

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11 Project

Project Title: Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11

Project Location/Address: The Project alignment extends from the eastern side of 17th Avenue in the unincorporated Live Oak area on the west, to the western side of State Park Drive in the unincorporated Aptos area on the east, in Santa Cruz County.

Project Description: The Project is an approximately 4.5-mile new multi-use bicycle and pedestrian trail proposed to extend along the Santa Cruz Branch Line rail corridor from the eastern side of 17th Avenue at the western limits of the Project to the western side of State Park Drive at the eastern limits of the Project, excluding a 0.5-mile section following surface streets through the incorporated City of Capitola from Opal Street/Cliff Drive Plaza to Monterey Avenue/Park Avenue. The EIR evaluates the *Ultimate Trail Configuration (Trail Next to Rail)*, as well as an *Optional Interim Trail (Trail on the Rail Line)* whereby the railroad tracks would be removed and the trail would be located on the rail bed, at an equal level of detail.

The goals of this project are to increase the numbers of people biking and walking, improve safety and mobility of non-motorized users, and provide high-quality connections to schools, parks, and community facilities. When constructed, this project will be part of the planned 32-mile Coastal Rail Trail that traverses the entire coastline of Santa Cruz County.

For more information about the project, please visit the project webpage via link <https://www>.

Potential Environmental Impacts: The Draft EIR provides an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and recommends mitigation measures to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level where possible. As known at the time of this notice, anticipated significant and unavoidable impacts (potentially not mitigable to a level below significance) include effects to aesthetics, monarch butterfly habitat, wildlife movement, and greenhouse gas emissions (inconsistency with GHG reduction plans) resulting from tree removal. Additional environmental effects anticipated include impacts to sensitive habitat and wildlife; hazardous materials (due to the presence of contaminated soils); noise and vibration (impacts to sensitive receptors from project construction); and cultural, tribal, and paleontological resources (including potential impacts to unknown resources from ground disturbance).

Public Review Period (60 days): The public review period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) begins Monday, October 16, 2023, and ends Friday, December 15, 2023. The County must receive all written comments regarding the adequacy of the Draft EIR within this time period. Comments on the Draft EIR should be submitted in writing to Rob Tidmore at 979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 or via email to robert.tidmore@santacruzcountyca.gov.

Public Meeting: The County is scheduled to receive written or verbal comments on the Draft EIR at a public meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2023, **5:00 PM – 7:30 PM via remote teleconference or in-person attendance**. Information regarding participation will be available via the project webpage at link <https://www>.

Lead Agency: County of Santa Cruz
Department: **Parks or Public Works**
Address: 979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
Contact Person: Rob Tidmore, Project Manager
Email: robert.tidmore@santacruzcountyca.gov
Phone: 831-454-7947

Address Where Copy of Draft EIR is Available: Copies of the DEIR are available for review Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, at the Parks Department at the address above or online at: www except on specified holidays.

Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11 Project Location Map

