

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2020090347

Project Title: SR 1 Auxiliary Lanes Bus-on-Shoulder Improvements-Freedom Blvd to State Park Dr. and Coastal Rail

Lead Agency: Caltrans District 5

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Project Location: Aptos

City

Santa Cruz

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

Caltrans, in cooperation with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission and the County of Santa Cruz, propose to widen State Route 1 to include auxiliary lanes, accommodate bus-on-shoulder operations between the Freedom Boulevard and State Park Drive interchanges, and construct Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 in the community of Aptos, Santa Cruz County.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The project would have potentially significant effects on biological resources, paleontological and cultural resources, noise, and visual resources. The project includes a variety of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures (AMMs) for biological resources that include surveys, biological monitoring for various species, compensatory mitigation for tree removal, erosion control, limiting construction timing, and reducing spread of invasive species. AMMs for noise include equipping sound-control devices on construction equipment, reducing idling, constructing noise barriers, and reducing construction activities in residential areas during certain hours. AMMs for paleontological resources includes preparing and implementing a Paleontological Mitigation Plan, and AMMs for cultural resources include training construction crews in the event of an unanticipated find.

The project would have a significant and unavoidable impact related to scenic resources due to vegetation removal. AMMs include but are not limited to preserving vegetation, surveying trees, implementing soundwall and retaining wall treatments, and revegetation. These AMMs would reduce these impacts but not to a less than significant level.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Issues raised during the public scoping period include:
Requests for descriptions of project elements and measurements of impact areas.
Comments on the purpose and need of the project.
Recommendations for alternatives, including a trail-only project, bus-only lanes instead of auxiliary lanes, increased bus service, construction of a trail without rail service, and consider the project elements separately rather than combining them.
Comments on special status species, including recommendations to include mitigation measures and avoid all "take" of the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander.
Comments to avoid impacts to wetlands and waters, and to consider bridge designs that avoid placing piles in Aptos Creek.
Comments regarding sea level rise and climate change.
Comments to evaluate opportunities to maximize coastal access. Comments regarding traffic, including safety concerns, vehicle miles traveled, Bus-on-Shoulder protocols, and loss of parking.
Concerns related to increased impervious surface and a resulting reduction in aquifer recharge and loss of mature trees.
Requests to inform property owners of the potential of the acquisitions of private property.
General support and opposition to the project.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission
California Transportation Commission
County of Santa Cruz