

# D. Additional Actions with Benefits to All Interested Parties and to the General Public

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(Patricia Matthews)

## Action 19: Partial Closure of Old Tunnel Road (east side)

### Description:

Convey legal responsibility for maintaining the east-side portion of Old Tunnel Road from Contra Costa County to the EBRPD. (This segment of the road originates at the current eastern tunnel entrance and terminates at the EBRPD Park Residence/Maintenance Facility at the

former eastern entrance to the Old Tunnel.) Install a gate at the entrance to Old Tunnel Road (near the east end of the Caldecott Tunnel) to limit public access to this part of the corridor. The EBRPD and landowners with property on the other side of the gate will have keyed access. Pedestrian and bicycle traffic will be allowed, but bicycles are not currently allowed on the dirt trails in the area and parking outside the proposed gate will be limited (mountain biking probably will be allowed off of Old Tunnel Road once the Stone property is officially opened to the public). Should the EBRPD allow trailhead parking on Old Tunnel Road, the gate will be used to limit public access to daylight hours.

### Implementation:

Contra Costa County and the EBRPD are the agencies with primary responsibility for implementing this action. Landowners in the area will be consulted about the design of the gate.

### Fiscal Impacts:

Estimated past County costs to maintain the road ranged from \$0 to \$60,000 per year, depending on annual maintenance required to address damage. Estimated cost to install gate is \$1500.

### Anticipated results:

Improve function of the wildlife corridor by reducing human and vehicle access to a narrow portion of the corridor, reduce fire ignition potential in this area, discourage other unlawful or destructive activities (e.g. poaching, trespassing off-road vehicles, arson, vandalism, dumping, etc.) in an area which has some history of criminal activity, reduce public responsibility for a road that provides little or no public service and provides no legal public parking or access to legal public parking.

### Cautions:

Gate must not interfere with evacuation from the area during an emergency.