

**Notice of Preparation**

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Notice of Preparation

To: Office of Planning and Research From: City of Arcata  
(via CEQA Submit) 736 F Street  
(Address) Arcata CA 95521  
(Address)

**Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**

The City of Arcata will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study (  is  is not ) attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to David Loya at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

**Project Title:** Old Arcata Road Rehabilitation and Pedestrian/Bikeway Improvements Project

**Project Applicant, if any:** City of Arcata

Date May 14, 2021

Signature   
Title Community Development Director  
Telephone (707) 822-5955

**Reference:** California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

## OLD ARCATA ROAD REHABILITATION AND PEDESTRIAN/BIKEWAY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (SCH #2021010176)

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### Site Description

The proposed project will rehabilitate portion of Old Arcata Road, an existing roadway in the City of Arcata, California. The rehabilitation activities will take place from the west side of Old Arcata Road from approximately 600 feet south of the Buttermilk Road Roundabout and extending south to approximately 300 feet south and west of the Jacoby Creek Road intersection. A portion of the affected roadway east of the Bayside cutoff is outside of City limits and lies within Humboldt County jurisdiction. The roadway has no assigned APN or address, and is unzoned. A portion of the proposed Project is located within the Coastal Zone (City and County jurisdiction). Although not located in the appeal jurisdiction, the project is appealable to the Coastal Commission as a “major public works project”.

### Project Summary

The City of Arcata (City) proposes to complete improvements to an existing roadway in Bayside, California. The project will be undertaken in partnership with Caltrans District 1 Staff. The project would repave Old Arcata Road, enhance bicycle lanes on both sides of the roadway alignment, improve and extend an existing shared use walkway along the west side of Old Arcata Road from approximately 600 feet south of the Buttermilk Road Roundabout and extending south to approximately 300 feet beyond the Jacoby Creek Road intersection. Sidewalks and cross walks throughout the project corridor would also be improved, including a new sidewalk on Hyland Street. The project includes a new roundabout at the intersection of Old Arcata Road and Jacoby Creek Road. The total project length is approximately one mile. The proposed project addresses public safety needs, including improving motorized and non-motorized transportation and user safety. See the Initial Study for full project description. The Initial Study, Response to Comments, and errata as well as detailed alternative analyses and other project-related documents are available at <http://www.cityofarcata.org/720/Old-Arcata-Road-Design-Project>.

### Summary of studies completed to date

No.	Studies and Documents	Document Date	Status
1	Preliminary Environmental Study	12/19/2018	Reviewed and Approved by City and Caltrans
2	Area of Potential Effect Map	1/29/2020	Reviewed and Approved by City and Caltrans
3	Special Status and ESHA Mapping	1/25/2019	Reviewed and Approved by City and Caltrans
4	Wetland Delineation	1/25/2019	Reviewed and Approved by City and Caltrans
5	Natural Environmental Study	3/13/2020	Reviewed and Approved by City and Caltrans
6	Initial Site Assessment	9/30/2019	Reviewed and Approved by City and Caltrans
7	Visual Resources Technical Memorandum	3/13/2020	Reviewed and Approved by City and Caltrans
8	Archeological Survey Report/Historic Property Survey Report	5/11/2021	Submitted to Caltrans for Review
10	Geotechnical Study	3/22/2019	95% Complete
11	Preliminary design	8/9/2019	35% complete

### **Environmental Review to Date**

An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared and circulated by the City of Arcata Community Development Department as Lead Agency. The City accepted comments on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration from January 20th until 5 p.m. February 22nd, consistent with Section 15105 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed Mitigation Negative Declaration (MND) and associated mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) contained draft mitigation for impacts in the following subject areas:

- Stormwater Pollution Prevention/Hydrology and Water Quality
- Aesthetics
- Biological Resources
- Wetlands/Waters of the United States
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Soil Contamination/Hazardous Materials
- Transportation

### **Agency Comments Received to Date**

Various partnering, responsible and trustee agencies (Local Area Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Caltrans District 1, Humboldt County Planning-Public Works, California Coastal Commission, US Army Corps of Engineers, CA Regional Water Quality Control Board) have been involved in ongoing project coordination and were sent the draft Initial Study and Notice of Coastal Development Permit for review and comment. To date the City has received three formal comments (County of Humboldt, Blue Lake Rancheria, and Jacoby Creek School) which are attached to this email. The project will require ongoing coordination with all partner agencies.

### **Additional Required Agency Approvals**

Additional review and compliance determinations will be required for this project, including:

- North Coast Regional Water Board Clean Water Act (NCRWQCB) Section 401 certification
- US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Clean Water Act Section 404 permit
- Humboldt County Coastal Development Permit, Grading Permit, and Encroachment Permit
- National Environmental Policy Act compliance, to be completed by Caltrans District 1 staff

**From:** [Delo Freitas](#)  
**To:** [COM DEV](#)  
**Bcc:** [Netra Khatri](#); ["Julia.Peterson@dot.ca.gov"](#); ["darrell.cardiff@dot.ca.gov"](#); ["Rachel.Barry@dot.ca.gov"](#); ["Mark.Arsenault@dot.ca.gov"](#); [L Kasey SPN Sirkin \(L.K.Sirkin@usace.army.mil\)](#); ["brandon.stevens@waterboards.ca.gov"](#); ["Kenyon, Cristin@Coastal"](#); ["Estlow, Trevor"](#)  
**Subject:** Initial Study and draft Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the City of Arcata's Old Arcata Road Rehabilitation and Pedestrian/Bikeway Improvement Project  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:48:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning,

This email is to give your agency advance notice of the beginning of the 30 day review period for the Initial Study and draft Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the City of Arcata's Old Arcata Road Rehabilitation and Pedestrian/Bikeway Improvement Project. You and your agency have been identified as a key players in this process and as such we are notifying you directly. I apologize if this email is duplicative.

The Initial Study is now available on the city's website at the link below, under the heading titled "Environmental Review".

<https://www.cityofarcata.org/720/Old-Arcata-Road-Design-Project>

The public comment period of the draft document begins tomorrow, January 20th, and will end 5 p.m. on Monday, February 22nd.

To discuss questions on the draft document or next steps in the process, please email my department ([comdev@cityofarcata.org](mailto:comdev@cityofarcata.org)) and your questions will be directed to the appropriate staff person. The community development department is managing the environmental review, and this request is to ensure we are capturing all comments on the draft document as part of the administrative record.

Thank you for your partnership, and please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about the document.

[Delo Freitas](#) | Senior Planner  
City of Arcata Community Development Department  
Planning | Housing | Economic Development  
p. 707.825.2213 e. [dfreitas@cityofarcata.org](mailto:dfreitas@cityofarcata.org)

**Due to COVID 19, the City has implemented measures to limit in-person contact. City Hall is currently closed to walk-in business. We still strive to provide the full range of city services by phone, email, and web-based services. Since this is an evolving situation, [please visit the City's COVID-19 website for updates.](#)**

**From:** [Delo Freitas](#)  
**To:** [Netra Khatri](#); [David Loya](#)  
**Bcc:** "[Julia.Peterson@dot.ca.gov](#)"; [Joe Bishop](#); [Emily Benvie](#); [Ed Laidlaw](#); [Todd Dokweiler](#); "[Kenyon, Cristin@Coastal](#)"; "[Tim Paris](#)"; [Ted Hernandez](#); [Janet Eidsness](#); "[Erika Cooper](#)"; "[Estlow, Trevor](#)"; [L Kasey SPN Sirkin](#) ([L.K.Sirkin@usace.army.mil](#)); "[brandon.stevens@waterboards.ca.gov](#)"; "[Jennifer.Olson@wildlife.ca.gov](#)"; "[BBronkall@co.humboldt.ca.us](#)"; "[Michael.vanHattem@wildlife.ca.gov](#)"  
**Subject:** Request for Comments: City of Arcata Old Arcata Road Improvements Project  
**Date:** Monday, April 19, 2021 9:57:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Request for Comments.pdf](#)

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Good Morning,

The City of Arcata is preparing a Coastal Development Permit for the Old Arcata Road Rehabilitation and Pedestrian/Bikeway Improvements Project.

Many recipients of this email have also been forwarded the project's draft ISMND. This referral is an additional opportunity to comment on the project. Please direct responses toward the coastal land use and coastal environmental implications of the project, and suggested development conditions or requirements that should be imposed.

Please find the Request for Comments document attached to this email, and feel free to reach out with any questions.

Please return RFCs to me by **5 p.m. Monday, May 3, 2021.**

Thank you!

[Delo Freitas](#) | Senior Planner  
City of Arcata Community Development Department  
Planning | Housing | Economic Development  
p. 707.825.2213 e. [dfreitas@cityofarcata.org](mailto:dfreitas@cityofarcata.org)

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**From:** Tim Parisi <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 1:28 PM  
**To:** Netra Khatri <[nkhatri@cityofarcata.org](mailto:nkhatri@cityofarcata.org)>  
**Cc:** Melanie Nannizzi <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Old Arcata Road Improvements MND Initial Study

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Netra,

I hope this finds you well.

I have reviewed the Old Arcata Road Rehabilitation & Pedestrian/Bikeway Improvements, Public Circulation Draft, Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, SCH # 2021010176.

I noticed that the left hand turn lane at Hyland St. into the north end of the Jacoby Creek School parking is described as, "may" be in the project. Can you offer an explanation of what this, "may" means in terms of the likelihood that this turn lane may or may not be included in the project?

I did not find any mention of the following item, which you and I have discussed in the past, in the document:

1. Parallel parking spaces along Old Arcata Road north of Jacoby Creek School.

Since the document is 91 pages long and the appendices increase its length to 280 pages long, it is possible that I missed this item. Please advise me regarding the status of this item at your earliest convenience.

Best regards,

Timothy Parisi  
Consultant  
Jacoby Creek School District [REDACTED]

Cc: Melanie Nannizzi

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**From:** Bronkall, Bob <[BBronkall@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:BBronkall@co.humboldt.ca.us)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2021 2:52 PM

**To:** Netra Khatri <[nkhatri@cityofarcata.org](mailto:nkhatri@cityofarcata.org)>

**Subject:** FW: IS/MND for Old Arcata Rd.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Netra-

As you begin to finalize your response to comments, it would be a good idea to circle back to Humco PW to confirm that what you are ultimately proposing can be issued an Encroachment Permit. That way you are ensured that the project that you present to the City Council for approval is something that has 100% support of PW and can be permitted.

We continue support the City's project and based upon our review and comments on earlier draft documents we didn't see anything that couldn't be resolved. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

--Bob

Yes Delo is there any updates on the MOU for this project. Please us know if there is any updates.

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.”  
– Mahatma Gandhi

*Hou', Rra'dutwas (thank you, respectfully)*

*Gouts goutsu we'n( good Day)*

*Ted Hernandez*

*Wiyot Chairman/Cultural Director*



*communication and/or shred the materials and any attachments and are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, or distribution of this communication, or the taking of any action based on it, is strictly prohibited. Hou' (thank you).*

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**From:** Janet Eidsness <jpeidsness@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 4:58 PM

**To:** Delo Freitas <dfreitas@cityofarcata.org>

**Cc:** Darrell Cardiff <darrell.cardiff@dot.ca.gov>; Mark Arsenault <mark.arsenault@dot.ca.gov>; Erika Cooper <erikacooper@brb-nsn.gov>; Ted Hernandez <ted@wiyot.us>; Hazel James <hazel@wiyot.us>; Jacob Pounds <jpounds@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov>

**Subject:** Request for Comments, CDP for Old Arcata Road Rehab and Pedestrian/Bikeway Improvements Project

Hello Delo,

I am responding to your 4/19/21 email seeking comments on the subject CDP. As you know, the Wiyot area tribes have been consulted by the City and by Caltrans. I have no further comments at this time. My last entry for this work was on Feb. 19, 2021, when we had a Zoom conf call to discuss the MND's Mitigation Measure 1, develop a MOU.

Any updates?

2.19 Zoom call to discuss MND Mit Measure 1, develop MOU with Tribes re: monitoring, pre-constr guided excav, inadvert discov; Pac Leg will develop bulleted points in MOU format to be consistent with Sec 106

JANET P. EIDSNESS, M.A. Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)  
for Blue Lake Rancheria 

