

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research



*Making Conservation
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July 28 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

July 27, 2021

Ventura County Public Works Agency - Watershed Protection
Attn: Angela Bonfiglio Allen
800 S. Victoria Ave., #1600
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: Santa Clara River Levee Improvements
Upstream of Highway 101 (SCR-1) Project
– Notice of Preparation (NOP)
SCH# 2021060596
GTS# 07-VEN-2021-00453
Vic. LA-101 PM 23.214
Vic. LA-232 PM 02.633

Dear Angela Bonfiglio Allen:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. Project improvements would occur along approximately 2 miles of the existing SCR-1 levee from the Highway 101 Bridge across Ventura Road to Central Avenue Drain, with a new 0.8-mile segment extending southeast between the Central Avenue Drain maintenance access road to the south and United Water Conservation District's Ferro Basin to the north, turning northeast along the eastern edge of Ferro Basin, and tying into high ground near East Vineyard Avenue. The proposed Project would involve structural improvements to achieve compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency levee certification requirements, address structural deficiencies, accommodate a future City of Oxnard bikeway, and incorporate education betterments by Rio School District if deemed feasible. The proposed Project would install loose rock riprap, concreted rock, a short section of floodwall, soil cement revetment and toe down, launchable stone toe, access ramps, and a levee road. It would also remove and replace the Central Avenue Drain outlet and improve the interior drainage system.

The nearest State facilities to the proposed project are US 101 and SR 232. After reviewing the NOP, Caltrans has the following comments:

Caltrans concurs with and applauds the inclusion of the new access ramp near the Highway 101 Bridge that will be used to connect with the forthcoming bicycle/pedestrian path along the SCR-1 alignment, as specified in the City of Oxnard's Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Master Plan and the Santa Clara River Trail Master Plan. Creating this connection and accommodating these local multi-modal Master Plans is in direct alignment with State-level sustainable transportation policy

goals which seek to reduce the number of trips made by driving, reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, and encourage alternative modes of travel.

Since the proposed project would not generate additional motor vehicle trips during operation, as no permanent workers would be required to operate or maintain the proposed project, maintenance activities would be minimal and would be similar to those that occur under existing conditions. Since no additional VMT is being generated as a result of the project, it would not cause a significant impact to US-101 and SR-232 other than additional trucks during construction. The Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTM) needs to specify the duration of construction period. Transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials, which requires the use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways, will require a transportation permit from Caltrans.

Segments of the Project area are located adjacent to and within Caltrans R/W for both the US 101 and SR 232. Multiple reviews, approvals, and encroachment permits will be required for any project work proposed on or in the vicinity of the Caltrans right-of-way and all concerns must be adequately addressed. Additional coordination with Caltrans may be required if there are any impacts to the toe of the levee, on the river side, as it will potentially impact Caltrans' I-101/Santa Clara River Bridge Replacement Project's mitigation site. Your primary Caltrans contact for the bridge replacement project's mitigation site will be:

Paul Caron
Senior District Biologist
Paul.D.Caron@dot.ca.gov
(213) 326-0378

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2021-00453.

Sincerely,

Emily Gibson

Emily Gibson
Acting IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse