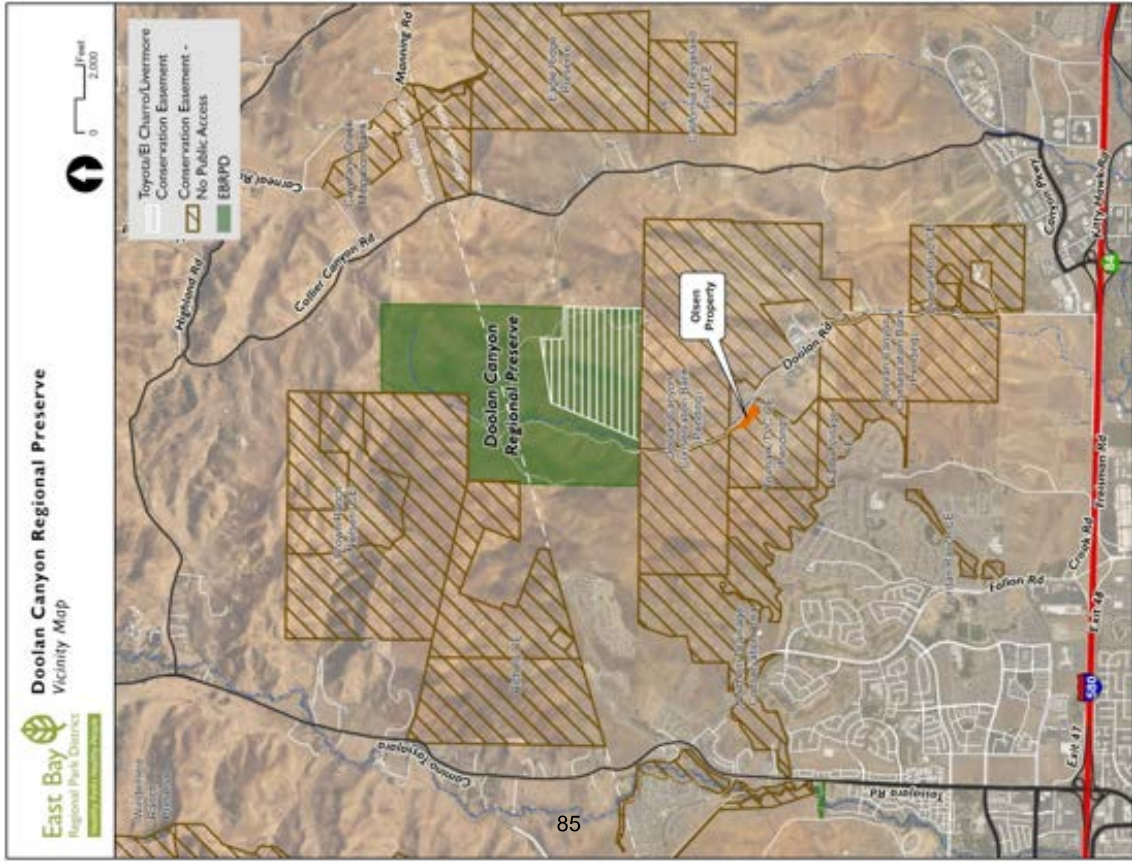
# DOOLAN CANYON ACQUISITION TIMELINE

2007 – 2010: Park District participated in East Alameda

County Conservation Strategy (EACCS)

- 13 Agencies participated including City of Livermore
- 2008: Consistent with EACCS, Board Authorized Livermore Partnership for Doolan Acquisition
- 2010: Park District Officially Acquired 640 Acre Schmitz Property
  - Total Purchase Price: \$6,400,000, \$2 Million paid by Livermore
- 2018: Park District Officially Acquired Northern Grove Property
  - 160 Acres
  - Purchase Price: \$1,020,000
- 2026: Park District Board Approves Acquisition of Olsen





## PUBLIC ACCESS

# OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

### Constraints

- Property was purchased, in part, as mitigation
- Conservation easements and banks in vicinity prohibit public access
- Lack of appropriate location for staging area within parkland property
- No sidewalk along Doolan Road from Olsen Property
- No access to northern Grove Property along existing ranch roads
- Sinkholes
- Weather

### Opportunities

- Parkland outside of conservation easement
- Doolan Canyon conservation easement allows public access on existing roads
- Olsen Property – potential to offer picnicking and/or parking opportunities

## DOOLAN CANYON RECREATION

- 2.9 Miles of existing ranch roads that could be used as trails
- No new trails can be built in the conservation easement area
- The northern Grove Property can not be accessed by Park Staff or the Public on existing roads.



## PUBLIC ACCESS OPTIONS

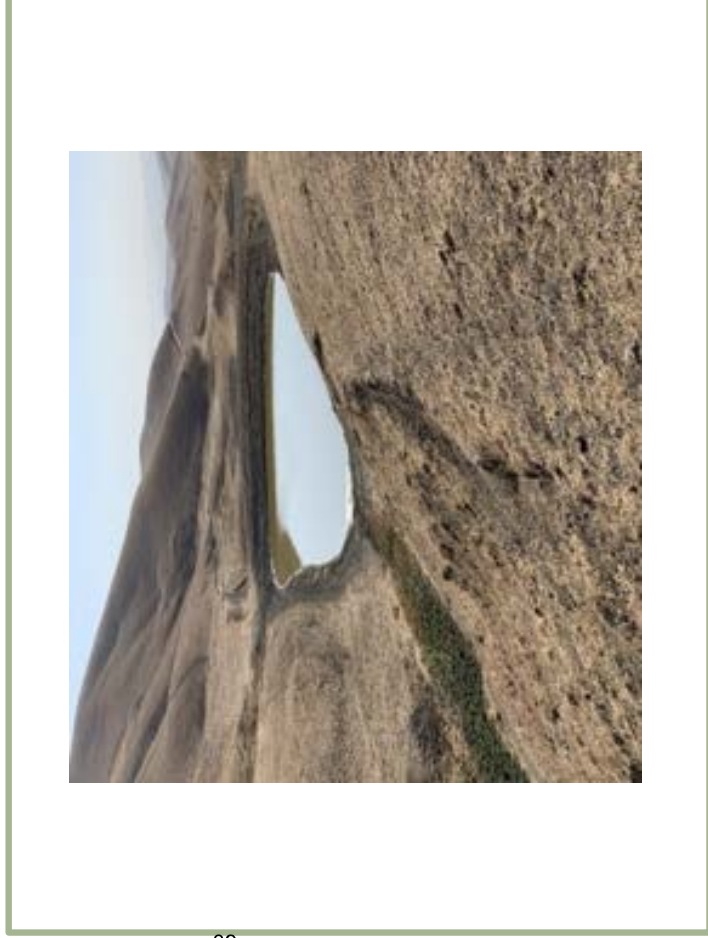
- Option 1: Existing  
Conditions: Operate as  
Conservation Land
- Option 2: Pilot Project:  
Open Doolan Canyon
- Option 3: Pilot Project:  
Managed Access
  - a) Managed by Park District
  - b) Managed by Partner
- Option 4: Open Livermore  
Property for Picnicking



## PUBLIC ACCESS COST COMPARISONS

	One Time Costs	Annual Costs	5-Year Total
1. Existing Conditions: Operate as Conservation Land	N/A	\$30,000	\$150,000
2. Pilot Project: Open Doolan Canyon	\$302,500	\$175,000	\$1,177,500
3A. Pilot Project: Managed Access by Park District	\$331,500	\$280,000 (\$190,000 using existing naturalists)	\$1,731,500 (\$1,281,400 using existing naturalists)
3B. Pilot Project: Managed Access by Partner	\$87,500	\$170,000 + Partner Cost Sharing (TBD)	\$937,500 + Partner Cost Sharing (TBD)
4. Open Livermore Adjacent Property	\$392,000+	\$180,000	\$1,292,000+

## RECOMMENDATION



General manager: The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors direct staff on approach to public access and conservation options at Doolan Canyon

Board Executive Committee: Recommended staff prioritize Option 2: Open Doolan Canyon, but also explore Options 3 and 4.

THANK YOU





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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 27, 2026

TO: LARPD EBRPD Liaison Committee

FROM: Brian Holt, Division Lead, Planning, Trails, Cultural Resources, & GIS, EBRPD  
Max Korten, Acting General Manager, EBRPD

SUBJECT: Public Access Opportunities in the LARPD Area

PAGES: 2

### RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item only.

### BACKGROUND

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) operates several major parks and facilities within and directly serving the area of jurisdiction of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD), including Del Valle Regional Park, the Del Valle Visitor Center, Camp Arroyo, Ohlone Wilderness Regional Preserve, Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, and Brushy Peak Regional Preserve. Additionally, EBRPD has worked for many years to complete segments of the Iron Horse Trail and the Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle Regional Trail within the LARPD jurisdiction.

EBRPD is actively advancing several public access projects within and adjacent to the LARPD area, as outlined below. In assistance of these efforts, the Board of Directors approved an allocation of \$500,000 in the 2026 budget to support various trail projects in the Murray Township area.

Brushy Peak Gateway Project: EBRPD is exploring opportunities to open new parkland and formalize trail connections on Laughlin Road across from Meadow Glen Drive. This new gateway access point to Brushy Peak Regional Preserve will provide formalized pedestrian access from North Livermore neighborhoods while providing new trailhead parking closer to existing communities. EBRPD staff are currently evaluating opportunities and constraints for potential implementation in 2026.

Doolan Canyon Regional Preserve: EBRPD staff is working with the City of Livermore in acquisition of property on Doolan Canyon Rd. that provides the potential to facilitate public access into Doolan Canyon Regional Preserve. EBRPD staff are evaluating various alternatives for resource protection and public access within Doolan Canyon.

Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle Regional Trail: EBRPD staff is engaged with Tri-Valley Conservancy, LARPD and the City of Livermore to connect the Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle Trail from Vallecitos Rd. to Sycamore Grove Park.

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Ward 6

This extension is dependent on the City of Livermore's negotiations with private property owners to obtain ROW and realign E Vineyard Rd to create a four-way intersection at Vallecitos with sufficient width for a trail to be constructed on the north side of E Vineyard Rd as the road is constructed. ROW will be required from LARPD to construct the trail through its property and connect into the existing trail system in Sycamore Grove Park. EBRPD is also engaged with CEMEX and Alameda County to ensure that a 2-mile segment of the Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle Trail is completed as a part of the Eliot Mine Reclamation and Trail Plan. The trail will be included as a part of this mine reclamation project when that project advances.

Del Valle Regional Park: EBRPD is evaluating system and non-system trails within Del Valle Regional Park for restoration or enhancement and investigating formalization of trail connections along the west bank of Del Valle to the Ohlone Wilderness Trail through Zone 7 property.

South Bay Aqueduct Trail Proposal: EBRPD is following efforts by the Alameda County Agriculture Advisory group to submit a proposal to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to allow for a publicly accessible recreational trail along the South Bay Aqueduct.

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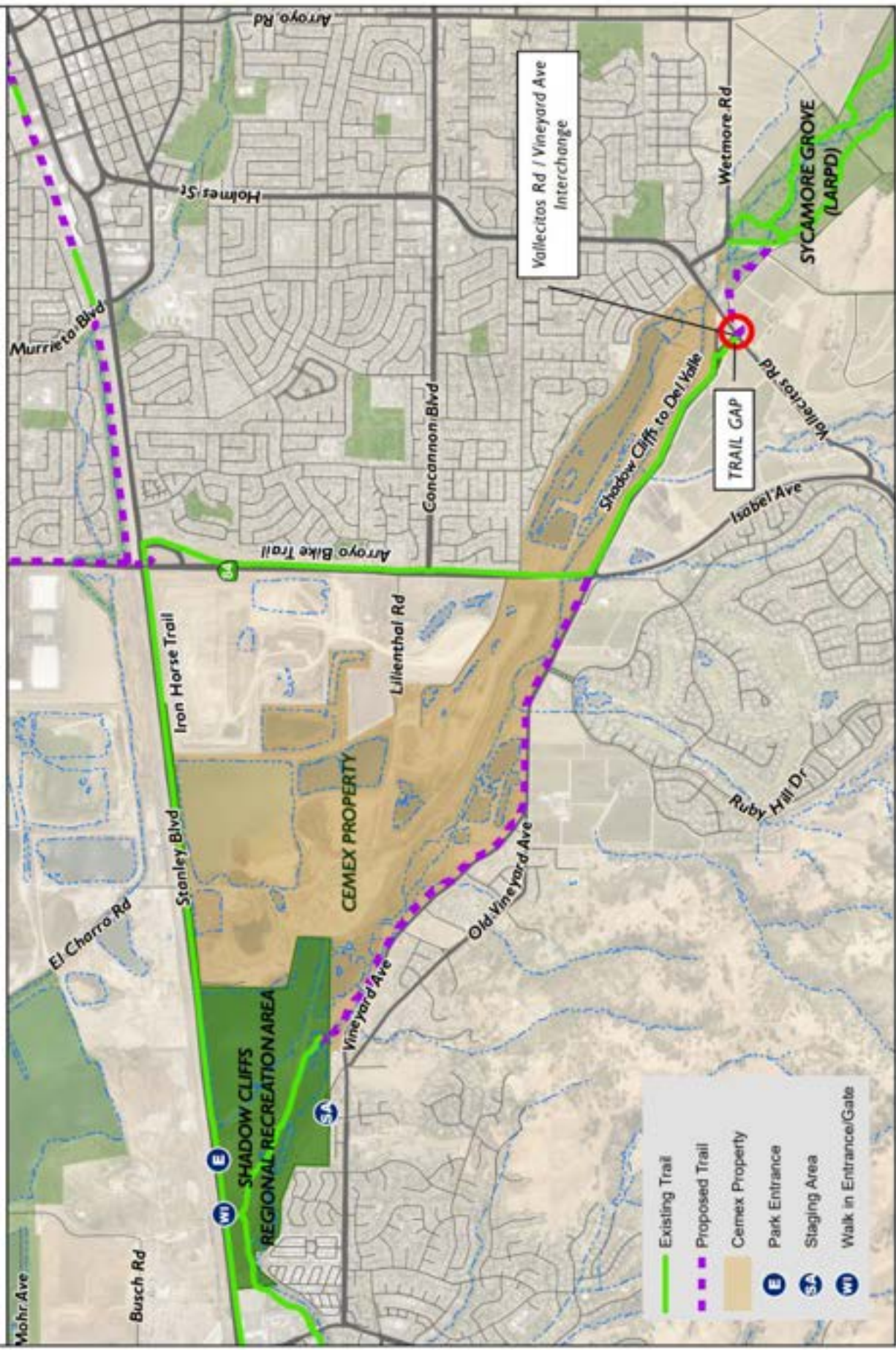
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Ward 4

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Ward 6

# Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle Regional Trail

## Existing Trails and Trail Gaps

### VICINITY MAP





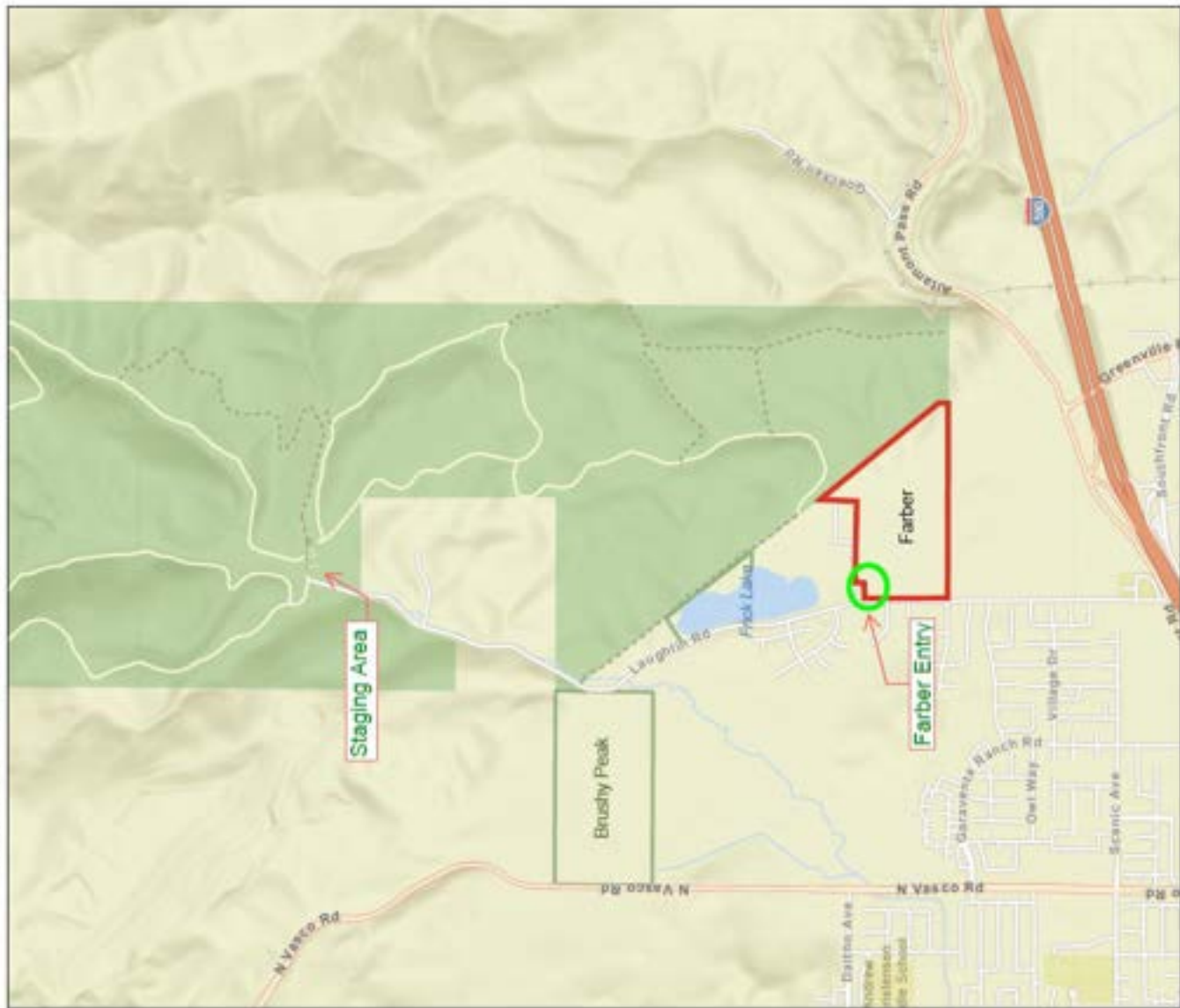
### Shadow Cliffs to Del Valle Regional Trail

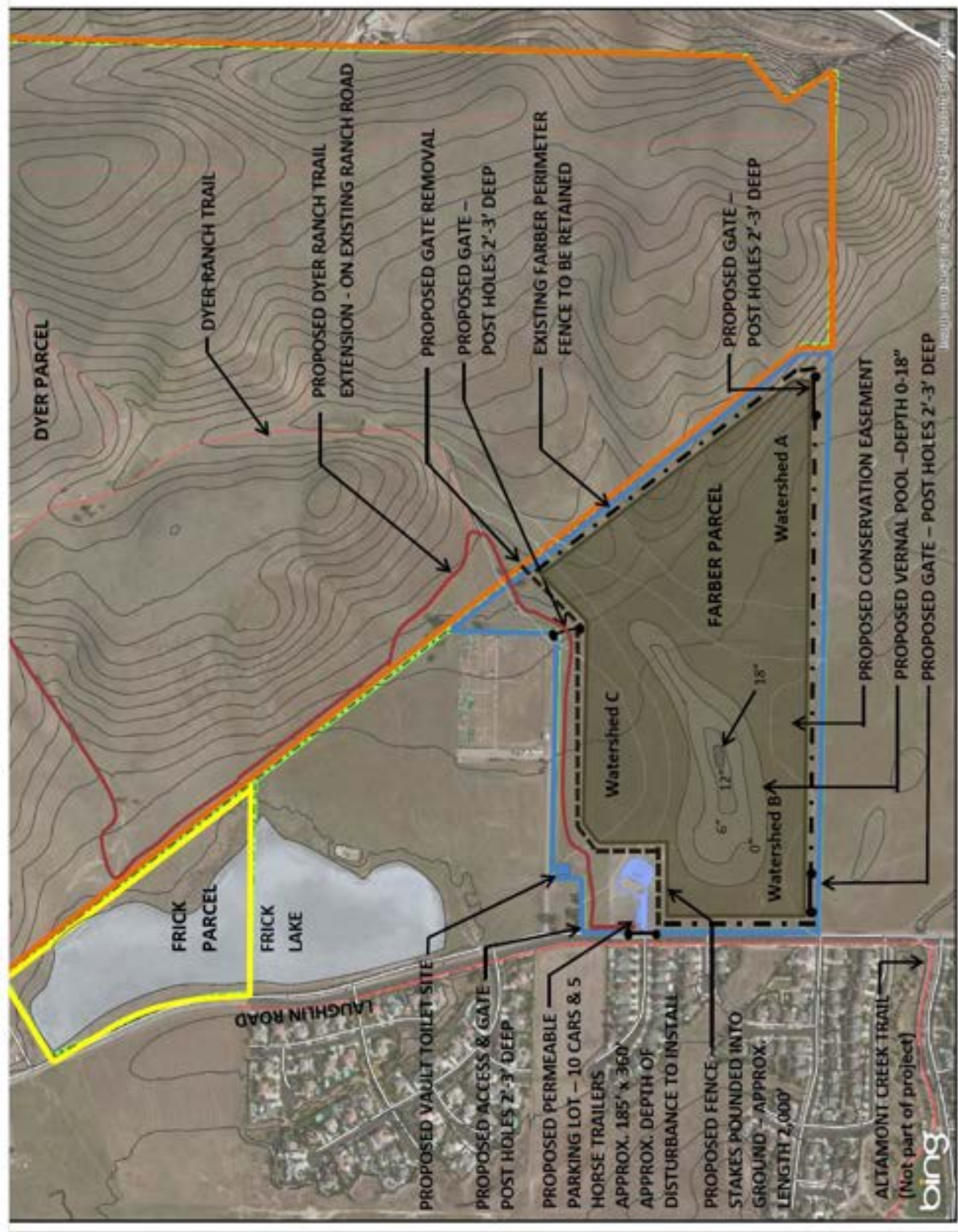
- Parcels
- Public Lands
- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail

Disclaimer: Boundary and property lines and proposed trail alignments do not constitute a boundary or property line survey. The East Bay Regional Park District makes no representation as to the accuracy of said property lines for any use of this map, and the user shall be responsible for obtaining the appropriate survey information. This map is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute a contract. The trail alignments are schematic in nature for planning purposes only.



Brushy Peak - Southern Gateway (Farber) - trails

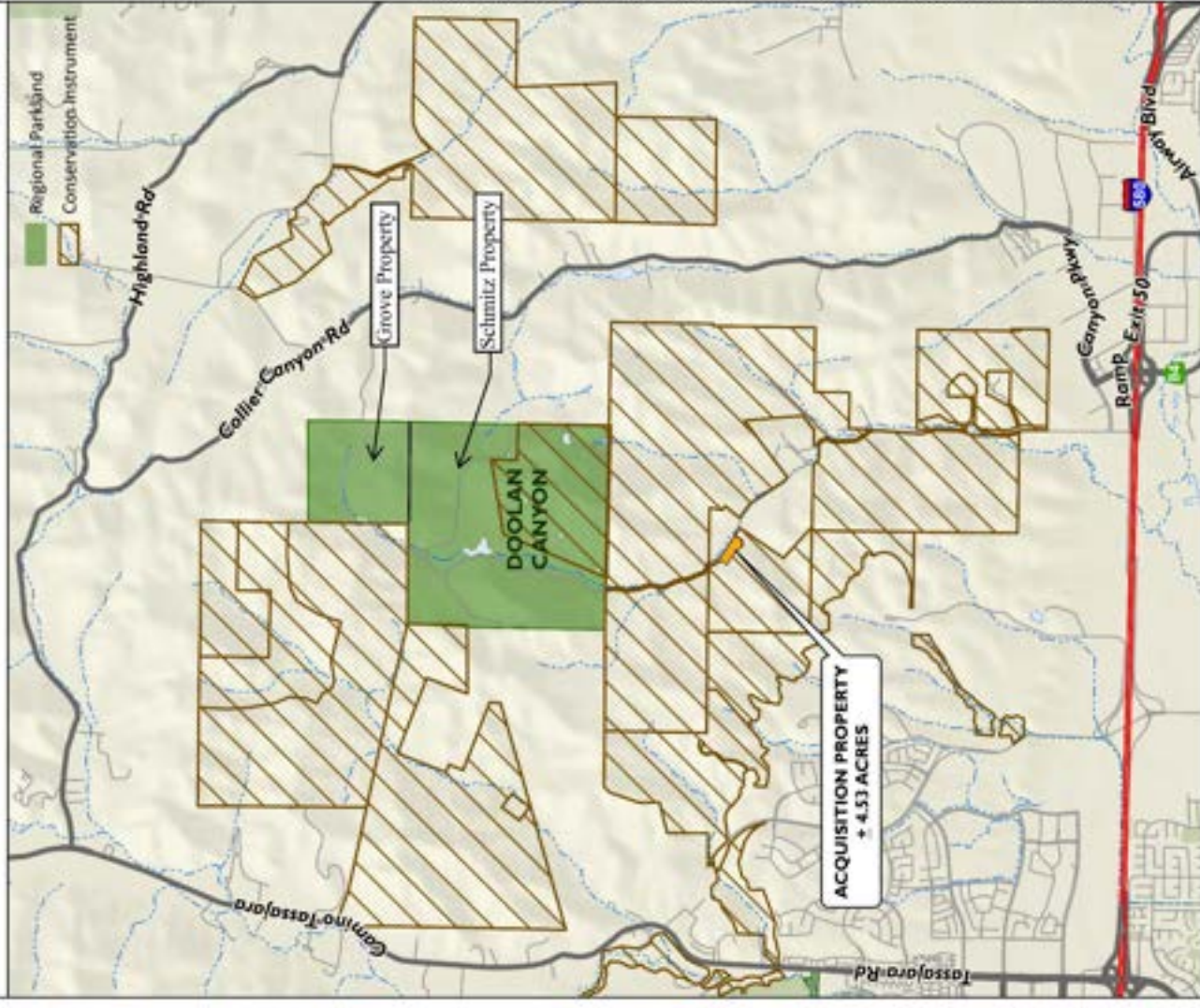




**Farber, Frick & Dyer Area**



EBRPD Land  
Conservation Easement



Regional Parkland  
Conservations Instrument

Grove Property

Schmitz Property

DOOLAN CANYON

ACQUISITION PROPERTY  
+ 4.53 ACRES