

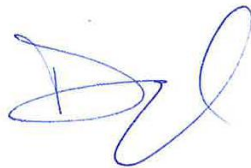
# City of Calistoga Staff Report

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Lynn Goldberg, Planning & Building Director  
Michael Kirn, Public Works Director  
**DATE:** December 6, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** Napa Valley Vine Trail Update

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APPROVED FOR FORWARDING:



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Dylan Feik, City Manager

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- 1 **ISSUE:** Update on status of Napa Valley Vine Trail within Calistoga city limits
- 2 **RECOMMENDATION:** Receive update and provide appropriate direction to staff
- 3 **BACKGROUND:** The Calistoga and Napa Countywide Bicycle Plans incorporate the
- 4 Napa Valley Vine Trail, envisioned as a 47-mile biking and hiking trail from the Vallejo
- 5 Ferry Terminal to Oat Hill in Calistoga. A private non-profit/public partnership is
- 6 developing the Trail to connect six cities and two counties with a seamless cycling- and
- 7 walking-friendly corridor separated from motor vehicles. To date, 12.5 continuous miles
- 8 have been completed from South Napa to Yountville.
- 9 Two segments of the Trail have been constructed within the Calistoga city limits, one
- 10 extending from Dunaweal Lane to the Little League fields, and the other along Indian
- 11 Springs Resort & Spa’s Lincoln Avenue frontage.
- 12 Two other segments are in the design phase. The Sunburst Calistoga Hotel will
- 13 construct approximately 468 feet of path along Lincoln Avenue, and a .6 mile section
- 14 known as will be constructed within the former railroad right-of-way to close the gap
- 15 between the Little League fields and Lincoln Avenue. The environmental documentation
- 16 has been completed for the latter segment, and the construction drawings and bid
- 17 documents are nearly complete.

18 In December 2015, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission awarded \$6.1 million  
19 for construction of the 9.4-mile Vine Trail section from Bothe-Napa State Park to Oat  
20 Hill, which includes the Fair Way Path Extension.

21 **DISCUSSION:** The initial Fair Way Extension Path project design involved culverting  
22 over the drainage ditch adjacent to the railroad cars at Lincoln Avenue and the Napa  
23 County Office of Education's (NCOE) pre-school that is located within the former  
24 railroad right-of-way.

25 However, the design had to be modified to address environmental concerns raised by  
26 the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, which prohibits culverting unless  
27 an equal amount of culvert within the same drainage area is restored to its natural state  
28 – an action that is infeasible. The design now calls for the path to run alongside the  
29 ditch. Unfortunately, this alignment requires the removal of the pre-school and its  
30 related improvements.

31 In September 2015, a meeting was held among City, Vine Trail and NCOE staff to  
32 review the re-aligned path design and discuss alternatives to removing the pre-school.  
33 A design that would jog the path around the school was considered. However, cyclists  
34 would need to dismount and walk their bikes for this block. In reality, cyclists may not  
35 dismount and accidents could occur. It is also a break in the flow of a continuous multi-  
36 use path.

37 Various alternative locations for the pre-school have also been explored, including land  
38 adjacent to Palisades Continuation High School and the north side of the Calistoga  
39 Elementary School campus. However, these sites have proved to be infeasible. NCOE  
40 and Vine Trail continue to pursue other locations, with the assistance of City staff.

41 NCOE's original five-year lease with the City for use of the railroad right-of-way,  
42 executed in 2001, was intended to accommodate the pre-school on a temporary basis.  
43 Subsequently, the City Council approved several two-year extensions, and a three-year  
44 extension in 2014 that terminates on December 16, 2017.

45 Staff recommends that the City Council provide formal notice to NCOE that it does not  
46 intend to grant further extensions of the lease in order to allow construction of the Fair  
47 Way Path Extension.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Vine Trail Status map
2. Fair Way Path Extension Construction Plans