



City of Santa Barbara California

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION – PLN2019-00425 AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (DMND) has been prepared for the following project, pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code and the “Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970,” as amended to date.

PROJECT LOCATION: 604 East Ortega Street

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project consists of the Ortega Park Master Plan, including demolition of existing facilities and construction of a new swimming pool, wading pool, water slide, skate park, splash pad, sports courts, shade sails, sports field with synthetic turf, ping pong tables, cornhole, and buildings for restrooms and maintenance. On-site improvements such as fencing, parking, landscaping, dumpsters and related enclosures and internal walkways are also proposed. Right-of-way improvements including street parking, parking medians, and sidewalk installation are also proposed. Front setback modifications to allow parking within the required 10-foot front setbacks along both Ortega Street and Salsipuedes Street are requested. Planning Commission review and approval of the proposed skate park for consistency with amenities allowed in the Community Park category of Park, as well as review of the proposed Modifications, is required. A formal recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission to the Planning Commission regarding the Master Plan is required. Review and approval for all exterior improvements on a City-owned lot is required by the Architectural Board of Review. County Environmental Health Services review and approval of the project’s Soil Management Plan is required. Parks and Recreation department staff are seeking grant funding from State and non-profit organizations. The park is considered a Community Park (except the ballfields and related facilities), a Sports Facility (for the ballfields and related facilities only), and a Community Building (the Welcome House) per City Council Resolution 17-074. The parcel is zoned P-R, with a General Plan designation of Parks and Open Space.

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT: An Initial Study and a DMND have been prepared for this project and are available for review and comment. The DMND examines environmental impacts which may be associated with this project. Significant environmental effects identified in the DMND which are anticipated as a result of the project include impacts related to Biological Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, and Water Quality and Hydrology. The DMND includes proposed mitigation measures to mitigate potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level. The project site used to function as a municipal dump; a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment of the parcel concluded that various metals, including lead and zinc, exist in the soil and groundwater at levels that exceed California Hazardous Waste Thresholds. Accordingly, a Soil Management Plan has been reviewed and conditionally approved by County Environmental Health Services to ensure compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. It is noted, however, that the site is not identified on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The DMND is available for review online at www.SantaBarbaraCa.gov/eir. If you are unable to review the document online, please contact Stephanie Swanson (contact information below).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: *The public comment period has been extended to November 8, 2020.* The City of Santa Barbara encourages the public to provide written comment on this and other projects. The public review period begins on **Friday, October 9, 2020**. Comments on the DMND must be submitted by **Sunday, November 8, 2020, at 4:30 p.m.** Please send your comments to: City of Santa Barbara, Planning Division, Attn: **Stephanie Swanson, Associate Planner**, P.O. Box 1990, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990, or send them electronically to

SSwanson@SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING: Any interested person may request a hearing before the Planning Commission to comment on this document by completing and filing a hearing request with the Planning Division on or before **October 19, 2020**. If requested, a special Planning Commission hearing will then be scheduled for **Thursday, October 29, 2020** at 1:00 p.m.*. If you have any questions, wish to know more about this application, wish to review the plans, or wish to request a public hearing, please contact **Stephanie Swanson, Associate Planner**, at SSwanson@SantaBarbaraCA.gov or (805) 564-5470 x4562 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday). Please note, a hearing to take public comment will only be held if specifically requested, otherwise, review and adoption of the DMND, along with the project review, will occur at a later public hearing of the Planning Commission. The special hearing would ONLY be to take additional public comment on the environmental document, not the project itself.

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT: Following the end of the DMND public review period, a Final Mitigated Negative Declaration including responses to comments and mitigation monitoring and reporting program will be prepared, and subsequent noticed public hearing will be held at the Planning Commission to consider actions to approve the project. If you challenge the permit approval or environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission, or in a public hearing on the project.

***NOTES REGARDING PUBLIC HEARING:** The special Planning Commission meeting will only occur if specifically requested, and would begin at 1:00 p.m. Thursday afternoon. If a hearing is requested, on **Thursday, October 22, 2020**, an Agenda with all items to be heard on **Thursday October 29, 2020**, will be available at www.SantaBarbaraCa.gov/pc. **AGENDAS, MINUTES and REPORTS:** Copies of all documents relating to agenda items are available for review at www.SantaBarbaraCa.gov/pc Please note that online Staff Reports may not include some exhibits. Agenda items are subject to change. It is recommended that applicants and interested persons plan to arrive at 1:00 P.M. However, for longer agendas, all parties are encouraged to monitor Channel 18 and when the item prior to the application of interest begins come to the Commission hearing. Continuances will not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to gain access to, comment at, or participate in this meeting, please contact the Planning Division Office at (805) 564-5470, extension 4535. If possible, notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements in most cases.

Meetings can be viewed live on City TV-18, or on your computer via http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Government/Video/Meeting_rebroadcast_schedule can be found at <https://www.santabarbaraca.gov/gov/depts/cityadmin/programming.asp>.