

## **SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE**

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This Initial Study has been prepared to conform to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations §15000 et. seq.), and the regulations and policies of the City of Cupertino. This Initial Study evaluates the potential environmental impacts which might reasonably be anticipated to result from the construction of the proposed Scenic Circle Access to Stevens Creek Trail and Blackberry Farm Park project.

The City of Cupertino is proposing to construct an approximately 270-foot long trail that would connect Scenic Circle to the existing trail in Blackberry Farm Park via an existing pedestrian bridge over Stevens Creek. The proposed project also includes the construction of approach ramps, stairway, retaining wall, and access point at Scenic Circle. The project site is located on City-owned property.

In April 2006, the City of Cupertino completed the Stevens Creek Corridor Park Master Plan and Restoration Plan Initial Study (IS)/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).<sup>1</sup> Stevens Creek Corridor Park is an approximately 60-acre area bounded by Steven Creek Boulevard to the north, McClellan Road to the south, and residential neighborhoods to the east and west. The IS/MND analyzed the conversion of the fee-based Blackberry Farm picnic grounds to a year-round community park, restoration of the Stevens Creek channel, enhancement of adjacent woodland habitat, construction of a trail along Stevens Creek between McClellan Road and Steven Creek Boulevard, and construction of new park and golf maintenance facilities. The proposed trail connection would be located within the Stevens Creek Corridor park lands and would link the creek trail to Scenic Circle via an existing pedestrian bridge. Some of the information contained within the IS/MND was utilized for the preparation of this Initial Study, and is hereby incorporated by reference as allowed under Section 15150 of the CEQA Guidelines.

The City of Cupertino is the Lead Agency under CEQA and has retained David J. Powers & Associates to prepare this Initial Study to address the impacts of implementing the proposed project.

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<sup>1</sup> The IS/MND and associated documents are available at: <http://www.cupertino.org/index.aspx?page=314> and at the City of Cupertino offices located at 10300 Torre Avenue, Cupertino, CA, 95014. An addendum to the IS/MND was adopted in October 2006.