



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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<https://humboldt.gov/2546/Planning-Building>

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of Humboldt, as Lead Agency intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (finding of no significant adverse environmental effect) for the project described below. **This notification is to advise you that the Humboldt County Planning & Building Department will receive public comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration from April 17, 2023, to May 17, 2023.** Notice is being provided in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21092 and Section 15072 State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

PROJECT TITLE: Cooks Valley Events - Northern Nights Group & Mateel Community Center

RECORD Number(s): PLN-2023-18107 & PLN-2023-18108

APNs: (Humboldt County): 033-271-007, 033-271-009, 033-271-008, 033-271-004, 033-271-005, and 033-271-015. (Mendocino County): 053-020-011, 053-020-010, 053-020-012, 053-020-013, 053-020-014, 053-020-016, 053-020-015

APPLICANT(S): Northern Nights Music Group (18107) & Mateel Community Center (18108)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: A five-year renewal and modification of two previously approved Conditional Use Permits, which have historically authorized use of French's Camp and Dimmick Ranch for musical events ordinarily held between May and October. All events feature live music, camping and various vendors, including cannabis-related concessions and consumption within discrete areas on the properties. The County Line Ranch and Cooks Valley Campground span both Humboldt and Mendocino Counties and will serve as the principal venue for all events.

One Use Permit (PLN-2023-18107) is being requested by the Northern Nights Music Group to allow temporary use of County Line Ranch (APN 033-271-033) for two annual events. One event includes camping and parking at the County Line Ranch during a three or four-day, 8,000-person event, ordinarily held on the third weekend of July, known as the Northern Nights Music Festival. The second event includes entertainment, camping and parking provisions for an additional one-day, 3,000-person event ordinarily held on a weekend in either July or September.

The other Use Permit (PLN-2023-18108) is being requested by the Mateel Community Center to allow two events annually in a similar size and fashion. One event is the Summer Arts and Music Festival which occurs over two days and is ordinarily held during the third weekend in June. The event was first operated at the County Line Ranch in 2022 and the applicant is seeking to increase attendance from 4,000 to 5,000 persons under the modification request. The second 8,000-person event is Reggae on the River, which occurs over three days and is ordinarily held during the first weekend in August. The Reggae on the River event has not occurred since 2018 and is planned to be held annually beginning in 2024. The event will not be held in 2023.

Both applicants are seeking flexibility to conduct the permitted events at any time during the event season (from May thru October) with no two events occurring concurrently.

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was certified for the original project in 1992 (SCH 92-033305). A Supplemental EIR was certified for earlier versions of the project in 2005 and 2008 (SCH 92-033035). A second Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (FSEIR) was certified for the project on January 3, 2013 (SCH #2012082108). A third Supplemental EIR was prepared for the project in 2013, during re-permitting of events at the French's Camp property. Addendums to the EIR's have been prepared in 2005, 2009, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2022, in conjunction with alterations to the size, number, location, and configuration of events.

A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared in conjunction with the renewal and modifications to the permits currently being considered.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project involves events occurring on several parcels spanning the Humboldt/Mendocino county line in the Cooks Valley area, on the properties known as 83950 Road 442E and 240 Cooks Valley Road. Both are located on the east side of State Highway 101 at its intersection with State Highway 271 and Cooks Valley Road. Auxiliary parking and support facilities are found on several parcels adjacent to the event site (located at 325 US Highway 101 and 101 Cook Lane), as well as several parcels to the north located near the southern boundary of Richardson Grove State Park, on properties known as 705 US Highway 101, 750 US Highway 101, and 657 Old Highway 101. The northern auxiliary parcels are host to the One Log House and Dispensary, Richardson Grove RV park, and portions of the French's Camp property located on the west side of the South Fork of the Eel River.

Public Review Period for the IS/MND: The public is invited to comment on the proposed IS/MND pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. The review period set by the County of Humboldt for review of the IS/MND is 30 days.

Starting Date: April 17, 2023

Ending Date: May 17, 2023

Document Availability: The IS/MND and other project materials are now available for review at the following locations during regular business hours:

- Humboldt County Planning and Building Department, 3015 H Street, Eureka 95501
- Online at <https://humboldt.gov/155/Current-Planning>

Comments: Written comments must be submitted to the County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department, 3015 H Street, Eureka, CA 95501, no later than 5:00 pm on **May 17, 2023**.

The project and the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will be considered by the Humboldt County Planning Commission at a future public hearing. A separate notice for this hearing will be provided pursuant to Humboldt County Code 312-8 et seq.

Specific questions or comments regarding the proposed project and the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration may be directed to Steven Lazar, Senior Planner at (707) 268-3741 or slazar@co.humboldt.ca.us.

April 14, 2023