Calero County Park Trails Master Plan

Parks and Recreation Commission
November 2, 2011

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bellinger foster steinmetz

Trails Plan Purpose

- Explore opportunities for multi-use trails
- Consider access to newly-acquired park areas
- Explore alignments for regional trails
- Develop a sustainable trails plan
- Coordinate with on-going County planning efforts and partner agencies

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Process to date

- Community input through two web-based surveys and two open houses

- Field investigations

- Completion of Program Development Report

- Review by PRC

- Coordination with partner agencies

- Alternatives development and evaluation

- September 15 community meeting

- Follow-up project team meeting and alternative refinement

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Calero County Park Trails Master Plan

Focus of Tonight's Meeting

- Review of preliminary trail alignments
- Review the range of use alternatives considered
- Review of a draft preferred alternative
- Discussion of Sept. 15 community meeting comments
- Progress report since community meeting
- Review of next steps / outstanding issues

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Calero County Park Trails Master Plan

Community Input Summary (Program Development Phase)

Everyone wants

- Variety in trail experience and ability level

- Regional trail connections

- Protection of sensitive resources

- Long-term success

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Community Input Summary

Equestrians want

- A safe place to ride without always considering potential conflicts with bicyclists

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Community Input Summary

Bicyclists want

- Access to trails
- The ability to connect between parks

Community Input Summary

Runners want

- Access to trails
- Connections between parks for long-distance runs

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Community Input Summary

Hikers want

- Access to trails

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Community Input Summary

Dog owners want

- Access to trails

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Agency Input Summary

County Parks wants
- Compatibility with natural resource management
- Completion of multi-use regional trail segments
- Collaboration with partner agencies
- Consistency with adjacent open space uses
- Ability to sensibly enforce solutions
- Long-term sustainability
- Flexibility
- Long-term vision
- Continued advancement of multi-use trails best practices

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Agency Input Summary

Partner agencies want

- Consistency with plans and policies
- Minimal conflicts with operations
- Consistency with adjacent open space uses

Trails Plan Alternatives Approach

- Develop a base trail alignment plan common to all alternatives
- Consider a range of trail use alternatives
- Evaluate alternatives based on established criteria
- Select a preferred alternative

Trail Alignment Plan

Trail Alignment Plan based on
- Documented physical data (topography, soil type, vegetation, etc.)
- Existing trail assessments / new trail potential
- Regional trail corridors
- Natural resource management objectives
- Site investigation
- Community input
- Existing and planned adjacent uses
- Partner agency input
- Consistency with on-going plans

Trail Alignment Plan

Calero County Park
Trails Master Plan

**Draft
Trail Alignment
Base Map**

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- - - - New Trail
——— New Trail on (E) Road
- - - - New Service Road
——— Service Access Only
——— Existing Trails
×××× Trails to be removed

Note: Drivable trails
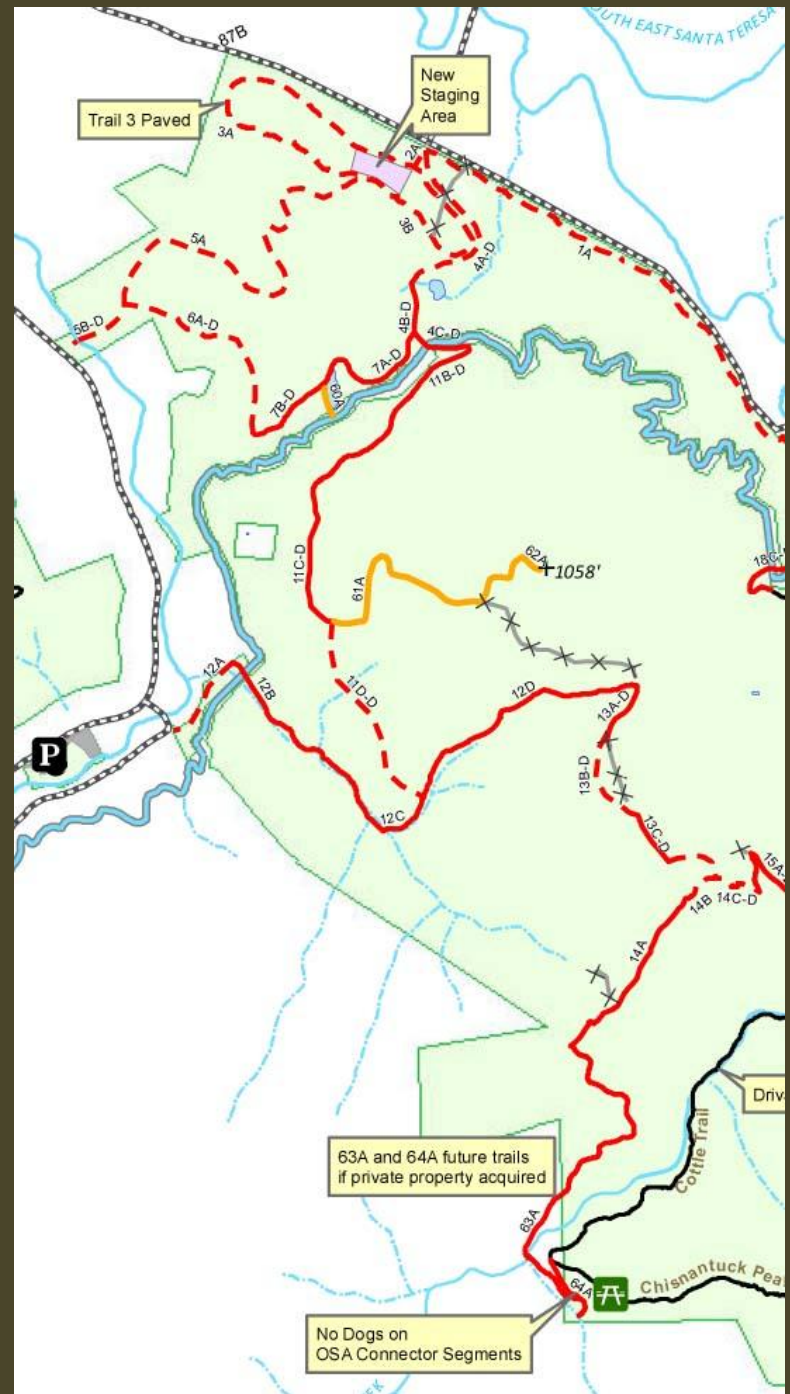are indicated with a
label or a "-D" after
the segment number.
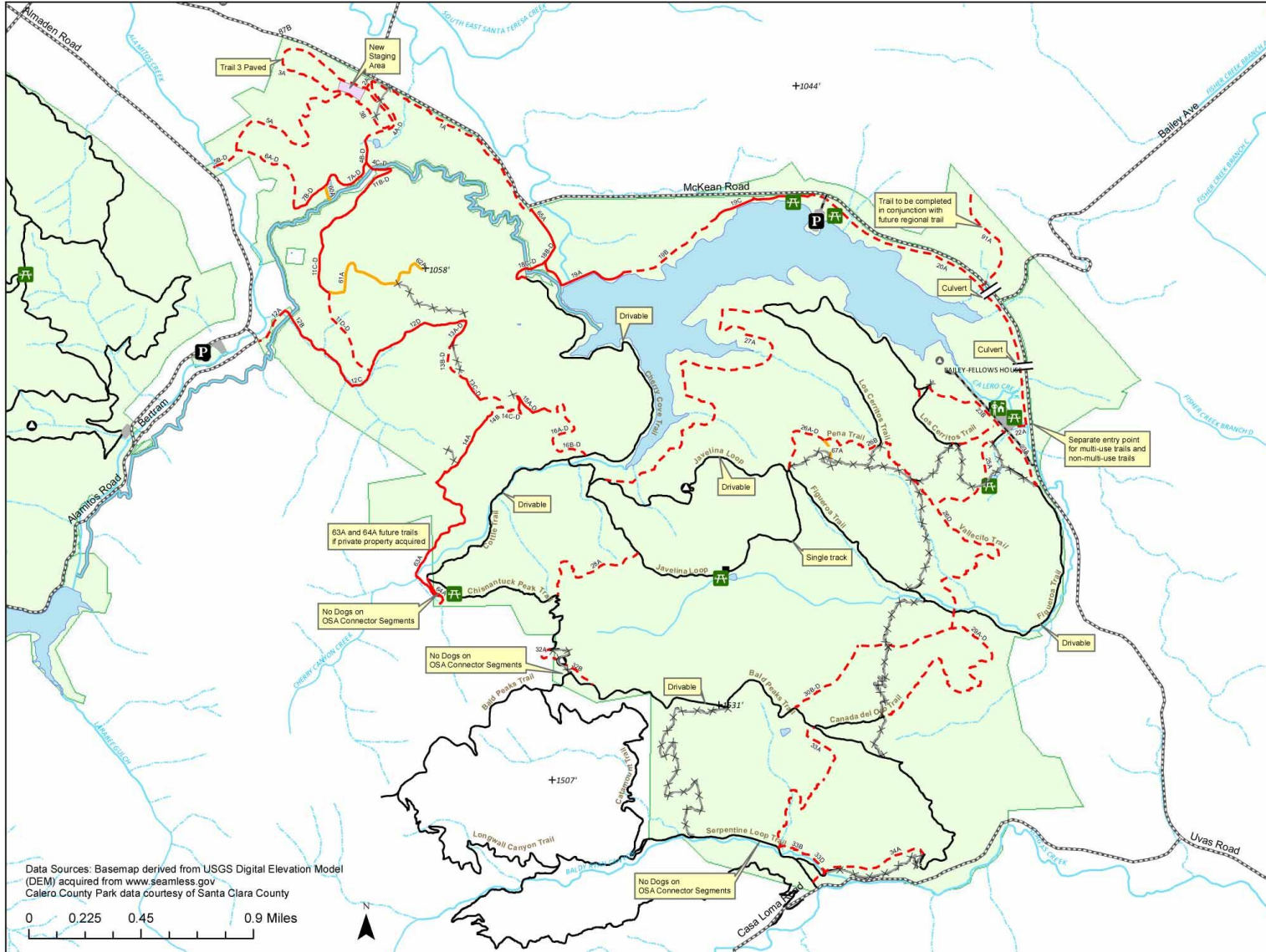
Data Sources: Basemap derived from USGS Digital Elevation Model
(DEM) acquired from www.seamless.gov
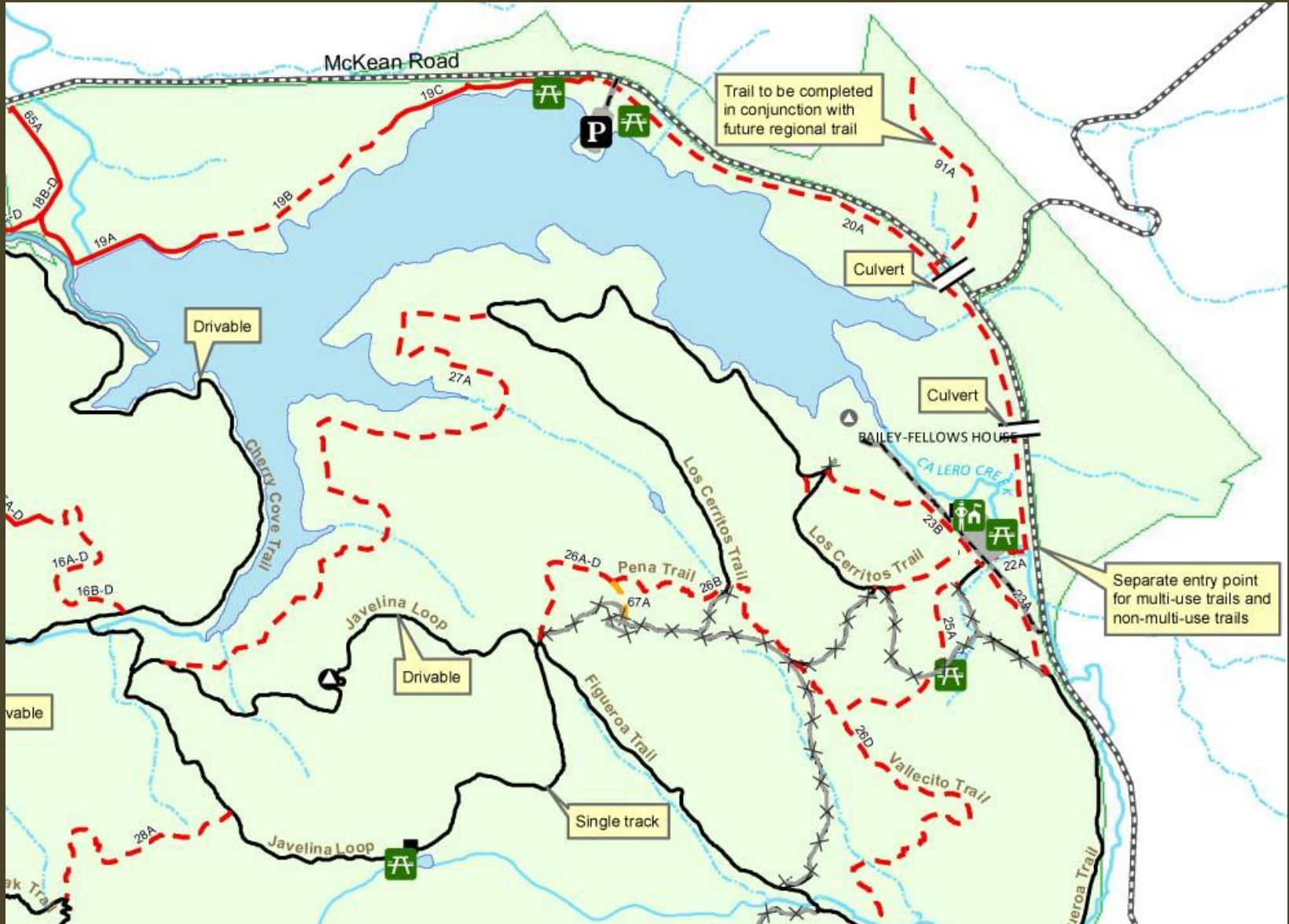Calero County Park data courtesy of Santa Clara County

0   0.225   0.45   0.9 Miles

bellinger foster steinmetz 2011
Draft October 18, 2011

Trail Alignment Plan
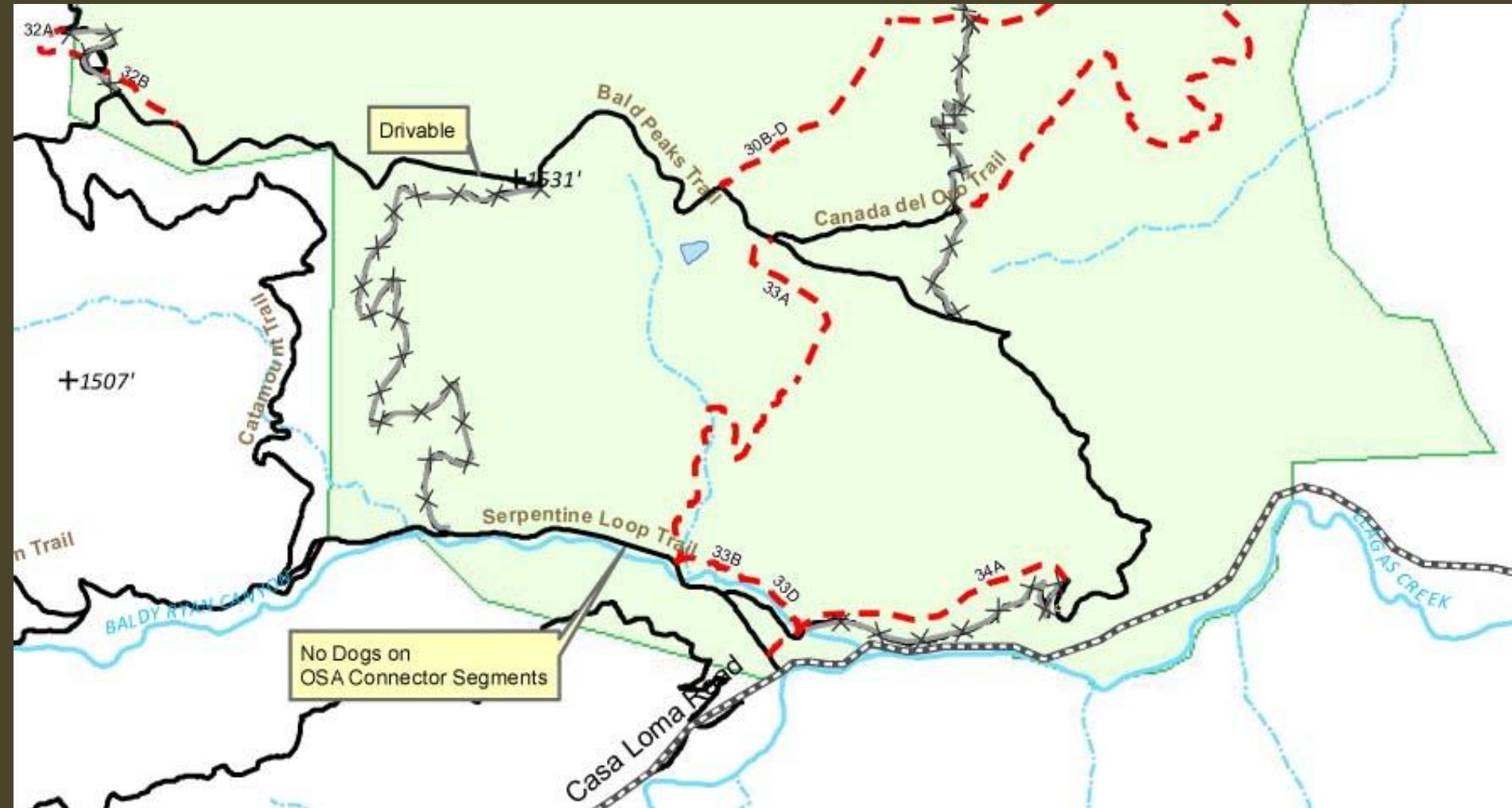## Rancho San Vicente Area

Existing Culvert

Standards for undercrossings

- Equestrians: 10-foot vertical clearance minimum, 12-foot preferred

- Bicycles: 8-foot vertical clearance minimum, 10-foot preferred
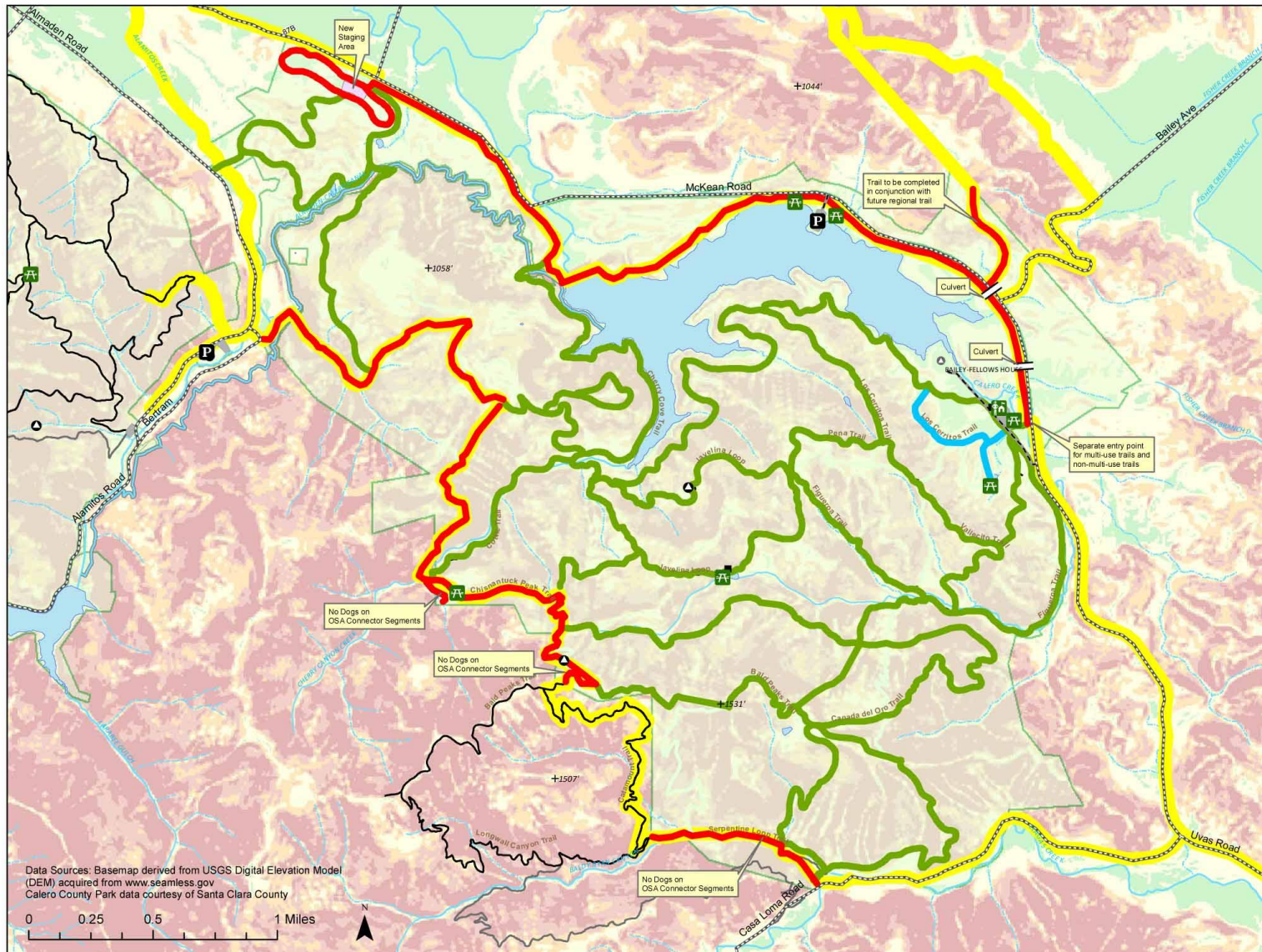
- Width: 8-foot minimum, 12-foot preferred

Cal

Trail Alignment Plan
Casa Loma Road Area

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Trails Master Plan

User Alternative 1

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Regional Connections

Hiking & Dogs on Leash

Hiking & Equestrian

Hiking, Equestrian,
Dogs on Leash, Bikes

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Draft September 14, 2011

Trail Use Plan Alternative 2

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Trails Master Plan

User Alternative 2

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Regional Connections

Hiking & Dogs on Leash

Hiking & Equestrian

Hiking, Equestrian,
Dogs on Leash, Bikes

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Draft September 14, 2011

Data Sources: Basemap derived from USGS Digital Elevation Model
(DEM) acquired from www.seamless.gov
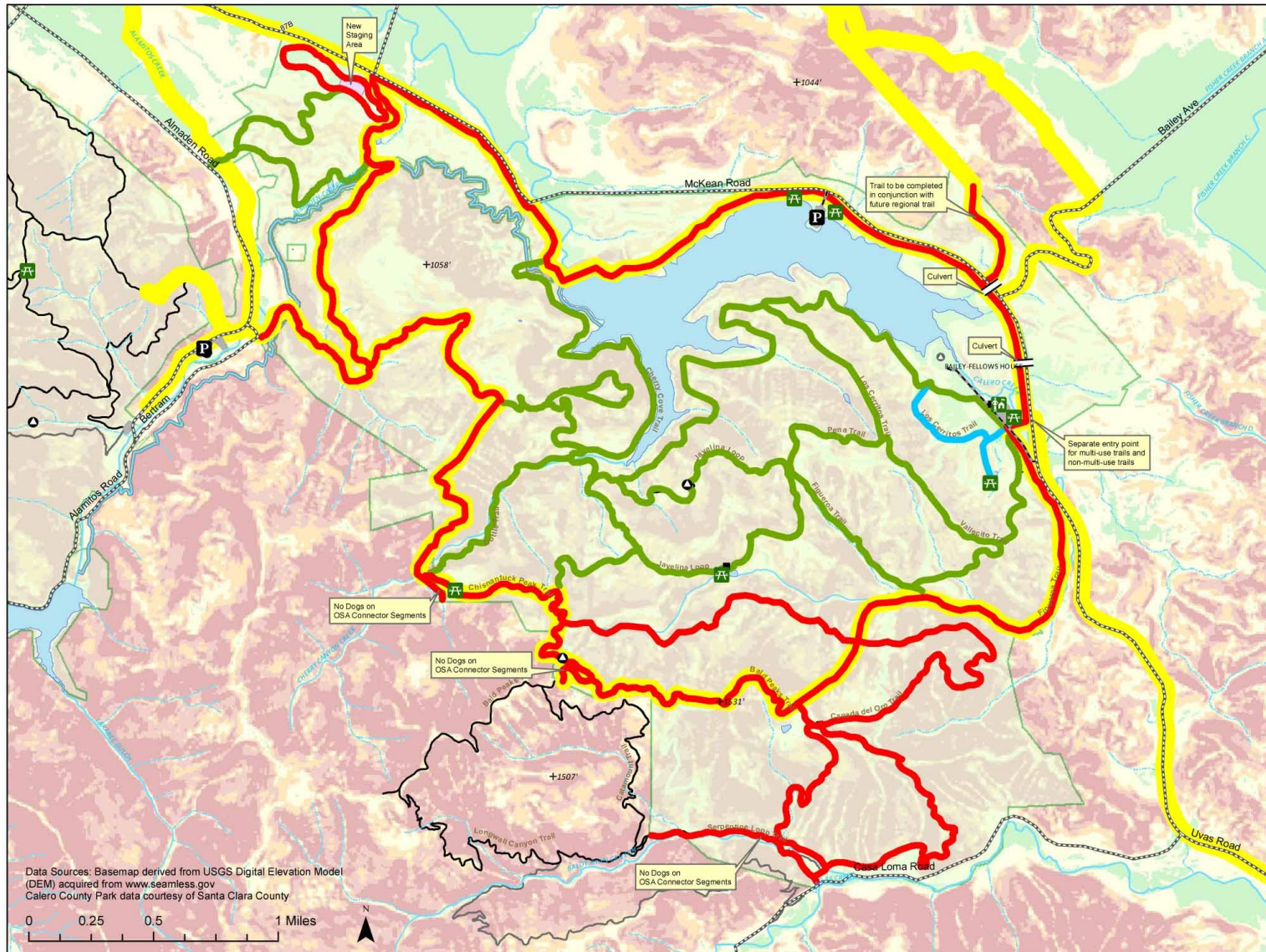Calero County Park data courtesy of Santa Clara County

0   0.25   0.5   1 Miles

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User Alternative 3

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— Regional Connections
— Hiking & Dogs on Leash
— Hiking & Equestrian
— Hiking, Equestrian, Dogs on Leash, Bikes

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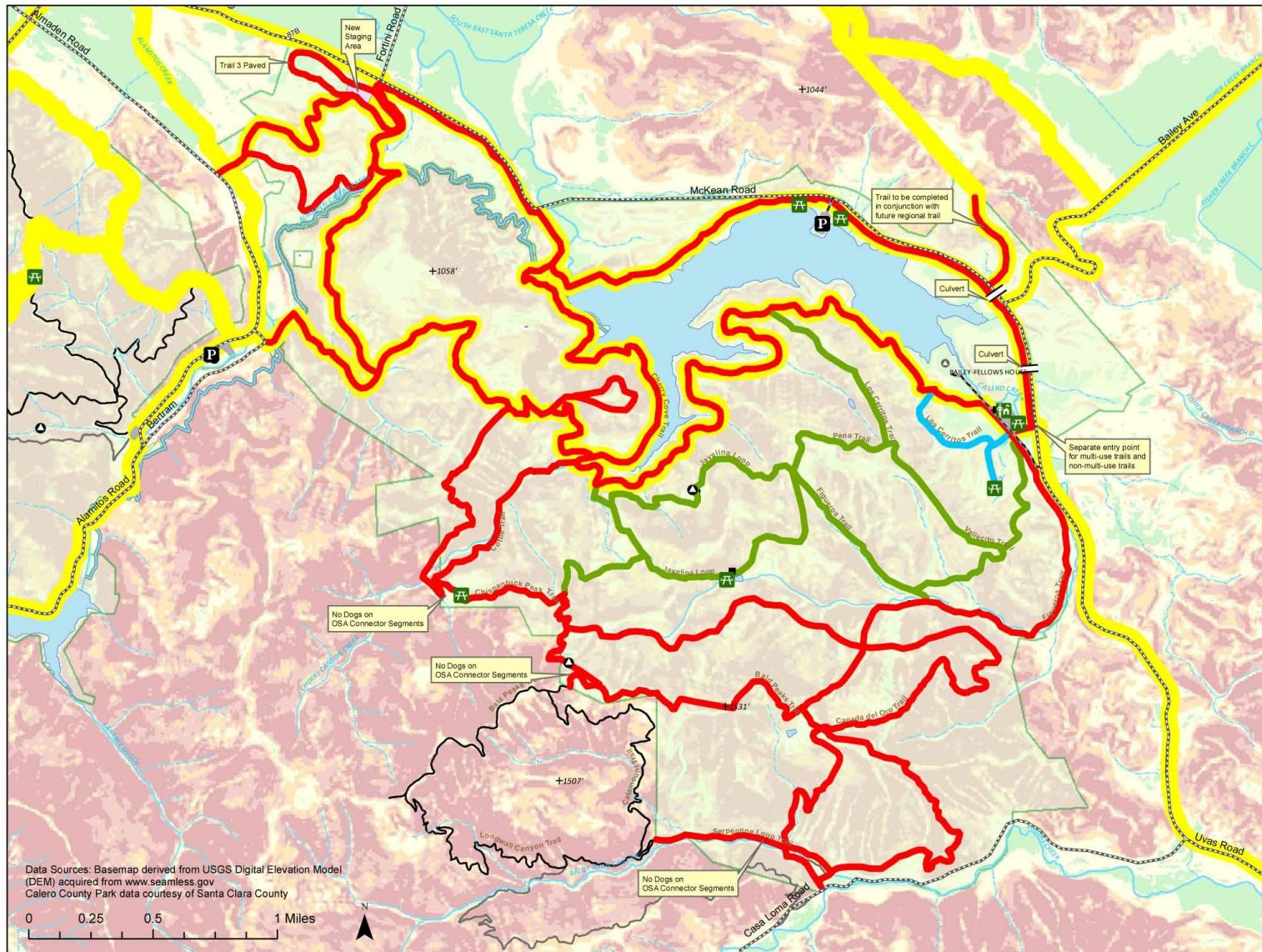Draft September 14, 2011

Data Sources: Basemap derived from USGS Digital Elevation Model
(DEM) acquired from www.seamless.gov
Calero County Park data courtesy of Santa Clara County

0   0.25   0.5   1 Miles

Trail Mileage by Use

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Hiking & Dogs	1.2	1.2	1.2
Hiking & Equestrian	24.1	15.9	6.6
Hiking, Equestrian, Dogs on leash, Bikes	10.2	18.4	27.7
Total	35.5	35.5	35.5

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Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation criteria were developed based on:

- The Program Development Report

- On-line questionnaire responses

- Comments received at the open houses

- Partner agency input

- County Parks trail and resource management experience

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Calero County Park Trails Master Plan

Evaluation Criteria

Consistency with Plans and Policies

- County General Plan

- Strategic Plan

- Countywide Trails Master Plan

- Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan

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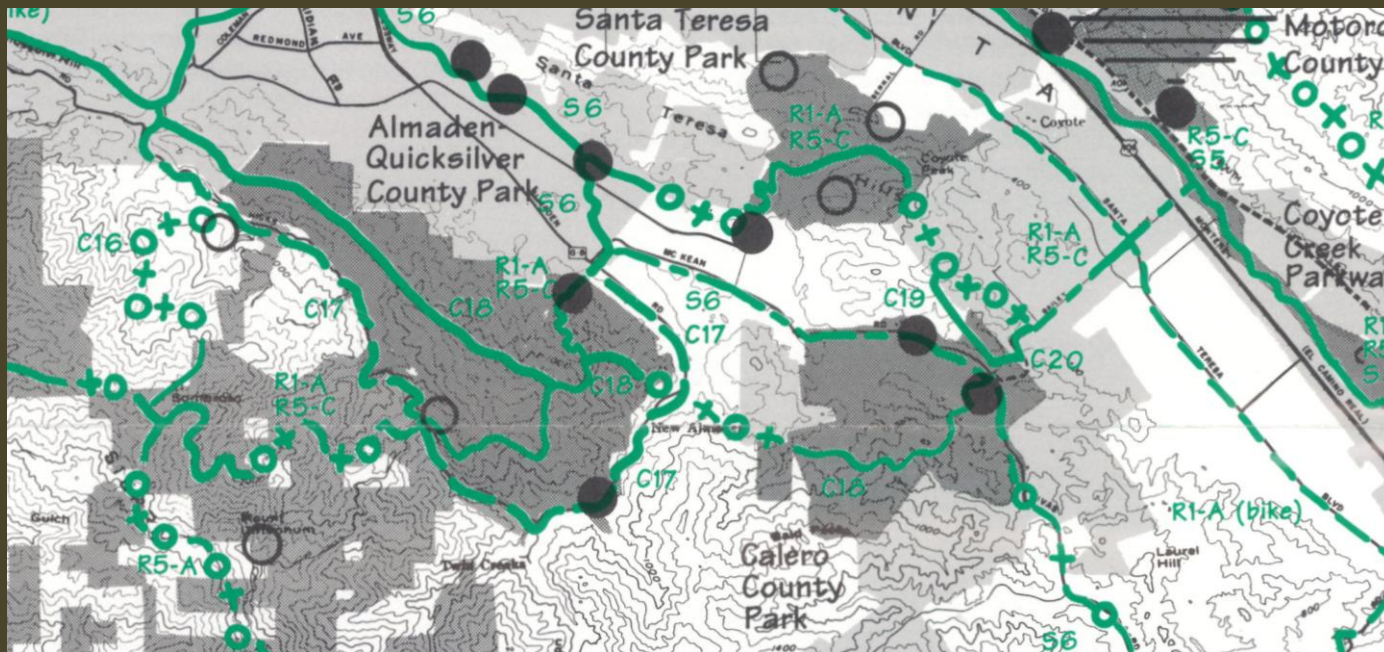
Evaluation Criteria

Consistency with Partner Agency needs and objectives

- Common uses with adjacent public open space
- Minimize conflicts with agency operations

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Calero County Park Trails Master Plan

Evaluation Criteria

Appropriate features and facilities

- Adequate staging and related facilities
- Emergency access and safety considerations
- Variety of trail user experience

Evaluation Criteria

Operational Sustainability

- Long-term operations considerations
- Consistency with Natural Resource Management objectives
- Consistency with current County Parks practices/direction

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Alternatives Evaluation
Criteria that did not differentiate between alternatives

	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt. 3
Consistent with County General Plan	✓	✓	✓
Consistent with Countywide Trails Master Plan	✓	✓	✓
Consistent with Draft Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan	✓	✓	✓
Consistent with Partner Agency objectives	✓	✓	✓
Adequate staging & facilities	✓	✓	✓
Emergency access and safety	✓	✓	✓
Long-term operations	✓	✓	✓

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Alternatives Evaluation

Criteria that did differentiate between alternatives

|	Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt. 3
Consistent with Strategic Plan: "Identify opportunities to increase multiple-use trails"	–	✓	✓
Consistent with current County Parks practices/direction in implementing multiple-use trails	–	–	✓

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Calero County Park Trails Master Plan

Alternatives Evaluation

Alternative 3 best meets the evaluation criteria and is proposed as the draft Preferred Alternative.

Revisions to Alternative 3
Based on continued evaluation by the Project Team
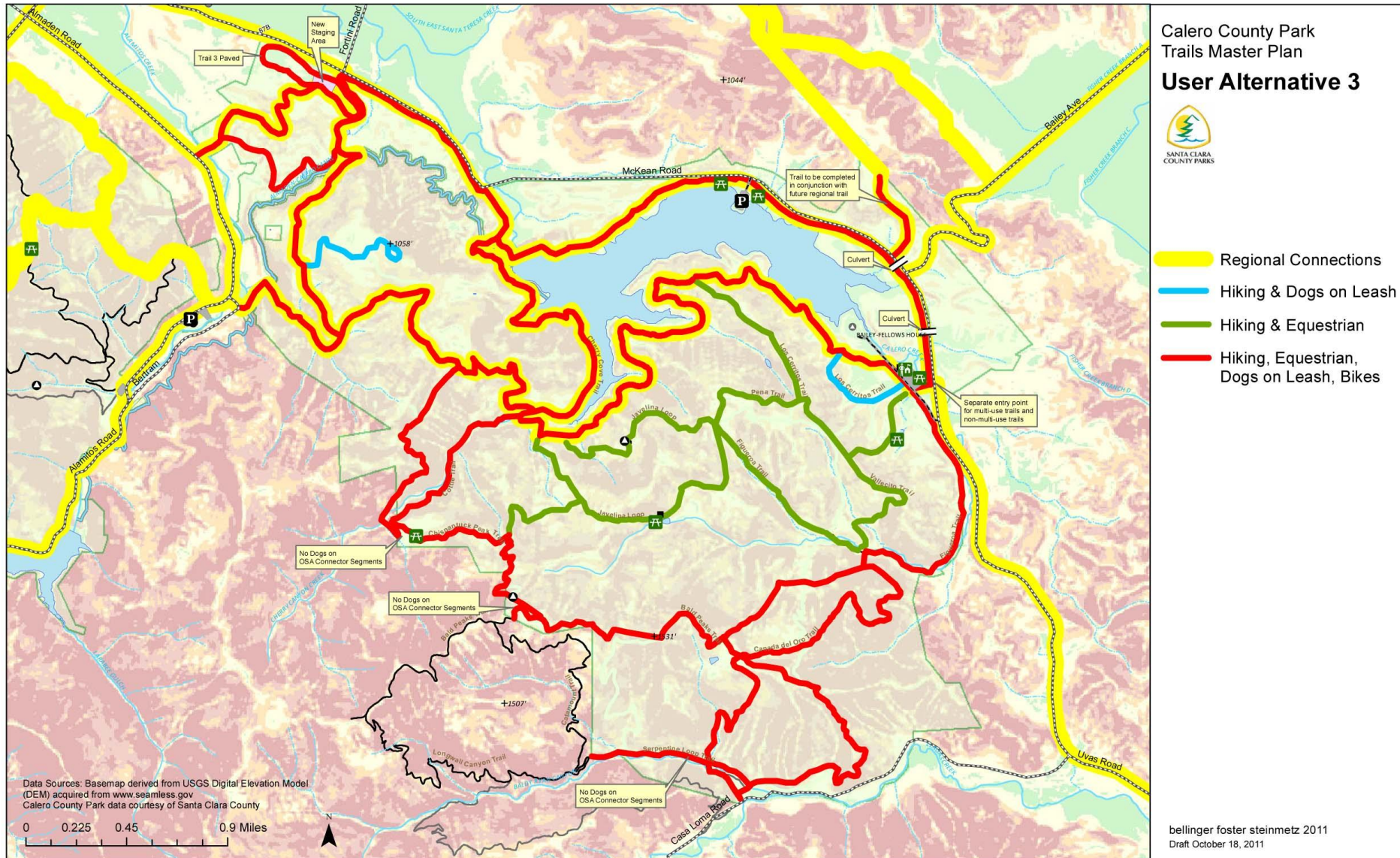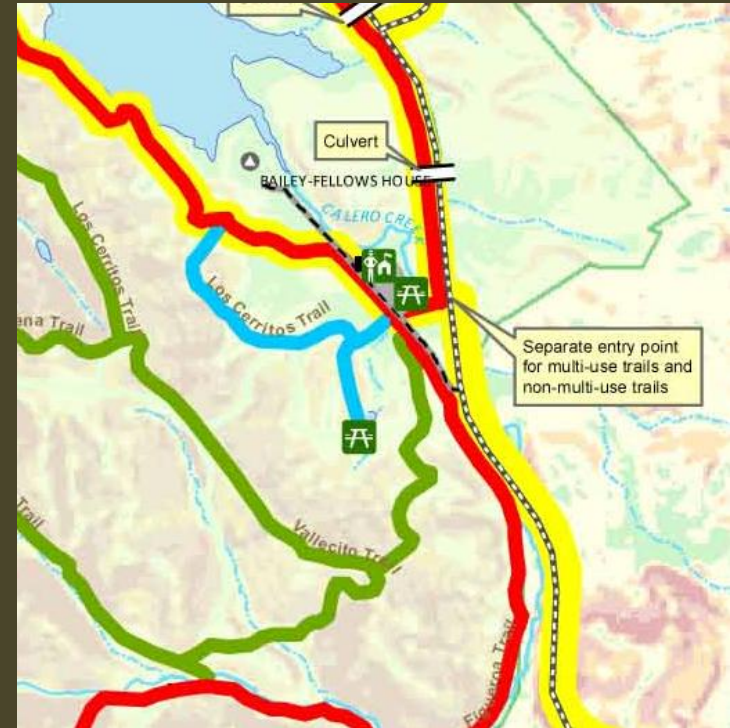
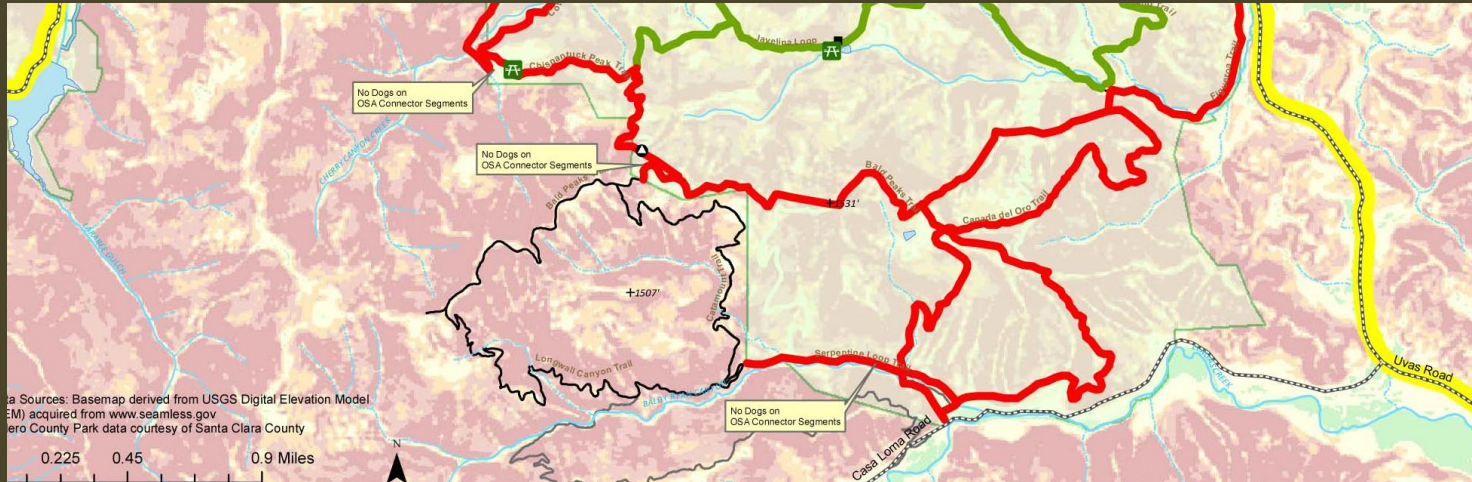# Revisions to Alternative 3
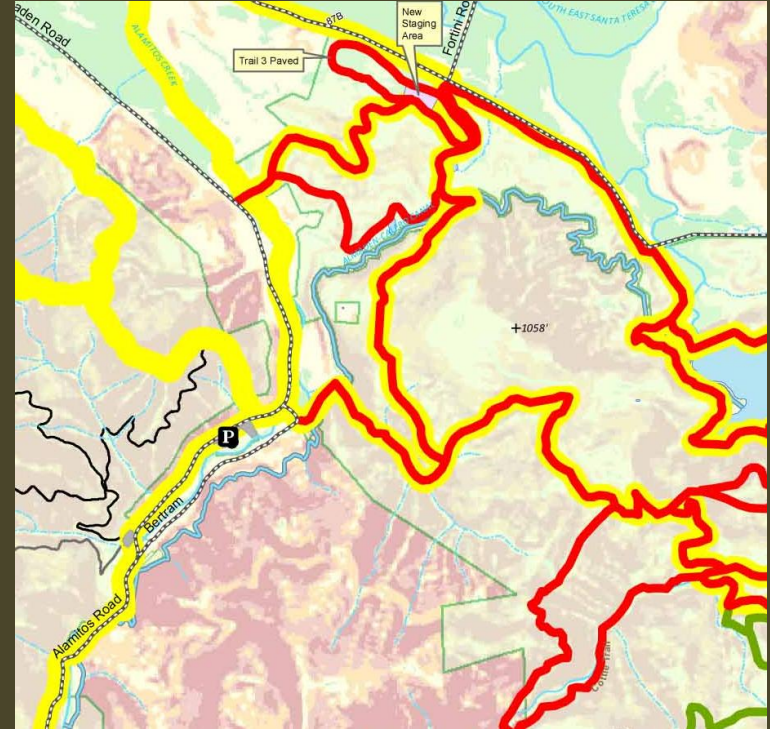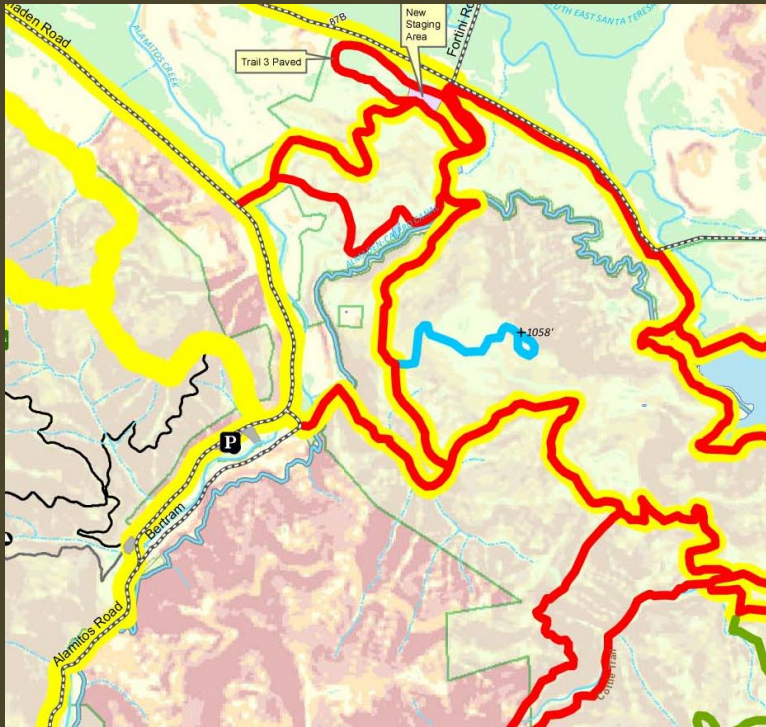
Revised Draft

Revisions to Alternative 3

Revised Draft

Revisions to Alternative 3

Revised Draft

Alternative 3 Trail Use Distribution

Hiking & Dogs

- Hiking & Dogs Exclusively
- Hiking & Dogs Shared
- No Dogs

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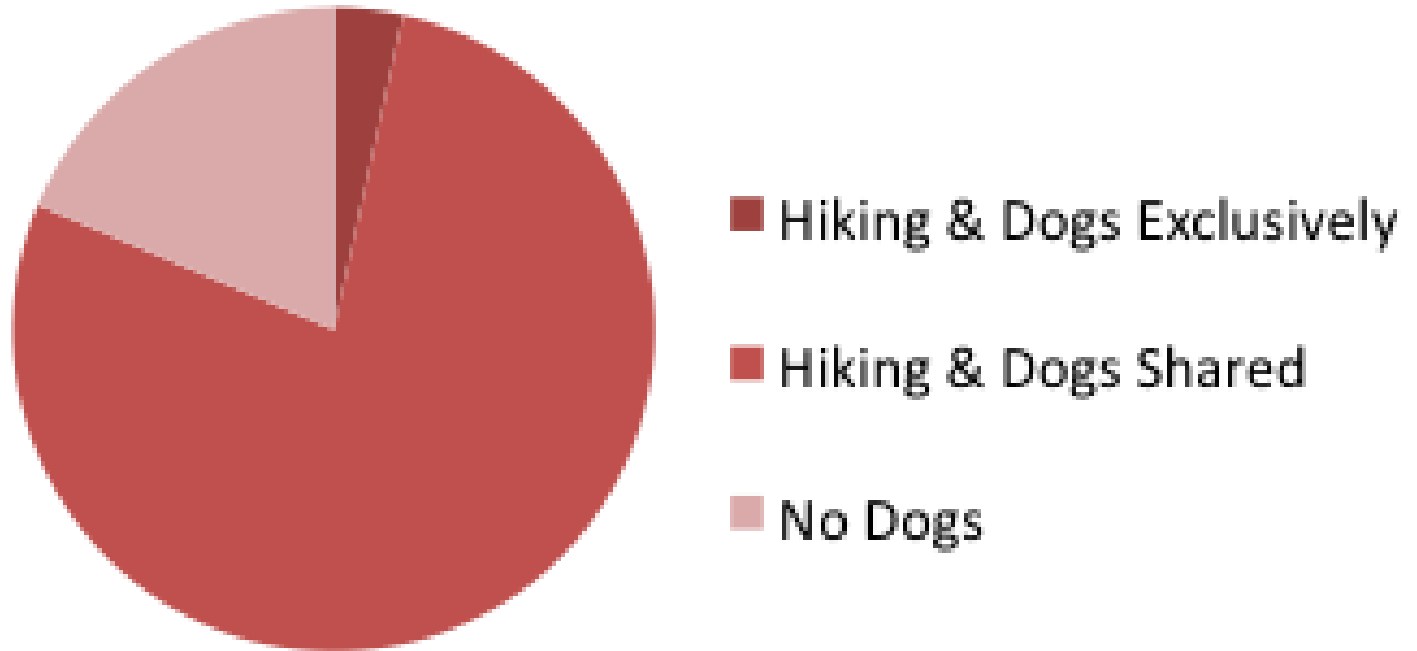
Alternative 3 Trail Use Distribution

Equestrians
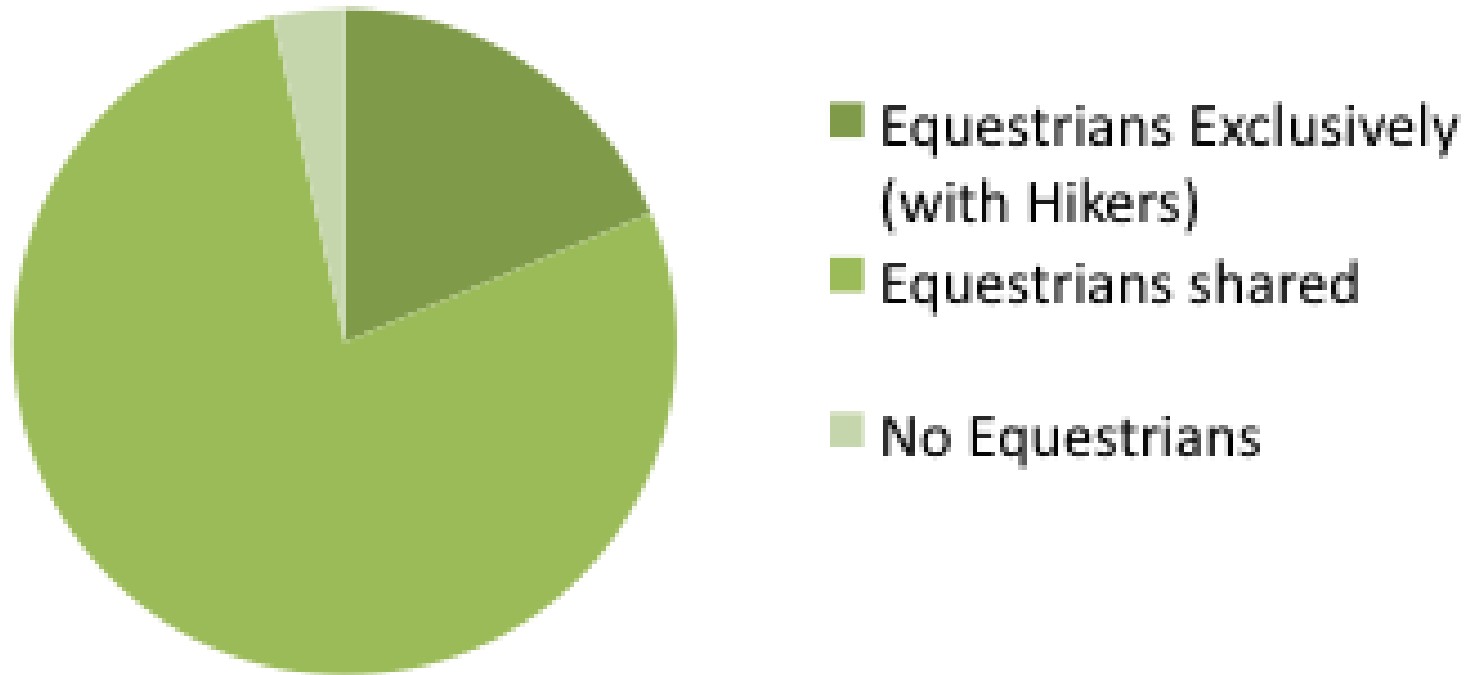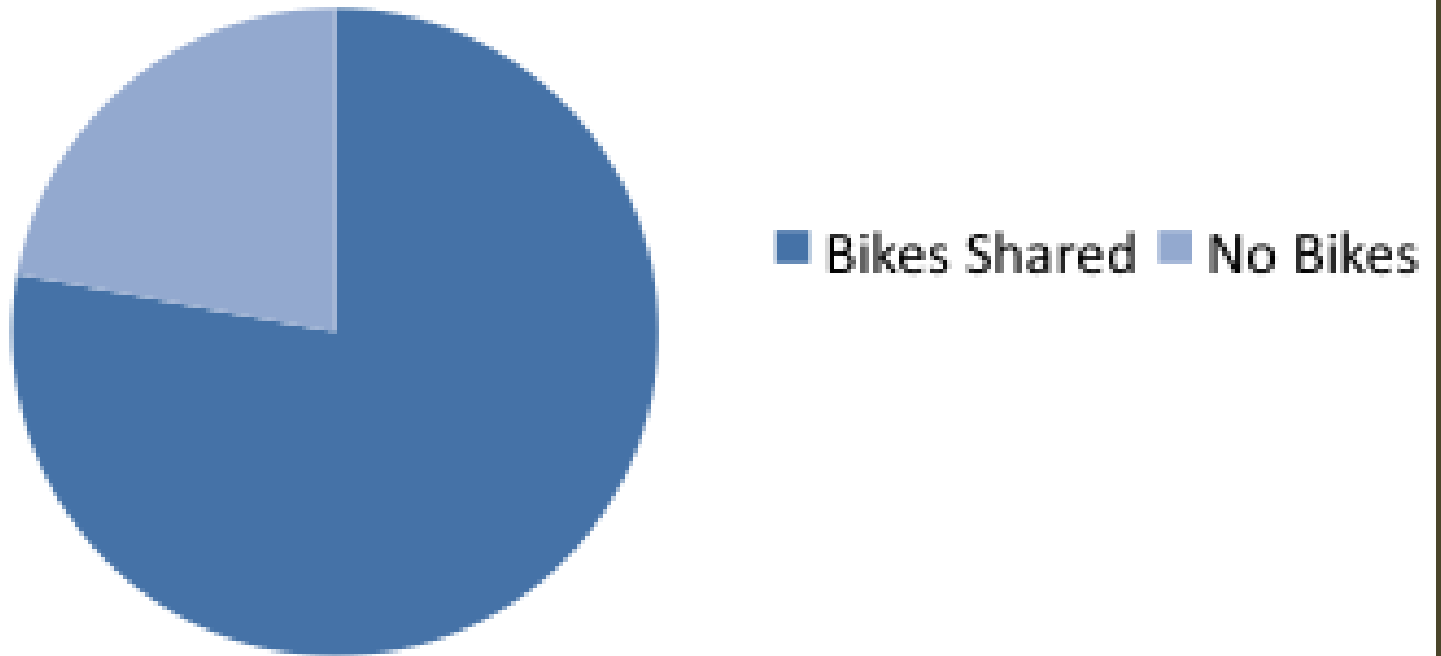
- Equestrians Exclusively (with Hikers)
- Equestrians shared
- No Equestrians

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Alternative 3 Trail Use Distribution

Bikes

Bikes Shared ■ No Bikes

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Alternatives Evaluation
Secondary Evaluation: Does Alt. 3 achieve the "wants" list?

Description	Draft Preferred Alternative
Everyone wants: • Variety in trail experience and ability level • Protection of sensitive resources • Long-term success!	✔
Equestrians want: • A "safe" place to ride without always considering potential conflicts with bicyclists	✔
Bicyclists want: • Access to trails, and the ability to connect between parks	✔
Runners want: • Access to trails, and connections between parks for long-distance runs	✔
Hikers want: • Access to trails	✔

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Alternatives Evaluation
Secondary Evaluation: Does Alt. 3 achieve the "wants" list?

Description	Draft Preferred Alternative
Dog owners want: • Access to trails	✔
County Parks wants: • Completion of multi-use regional trail segments identified in the Countywide Trails Master Plan Update • Consistency/collaboration with adjacent open space uses and partner agencies • Compatibility with natural resource management • Ability to sensibly enforce solutions • Ability for long-term sustainability • Flexibility to adapt to changing conditions	✔
Partner agencies want: • Consistency with plans and policies • Minimal conflicts with operations • Consistency with adjacent open space uses	✔

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Planning for Safety = Trail Success

Advancing Best Practices

- Applying Lessons Learned

- Trail Design Standards

- Mapping and Communication

- Collaboration and Education

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Planning for Safety = Trail Success

Trail Design Standards

- Coordinate trail plan and profile with topography and vegetation

- Water bars reduce erosion and slow down bicyclists

- Minimize "spur" trails that change use

- Staging area differentiation for users at trail access points

- Clear and consistent signage

- Right-angle trail intersections where feasible

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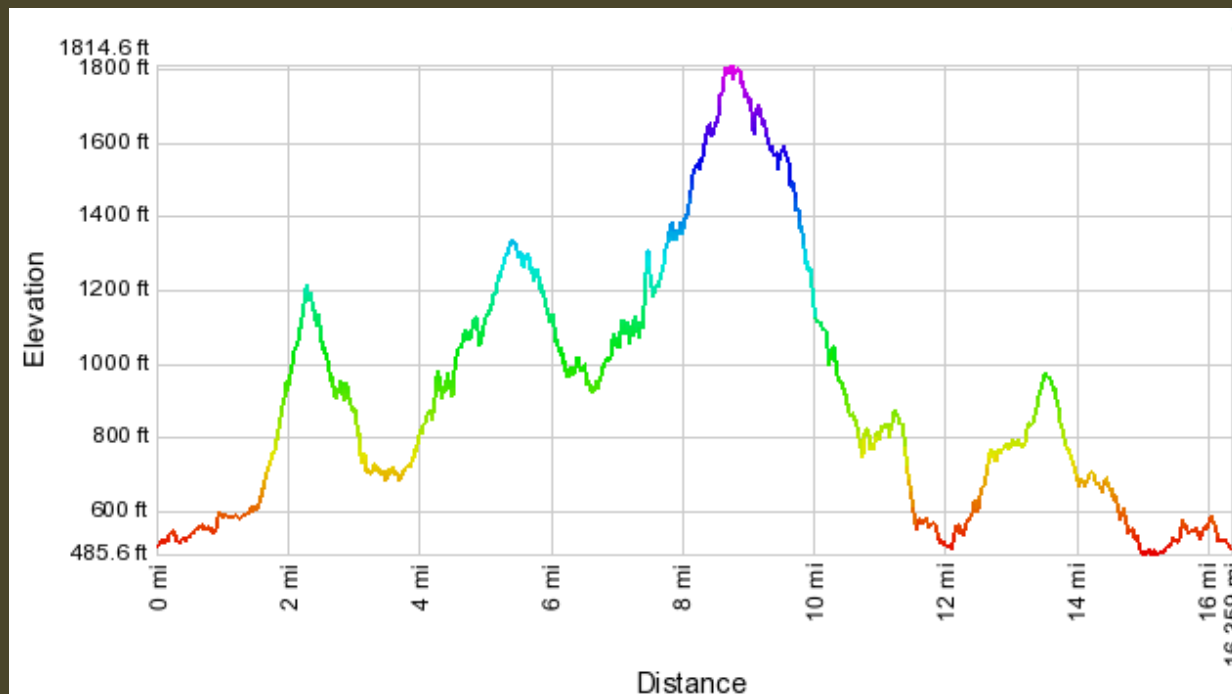
Planning for Safety = Trail Success

Trail Maps and Communication

- Show trail characteristics on maps, such as permitted uses, trail width, surface, profile, etc.

- Let users select trails based on ability and preferences.

- Incorporate technology (smart phone apps)

Courtesy Troy's California Trail Runs

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Planning for Safety = Trail Success

Collaboration and Education

- Encourage equestrian, bicyclist and other groups to sponsor trainings on trail safety and etiquette.
- Incorporate volunteer programs (Docents, Trail Watch) to enhance education and patrol.

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Community Meeting Comments

Range of comments from:

"I am impressed with the thoroughness and rigour of the evaluation based on clearly stated goals taking into account established principles and user-population trends..."

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Community Meeting Comments

to:

"Alternative 3 should go in the shredder!"

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Calero County Park Trails Master Plan

Community Meeting Comments

Concerns and Suggestions

- Safety

- Separate bicycle and equestrian trails

- Have alternate use days

- Can equestrian trail mileage (w/o bikes) be increased?

- There should be an Alternative that is all multi-use

Conclusions

- Much of the user experience is based on Almaden Quicksilver.

- Other County Parks (Coyote Lake/Harvey Bear) are perhaps better models.

- Multi-use trails planning and design has evolved.

- Multi-use experience of other agencies (OSA, Mid-Pen, Bay Area Ridge Trail) has not resulted in conflict.

- With proper planning, design, implementation and policies, multi-use has been successful.

- Young and inexperienced equestrians need to be accommodated.

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Next Steps

- Completion of Alternatives Report
- Next Phase of Project: Final Master Plan

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Alternatives Report

- Compilation of work since completion of Program Development Report

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Final Master Plan

- Continued refinement of preferred alternative
- Design standards
- Policies
- Phasing
- CEQA analysis

Ongoing Process

- Continued collaboration with partner agencies
- Additional field verification/alignment refinements
- PRC guidance

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