



City of Santa Barbara California

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

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. A DMND was previously circulated for this project from October 9, 2020 to November 8, 2020. The applicant (City of Santa Barbara, Parks Division) received community input that existing murals on-site should be further analyzed for cultural significance. The Parks Division conducted additional community outreach and modified the project description to address concerns, and those changes have been incorporated into this document.

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. Public art would remain a part of the project, as documentation of all existing murals would occur prior to any on-site grading or demolition. Five existing (5) murals are proposed for relocation on-site, three (3) existing murals would be re-created, and four (4) of the existing murals would be re-envisioned. Additional blank space for new murals is also proposed. All new murals would be consistent with a Mural Implementation Plan to ensure thematic consistency. Right-of-way improvements including street parking, parking medians, and sidewalk installation are proposed. Front setback modifications to allow parking within the front setbacks along both Ortega Street and Salspuedes Street are required. Planning Commission review of select amenities for consistency with the “Community Buildings” and “Sports Facilities” park designations is required. 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 and pool) 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, Cultural and Tribal Cultural 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/services/planning/erds/draft/ortega_park.asp. If you are unable to review the document online, please contact Stephanie Swanson (contact information below).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: The City of Santa Barbara encourages the public to provide written comment on this and other projects. The public review period begins on **Friday, August 6, 2021**. Comments on the DMND must be submitted by **Sunday, September 5, 2021**. 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.

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT: Following the end of the DMND public review period, a Final Mitigated Negative Declaration, including all public comment received and a draft mitigation monitoring and reporting program, will be prepared, and a subsequent noticed public hearing will be held at the Planning Commission on **September 16, 2021** to consider actions to accept the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and 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.

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>.