



U.S. Department of Housing  
and Urban Development  
Pacific/Hawaii Office of  
Community Planning and Development  
Environmental Branch

## Environmental Assessment

(HUD recommended format per  
24 CFR 58.36, revised 1/99)

**Project Identification:** **CDBG Grant #07-PTAG-3663** (City of Fort Bragg)  
The City of Fort Bragg will use \$482,317.00 to design, engineer and construct a 10,800 square foot, in-ground, solid concrete skate park with landscaping and amenities at the Mendocino Recreation and Park District's newly constructed C.V. Starr Community Center. The skate park conceptual design completed on May 26, 2009 is the basis for the proposed project.

**Preparer:** Chris Carterette, AICP Senior Planner

**Responsible Entity:** City of Fort Bragg

**Month/Year:** June 2009

## Environmental Assessment

**Responsible Entity** [24 CFR 58.2(a)(7)]: City of Fort Bragg

**Certifying Officer** [24 CFR 58.2(a)(2)]: Marie Jones, Community Development Director, City of Fort Bragg

**Project Name:** Skate Plaza Conceptual Design (07-PTAG-3663)

**Project Location:** 300 South Lincoln Street.

**Estimated total project cost:** \$482,300

**Grant Recipient** [24 CFR 58.2(a)(5)]: City of Fort Bragg

**Recipient Address:** City of Fort Bragg, 416 No. Franklin St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437

**Project Representative:** Marie Jones, Community Development Director

**Telephone Number:** (707) 961-2827, ext. 108

**Conditions for Approval:** (List all mitigation measures adopted by the responsible entity to eliminate or minimize adverse environmental impacts. These conditions must be included in project contracts or other relevant documents as requirements). [24 CFR 58.40(d), 40 CFR 1505.2(c)]

1. An ordinance shall be enacted to establish rules and regulations for use of the skate park and to establish penalties for violations:
  - a) The maximum possible hours of operation of the skate park shall be from 10 am to 7 pm. Use of the park at any other time will be prohibited. Hours of operation may be further limited at the discretion of the Rec District.
  - b) Participants are required to use personal safety equipment comprised of at least head, knee, and elbow protection.
  - c) No moveable obstacles or materials (e.g., ramps or jumps) are allowed in the park.
  - d) Bicycling is prohibited within the skate area, except at designated bicycle only times.
  - e) The playing of amplified music within the park is prohibited, unless it is part of a special event which has been approved by the City of Fort Bragg and/or the Rec District.
  - f) The placing of graffiti anywhere in or on the park is prohibited and may result in park closure.
  - g) The following are prohibited in the park at all times: possession or use of drugs or alcohol or being under the influence thereof; fighting or other violence; possession or use of firearms, knives, or other weapons of any kind; and smoking or use of tobacco products.
2. Stormwater from the skate park site will be appropriately conveyed through the City's Area E Storm Drain system. Completion of the City-sponsored "Otis Johnson Park restoration project" will: 1) establish an effective stormwater dissipater system in the park for Storm Drain Area E drainage, and 2) construct an appropriately sized culvert to handle all stormwater flows from Storm Drain Area E.
3. All construction activities shall cease and the Planning Director shall be contacted if any historic resources or human remains are encountered during construction.
4. In the event that archaeological resources are encountered during construction, land alteration work in the general vicinity of the find shall be halted and a qualified archaeologist consulted.
5. All structures and improvements shall comply with the seismic safety provisions of the Uniform Building Code.
6. Construction activities shall be limited to the hours of 7 am to 8 pm, Monday through Friday, 7 am to 5 pm on Saturday, and 8 am to 5 pm on Sunday in accordance with Chapter 9.44 of the Municipal Code. Construction is prohibited on designated holidays.

**FINDING:** [58 40(g)]

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

(The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment)

**Finding of Significant Impact**

(The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment)

**Preparer Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 7/9/2009

**Title/Agency:** Community Development Director, City of Fort Bragg, California

**RE Approving Official Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 7/9/2009

**Title/ Agency:** City Manager, City of Fort Bragg, California

**Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal:** [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]

Since early 2006, City staff, in collaboration with staff from the Fort Bragg Unified School District (FBUSD) and the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District (MCRPD), has been meeting as the Skate Park Committee to strategize establishment of a Community Skate Park in Fort Bragg. The impetus for a Skate Park is the recognition of the benefits that a skate park provides in recreational and healthy living opportunities for youth. Like many communities, Fort Bragg has a growing number of youth and young adult skaters who practice their sport on the streets, sidewalks, and other public and private property. Absent a Skate Park, the resulting endangerment to skaters and defacement of public and private property will continue. A skate park located within City limits will provide a safe and appropriate venue for Fort Bragg skaters. The Skate Park facility initiative started over 15 years ago with a group of elected officials, local residents, skateboard enthusiasts, young adults and community interest groups.

**Description of the Proposal:** Include all contemplated actions which logically are either geographically or functionally a composite part of the project, regardless of the source of funding [24 CFR 58.32, 40 CFR 1508 25]

Design, engineer and construct a 10,800 square foot, in-ground, concrete skate plaza with landscaping and amenities at the Mendocino Recreation and Park District's newly constructed C.V. Starr Community Center. The skate plaza conceptual design completed on May 26, 2009 is the basis for the proposed project. Project details are listed below:

- Construction of 10,800 square foot, in-ground, concrete skate park including bowl, stairs, curbs, rails, and ramps
- Signage at the project entrance on Willow Street
- Bicycle racks
- Benches
- Drinking Fountain
- Landscaping and irrigation
- Perimeter fencing consisting of powder coated tubular steel
- Posting of Skatepark Rules
- No lighting or bathrooms are planned for the project, though a new detached accessible unisex bathroom is planned adjacent to Willow Street for the general community center facility.

**Existing Conditions and Trends:** Describe the existing conditions of the project area and its surroundings, and trends likely to continue in the absence of the project [24 CFR 58 40(a)]

The project site formerly housed Green Memorial Field, a baseball playing field that was decommissioned by the Recreation District (Rec District) upon construction of the new Recreation Center and Aquatic Facility. The proposed

skate park will be located on a portion of the site that was originally slated as a driveway and parking area. The overall site plan was reconfigured to allowed the skate park.

The project area is within a relatively densely populated residential neighborhood in central Fort Bragg in an area that for decades has been a center of outdoor community activity, such as little league baseball tournaments, annual logging shows and dog training and agility classes. The site is adjacent to Redwood Elementary School and the School District offices, and as a component of a recreation facility (that includes an Aquatic Center, Gymnasiums, and a dog park) will nicely round out the active recreational offerings to serve a marginalized group of youthful athletes. In the absence of the project, there would continue to be limited outdoor recreational opportunities for youth, especially a lack of legal, safe designated areas for skateboarders and roller skaters.

### Statutory Checklist

[24CFR §58.5]

For each listed statute, executive order or regulation, record the determinations made. Note reviews and consultations completed as well as any applicable permits or approvals obtained. Attach evidence that all required actions have been taken. Record any conditions or mitigation measures required. Then, make a determination of compliance or consistency.

#### Factors

#### Determinations and Compliance

#### Documentation

<b>Historic Preservation</b> [36 CFR 800]	The project area is vacant land and no structures subject to preservation concerns are present.
<b>Floodplain Management</b> [24 CFR 55, Executive Order 11988]	The property is not located within a floodplain
<b>Wetlands Protection</b> [Executive Order 11990]	There are no wetlands located on the property.
<b>Coastal Zone Management Act</b> [Sections 307(c),(d)]	The project site is not located within the coastal zone.
<b>Sole Source Aquifers</b> [40 CFR 149]	Not applicable.
<b>Endangered Species Act</b> [50 CFR 402]	There are no rare, threatened or endangered species on the project site.
<b>Wild and Scenic Rivers Act</b> [Sections 7 (b), (c)]	There are no wild and scenic rivers in the City of Fort Bragg
<b>Air Quality</b> [Clean Air Act, Sections 176 (c) and (d), and 40 CFR 6, 51, 93]	The project will not adversely affect air quality.
<b>Farmland Protection Policy Act</b> [7 CFR 658]	Not applicable.
<b>Environmental Justice</b> [Executive Order 12898]	The project will be a free use facility and positively addresses low-income populations by providing a place for healthy, athletic activity.

**HUD Environmental Standards Determinations and Compliance Documentation**

<p><b>Noise Abatement and Control</b> [24 CFR 51 B]</p>	<p>The project will not result in any adverse impacts relating to noise. The project is subject to the City of Fort Bragg Noise Ordinance relative to hours of operation and construction activities.</p>
<p><b>Toxic or Hazardous Substances and Radioactive Materials</b> [HUD Notice 79-33]</p>	<p>The project will not expose skate park users to toxic or hazardous substances or radioactive materials.</p>
<p><b>Siting of HUD-Assisted Projects near Hazardous Operations</b> [24 CFR 51 C]</p>	<p>There are no hazardous operations in the vicinity of the project site.</p>
<p><b>Airport Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones</b> [24 CFR 51 D]</p>	<p>There are no airports in the project vicinity.</p>

## Environmental Assessment Checklist

[Environmental Review Guide HUD CPD 782, 24 CFR 58.40; Ref 40 CFR 1508.8 & 1508.27]

Evaluate the significance of the effects of the proposal on the character, features and resources of the project area. Enter relevant base data and verifiable source documentation to support the finding. Then enter the appropriate impact code from the following list to make a finding of impact. **Impact Codes:** (1) - No impact anticipated; (2) - Potentially beneficial; (3) - Potentially adverse; (4) - Requires mitigation; (5) - Requires project modification. Note names, dates of contact, telephone numbers and page references. Attach additional materials as needed.

Land Development	Code	Source or Documentation
Conformance with Comprehensive Plans and Zoning	2	City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission, Agenda Summary Report for USP 8-00/04/05/07/09 and Site and Architectural Review 12-00/04/05/07/09 and project Mitigated Negative Declaration
Compatibility and Urban Impact	1	City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission, Agenda Summary Report for USP 8-00/04/05/07/09 and Site and Architectural Review 12-00/04/05/07/09 and project Mitigated Negative Declaration
Slope	1	City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission, Agenda Summary Report for USP 8-00/04/05/07/09 and Site and Architectural Review 12-00/04/05/07/09 and project Mitigated Negative Declaration
Erosion	1	City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission, Agenda Summary Report for USP 8-00/04/05/07/09 and Site and Architectural Review 12-00/04/05/07/09 and project Mitigated Negative Declaration
Soil Suitability	1	City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission, Agenda Summary Report for USP 8-00/04/05/07/09 and Site and Architectural Review 12-00/04/05/07/09 and project Mitigated Negative Declaration
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety	1	City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission, Agenda Summary Report for USP 8-00/04/05/07/09 and Site and Architectural Review 12-00/04/05/07/09 and project Mitigated Negative Declaration
Energy Consumption	1	City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission, Agenda Summary Report for USP 8-00/04/05/07/09 and Site and Architectural Review 12-00/04/05/07/09 and project Mitigated Negative Declaration
<b>Noise</b> - Contribution to Community Noise Levels	4	City of Fort Bragg General Plan and Municipal Code regulating noise and project Mitigated Negative Declaration
<b>Air Quality</b> Effects of Ambient Air Quality on Project and Contribution to Community Pollution Levels	1	City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission, Agenda Summary Report for USP 8-00/04/05/07/09 and Site and Architectural Review 12-00/04/05/07/09 and project Mitigated Negative Declaration
<b>Environmental Design</b> Visual Quality - Coherence, Diversity, Compatible Use and Scale	1	City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission, Agenda Summary Report for USP 8-00/04/05/07/09 and Site and Architectural Review 12-00/04/05/07/09 and project Mitigated Negative Declaration

<b>Socioeconomic</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Source or Documentation</b>
Demographic Character Changes	1	US Census 2000
Displacement	1	Not applicable, no displacement will occur.
Employment and Income Patterns	1	US Census 2000

<b>Community Facilities and Services</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Source or Documentation</b>
Educational Facilities	1	City of Fort Bragg General Plan
Commercial Facilities	1	City of Fort Bragg General Plan
Health Care	1	City of Fort Bragg General Plan
Social Services	1	City of Fort Bragg General Plan
Solid Waste	1	City of Fort Bragg General Plan
Waste Water	1	City of Fort Bragg General Plan
Storm Water	1	City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission, Agenda Summary Report for USP 8-00/04/05/07/09 and Site and Architectural Review 12-00/04/05/07/09 and project Mitigated Negative Declaration
Water Supply	1	City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission, Agenda Summary Report for USP 8-00/04/05/07/09 and Site and Architectural Review 12-00/04/05/07/09 and project Mitigated Negative Declaration
Public Safety - Police	2	City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission, Agenda Summary Report for USP 8-00/04/05/07/09 and Site and Architectural Review 12-00/04/05/07/09 and project Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Fire	1	City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission, Agenda Summary Report for USP 8-00/04/05/07/09 and Site and Architectural Review 12-00/04/05/07/09 and project Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Emergency Medical	1	City of Fort Bragg General Plan
Open Space and Recreation - Open Space	2	City of Fort Bragg General Plan
- Recreation	2	City of Fort Bragg General Plan
- Cultural Facilities	1	City of Fort Bragg General Plan
Transportation	1	City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission, Agenda



		Summary Report for USP 8-00/04/05/07/09 and Site and Architectural Review 12-00/04/05/07/09 and project Mitigated Negative Declaration
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<b>Natural Features</b>	<b>Source or Documentation</b>	
Water Resources	1	Not applicable
Surface Water	1	Not applicable
Unique Natural Features and Agricultural Lands	1	Not applicable
Vegetation and Wildlife	1	Not applicable

### **Summary of Findings and Conclusions**

The following findings are recommended for adoption by the Fort Bragg Planning Commission in support of their approval of the project as described:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the purpose and intent of the Public Facility Zoning District, as well as all other provisions of the General Plan, Land Use and Development Code and the Fort Bragg Municipal Code;
2. The proposed use is allowed within the applicable zoning district and complies with all other applicable provisions of this Development Code and the Municipal Code;
3. The design, location, size, and operating characteristics of the proposed activity are compatible with the existing and future land uses in the vicinity;
4. The site is physically suitable in terms of design, location, shape, size, operating characteristics, and the provision of public and emergency vehicle (e.g., fire and medical) access and public services and utilities (e.g., fire protection, police protection, potable water, schools, solid waste collection and disposal, storm drainage, wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal, etc.), to ensure that the type, density, and intensity of use being proposed would not endanger, jeopardize, or otherwise constitute a hazard to the public interest, health, safety, convenience, or welfare, or be materially injurious to the improvements, persons, property, or uses in the vicinity and zoning district in which the property is located;
5. The project complies with the purpose and requirements of Section 18.71.050 Design Review;
6. The project provides architectural design, building massing, and scale appropriate to and compatible with the site surroundings and the community;
7. The project Provides attractive and desirable site layout and design, including building arrangement, exterior appearance and setbacks, drainage, fences and walls, grading, landscaping, lighting, signs, etc.;

8. The project provides efficient and safe public access, circulation, and parking;
9. The project provides appropriate open space and landscaping, including the use of water efficient landscaping;
10. The project complies and is consistent with the City's Design Guidelines; and
11. For the purposes of the environmental determination a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared and filed with the State Clearinghouse and County Recorder's Office.

## ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

**Alternatives and Project Modifications Considered** [24 CFR 58 40(e), Ref. 40 CFR 1508 9]  
 (Identify other reasonable courses of action that were considered and not selected, such as other sites, design modifications, or other uses of the subject site. Describe the benefits and adverse impacts to the human environment of each alternative and the reasons for rejecting it.)

During the project design phase the City considered eleven potential alternative locations and narrowed the site selection process down to the selected site with two possible configurations of the park and one other location, Harold O. Bainbridge Park. The recommended alternative (the proposed project) allows for a skate park to be built upon an area proposed for parking and a drive access, whereas the Bainbridge Park alternative would have displaced open space currently used for active and passive recreation. The recommended alternative results in a net increase in programmed outdoor recreation space.

During public workshops the recommended alternative was preferred by approximately 95% of the over 80 attendees who participated, due to its better location, less impacts on neighbors, and the retention of open space. The layout of the recommended alternative evolved through public input and reflects the synthesized desires of the Fort Bragg skating community and is appropriately sized and capable of being built in two phases, if necessary. The management and operation of the Skate Park will be guided through a memorandum of understanding between the Recreation District and the City of Fort Bragg.

**No Action Alternative** [24 CFR 58.40(e)]  
 (Discuss the benefits and adverse impacts to the human environment of not implementing the preferred alternative).

The no action alternative would perpetuate the lack of a formal, safe and regulated park for skateboarders and roller skaters to practice their sport.

**Mitigation Measures Recommended** [24 CFR 58.40(d), 40 CFR 1508.20]  
 (Recommend feasible ways in which the proposal or external factors relating to the proposal should be modified in order to eliminate or minimize adverse environmental impacts )

**Make sure that mitigation measures match the Neg Dec.**

1. An ordinance shall be enacted adopting the following rules and regulations for use of the skate park and subjecting violators of the rules and regulations to citation:

- h) The maximum possible hours of use of the skate park shall be 8 am to 7 pm Daylight Saving Time, and 8 am to 5 pm Pacific Standard Time. Use of the park at any other time will be prohibited. Hours of operation may be further limited through the adoption of an MOU between the City of Fort Bragg and the Rec District.
  - i) Participants are required to use personal safety equipment comprised of at least head, knee, and elbow protection.
  - j) No moveable obstacles or materials (e.g., ramps or jumps) are allowed in the park.
  - k) Bicycling is prohibited within the skate area, except at designated bicycle only times.
  - l) Music within the park that is audible from any residential parcel is prohibited, unless it is part of a special event which has received TAC review by the City of Fort Bragg.
  - m) The placing of graffiti anywhere in or on the park is prohibited and the park will be closed until the graffiti is removed and/or repaired. Unless a designated graffiti wall is added to the park features by the City of Fort Bragg.
  - n) The following are prohibited in the park at all times: possession or use of drugs or alcohol or being under the influence thereof; fighting or other violence; possession or use of firearms, knives, or other weapons of any kind; and smoking or use of tobacco products.
7. The City will continue with the implementation of the Otis Johnson Park restoration project to: 1) establish an effective stormwater dissipater system in the park, and 2) construct an appropriately sized culvert to handle all stormwater flows.
  8. All construction activities shall cease and the Planning Director shall be contacted if any historic resources or human remains are encountered during construction.
  9. In the event that archaeological resources are encountered during construction, land alteration work in the general vicinity of the find shall be halted and a qualified archaeologist consulted.
  10. All structures and improvements shall comply with the seismic safety provisions of the Uniform Building Code.

Construction activities shall be limited to the hours of 7 am to 8 pm, Monday through Friday, 7 am to 5 pm on Saturday, and 8 am to 5 pm on Sunday in accordance with Chapter 9.44 of the Municipal Code. Construction is also prohibited on designated holidays.

**Additional Studies Performed**

(Attach studies or summaries)

Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project is attached.