



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED
East Mountain Drive Low Water Crossing Replacement
No. 862357

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The County of Santa Barbara, with oversight from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), plans to replace the previous East Mountain Drive low water crossing with a bridge.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in southeast Santa Barbara County along East Mountain Drive, where it crosses Cold Spring Creek, approximately 1.1 miles north of State Route 192, and approximately 3.5 miles east of downtown City of Santa Barbara.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Public Works Department is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). You may comment by submitting written or oral comments to the Project Environmental Planner identified below prior to the close of the public comment period on August 20, 2021.

PROJECT DETAILS: The proposed project would replace the previous low water crossing with a bridge, would serve as the new Cold Spring Creek Crossing for East Mountain Drive, and would require approximately 150 feet of approach roadway work on each side of the bridge. On the east side, the roadway would extend and conform to the recently re-constructed roadway portions, which were constructed to repair storm damage along East Mountain Drive. The proposed bridge would be approximately 70 feet long by 31 feet wide pre-cast concrete structure and would clear span the creek channel. All temporary and permanent impact from the proposed project would be outside the ordinary high-water mark of Cold Spring Creek. The proposed project would re-establish the Cold Spring Creek crossing of East Mountain Drive, re-open the one-way roadway, and provide uninterrupted access and improved safety for the public. The project is expected to have minimal grading since the profile of the new road was set to match existing conditions as much as possible. Excavated materials will be reused on-site to avoid trucking in import borrow material and result in a balanced cut/fill project to the extent possible.

Due to the scenic setting of the Project site, the project would incorporate aesthetic treatment consistent with the project setting. The bridge will receive architectural treatments such as a bridge rail design with cobblestone or sand-stone form liners and concrete staining. Form liners will be used on the bridge abutments, wingwalls, and the facing of any required retaining walls to match the surrounding settings. Tubular bicycle railing is standard for new bridges and would ensure the safety of bicyclists that cross the bridge. There are no planned tree removals for this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: The Public Works Department has prepared a draft MND pursuant to Section 15070 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA. Preparation of an MND reflects our opinion that any significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed project would be reduced to a less than significant level with the adoption of mitigation measures; therefore, the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The MND prepared for the project identifies and discusses potential environmental impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and monitoring requirements for identified issue areas. Significant but mitigable effects



on the environment are anticipated in the following areas: **Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Fire Protection, Noise, Recreation, Water Resources/Flooding.**

The Public Works Department invites you to review the MND and provide comments on its technical accuracy and completeness. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed project.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The draft MND and all documents referenced in the MND may be reviewed at the Public Works Department offices located at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara. The draft MND is also available for review at the Santa Barbara Library (40 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara CA) and the Montecito Library (1469 East Valley Road, Montecito, CA). The draft MND and related notices and document can also be downloaded from the Public Works Department's website, at www.countyofsb.org/pwd/.

HOW TO COMMENT: Comments should be provided to the Project Environmental Planner, Morgan Jones, at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, mmjones@cosbpw.net, or (805) 568-3059 prior to the close of the public comment period on August 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Please limit comments to environmental issues such as traffic, biology, noise, etc.