



GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY

MEETING DATE: December 5, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 6. Resolution 2024-12 Establishing Policy and Procedures Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

FROM: Elaine Hogan

RE: Resolution No. 2024-12 Establishing Policy and Procedures Under the California Environmental Quality Act

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

GRTA routinely performs discretionary actions that are subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Incompliance with CEQA's Guidelines, section 15022, GRTA's predecessor, the North Coast Railroad Authority, had adopted procedures that are no longer relevant. There is a need to update GRTA's CEQA policy and procedures.

BACKGROUND:

Resolution 2024-12 will adopt the State of California's CEQA Guidelines by reference and allow the GRTA Executive Director to hold hearings, public workshops, or meetings that may be necessary or convenient under CEQA. Similarly, it delegates authority to the Executive director to issue notices that may be necessary or convenient under CEQA and rely on scientific and technical expertise to determine how best to comply with CEQA. Additional CEQA guidelines and procedures that may be necessary or convenient may be adopted by the Executive Director in the future. This action will repeal and replace NCRA Administration and Contracting Policy Manual Section 1400 "Implementation of California Environmental Quality Act"

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution No. 2024-12 Establishing Policy and Procedures Under the California Environmental Quality Act, Replacing Prior NCRA Policy and Procedures

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. RESOLUTION 2024-12 CEQA

WHEREAS, CEQA section 21082 and State CEQA Guidelines section 15022 further require that the objectives, criteria, and procedures adopted by a public agency shall be consistent with the provisions of CEQA and with the State CEQA Guidelines; and

1 **WHEREAS**, State CEQA Guidelines section 15022 allows the State CEQA Guidelines to be
2 adopted by reference; and
3

4 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to update the GRTA CEQA policy and procedures;
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6

7 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE**
8 **GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY** as follows:

- 9 1. All of the recitals above are true and correct.
- 10 2. NCRA Administration and Contracting Policy Manual Section 1400 “Implementation of
11 California Environmental Quality Act” is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the
12 following:

13 “1400 Implementation of California Environmental Quality Act

14 1401 Adoption of Guidelines

15 GRTA adopts the State of California’s CEQA Guidelines by reference, as they may be
16 amended.

17 1402 Delegation of Authority

18 The Executive Director is authorized to hold such hearings, public workshops, or meetings
19 that may be necessary or convenient under CEQA.

20 The Executive Director is authorized to issue such notices that may be necessary or
21 convenient under CEQA.

22 With appropriate reliance on scientific and technical expertise, the Executive Director is
23 authorized to determine how best to comply with CEQA, including, but not limited to:

24 (A) determining whether there is no possibility that the activity may have a
25 significant effect on the environment, or determining whether a project is
26 ministerial, or determining whether a project is categorically or otherwise
27 exempt;

(B) conducting initial studies and making determinations whether and how to
prepare negative declarations or draft and final Environmental Impact
Reports (EIRs);

- 1 (C) consulting with and obtaining comments from other public agencies and
2 members of the public with regard to the environmental effects of projects;
- 3 (D) evaluating and responding to comments received on environmental
4 documents, and assigning responsibility for determining the adequacy of an
5 EIR or negative declaration;
- 6 (E) filing documents required or authorized by CEQA, the CEQA Guidelines,
7 and these procedures;
- 8 (F) assigning responsibility for specific functions to particular units of the
9 agency;
- 10 (G) providing time periods for performing functions under CEQA.

11 The Executive Director is authorized to comment on other agencies' CEQA documents, as
12 contemplated by CEQA, where GRTA is a responsible or trustee agency under CEQA, or
13 where the Executive Director determines that the interests of the agency are impacted.

14 The Executive Director is authorized to adopt such additional CEQA Guidelines and
15 procedures that may be necessary or convenient.

16 The Executive Director may redelegate the authority conveyed by this resolution.

17 This delegation and policy rescind and supersede all prior procedures for implementation of
18 the California Environmental Quality Act.”

19 Introduced and adopted this ____ day of _____, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of
20 Great Redwood Trail Agency by the following vote:

21 AYES:

22 NOES:

23 ABSENT:

24 _____
GRTA Chair

25 ATTEST:

26 _____
GRTA Executive Director
27 Elaine Hogan