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Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2021110080

Project Title: Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11

Lead Agency: County of Santa Cruz

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Project Location: Capitola (*City*) Santa Cruz County (*County*)

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Project is an approximately 4.5-mile new multi-use bicycle and pedestrian trail proposed to extend along the RTC-owned railroad 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, extending through unincorporated Santa Cruz County and the City of Capitola. Segment 10 extends from 17th Avenue to 47th Avenue, and Segment 11 extends from 47th Avenue to State Park Drive. The environmental impact report (EIR) includes an evaluation of the Ultimate Trail Configuration (Trail Next to Rail Line), which includes an Optional Interim Trail (Trail on the Rail Line) for both Segments 10 and 11. Therefore, both the Ultimate Trail Configuration and the Optional Interim Trail alignments are part of the Proposed Project and analyzed at an equal level of detail.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Aesthetics/Biological Resources/Greenhouse Gas: Significant & unavoidable impacts to scenic quality, monarch butterfly habitat, and wildlife movement from tree removal, as well as inconsistency with local tree protection policies and applicable GHG reduction plans. Mitigation measures include tree replacement and a biological resources mitigation and management plan (MMP), which reduce impacts but potentially not to a less than significant level.
Biological Resources: Potentially significant impacts to sensitive habitat and sensitive bird, bat, rodent, amphibian, and fish and wildlife species would be mitigated to less than significant with construction BMPs, monitoring, and the MMP.
Cultural Resources: Potentially significant impacts to unknown cultural resources would be mitigated to less than significant with construction monitoring and standards rehabilitation review.
Geology and Soils: Potentially significant impact to paleontological resources would be mitigated to less than significant with paleontologiccal resources protection, including construction monitoring.
Hazardous Materials: Potentially significant impacts would be mitigated with soil sampling, remediation program for contaminated soils, and preparation of a Soils Management Plan.
Noise: Potentially significant construction and vibration impacts would be mitigated to less than significant with noise-reducing measures and written notification to sensitive receptors.
Tribal Cultural Resources: Potentially significant impact to unknown resources would be mitigated to less than significant with construction monitoring and standard protocol.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Some members of the public have expressed concern about tree removal and preference for a "trail only" project on the rail corridor (Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line), whereby rail service would be abandoned, tracks would be removed, and pedestrian and bicycle paths would be located on the rail bed.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Coastal Commission
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Department of Transportation
California Public Utilities Commission Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch
California State Parks
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
City of Capitola