



**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT THE
DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED
Bonita School Road Bridge (51C-0230) Replacement**

23NGD-00000-00008

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Santa Barbara County Public Works Department proposes the replacement of the Bonita School Road bridge and embankment fill with a full span bridge. Project components include a new 2,321 foot-long, full span bridge. Roadway approaches to conform to the new bridge profile and existing access roads. Modifications as required to levee ramps to maintain County Flood Control District access. Bio-retention basins to collect and treat post-construction storm water associated with project components. Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant separated pedestrian path on the bridge deck. Appropriate roadway signage and pavement markings.

PROJECT LOCATION: The subject project is at the current Bonita School Road Bridge (51C-0230) that crosses the Santa Maria River (N 34.986219° & W 120.513637°) approximately 3.4 miles west of the City of Santa Maria in Santa Barbara County, in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

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 at 5:00 p.m. on March 11, 2024.

PROJECT DETAILS: The proposed project involves a new bridge and deck would be up to nine feet higher than the existing crossing and up to 21 feet above the riverbed (north end). The total length of proposed improvements would be approximately 4,060 feet, including the new bridge and approach roadway modifications. The bridge superstructure would be constructed of pre-cast, pre-stressed wide-flange concrete girders. The bridge deck would be approximately 48.5 feet-wide and provide two 12-foot-wide traffic lanes (one each direction), two 8-foot-wide shoulders and one 5-foot-wide pedestrian path. The shoulders would include bike lanes in each direction. The pedestrian path would be separated from the traffic lane and shoulder by a barrier. The bridge would be supported by 15 sets of two five-foot diameter concrete columns founded on seven-foot diameter cast-in-drill-hole piles with pre-cast concrete pile caps. The top of the pile caps would be buried 13.7 feet below finished grade (riverbed) to minimize the potential for exposure by scour during peak storm flow events. Safety lighting would be provided along the east side of the bridge, composed of 30-foot-tall light standards spaced approximately 145 feet apart. Resulting light levels are estimated as approximately 0.5 foot-candles on average along the bike path.

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 the County's 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). Significant but mitigable effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas: **biological resources, hazardous materials, noise and water resources/flooding.**

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The draft MND and all documents referenced in the MND may be reviewed at the Public Works Department offices located at 123 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara. The draft MND is also available for review at the Santa Barbara Library (40 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara) and the Santa Maria Public Library (451 South McClland Street, Santa Maria). The draft MND and related notices and document can also be downloaded from the Public Works Department's website, at <https://www.countyofsb.org/2724/Planned-Projects>.

HOW TO COMMENT: Comments should be provided to the Engineering Environmental Program Business Leader, Morgan Jones, at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, mmjones@countyofsb.org or (805) 568-3059 prior to the close of the public comment period at 5:00 p.m. on March 11, 2024. Please limit comments to environmental issues such as traffic, biology, noise, etc.

Note that 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.