

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

City of Ventura
501 Poli Street
Ventura, California 93001

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Ventura (City) has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Main Street Moves Project (project). The 47-day public review period begins on **October 9, 2024** and ends on **November 25, 2024**.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (14 Calif. Code of Regs., §15000 et seq.), this notice contains a brief description of the project and its location, public review period dates, the manner in which the lead agency will receive public comments, a list of significant environmental effects, location of Draft EIR for review, and presence of hazardous materials sites.

Project Title: Main Street Moves Project

Project Location: The project site is located within a five-block portion of East Main Street and California Street in the city of Ventura, Ventura County, California. The project site, which is located entirely within existing City right-of-way, is relatively flat, and encompasses approximately 5.4 acres. The area surrounding the project site is fully developed with a variety of private businesses and public uses. The project site is regionally accessible from U.S. Highway 101 (Ventura Freeway) and State Route (SR-33) (Ojai Freeway), and locally accessible from North Ventura Avenue, Poli Street, and East Thompson Boulevard. The site is in an urban area, has been previously graded and developed, and is surrounded by roads and urban structures. The project site is in the Coastal Zone. Figure 1 shows the location of the proposed project.

Project Background: The project site was closed to vehicular traffic on May 18, 2020, under an emergency temporary 30-day ordinance. After conclusion of the temporary ordinance, the closure was extended through a Temporary Outdoor Business Expansion Program until September 14, 2020, or by the conclusion of the COVID-19 Emergency Health Order, whichever concluded first. Extension of the Temporary Outdoor Business Expansion Program, and thus closure of Main Street and California Street, was approved three additional times, until June 30, 2024. A final extension of the temporary closure was approved under Vehicle Code Section 21101 (a)(1) through January 31, 2025.

The Temporary Outdoor Business Expansion Program allowed businesses fronting Main Street and California Street to use on-street parking spaces to install fortified parklets for outdoor dining, retail sales, and recreation. On April 23, 2024, the Ventura City Council approved a Categorical Exemption, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303, 15304, and 15311 for the Main Street Moves License Agreement and Fee Structure Program, which allows for ministerial approval of parklets on Main Street and California Street if the structures comply with the Citywide Parklet Design Guidelines and Standards.

Project Description: The proposed project would result in the full-time, long-term closure of Main Street, from Fir Street to Figueroa Plaza; South California Street, from Main Street to the north side of the alleys located south of Main Street; and North California Street, from Main Street to the North California Street parking lot. The project would also result in the reopening of South California Street, south of the alleys, to vehicles traveling in both the northbound and southbound direction. The project would result in the replacement of temporary traffic barriers with up to 69 semi-permanent bollards, up to 20 crash-rated planters, and up to 43 bollard storage sleeves to limit general traffic flow while accommodating emergency vehicle access. The existing traffic signal at the intersection of South California Street and Santa Clara Street would return to full operation. Existing traffic signal equipment at the intersection of South California Street and Main Street and at the intersection of Figueroa Plaza and Main Street would be removed. The traffic signal poles at these two intersections would remain in place to support intersection lighting and utility service boxes. All other traffic signals along Main Street (at the intersections with Chestnut Street, Oak Street, and Palm Street) would be permanently modified to red flash operation.

Significant Environmental Effects: The Draft EIR identified no significant and unavoidable impacts. The Draft EIR did identify potentially significant impacts related to cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, transportation, and tribal cultural resources; however, these impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels through the incorporation of the proposed mitigation measures. All other environmental impacts would be less than significant.

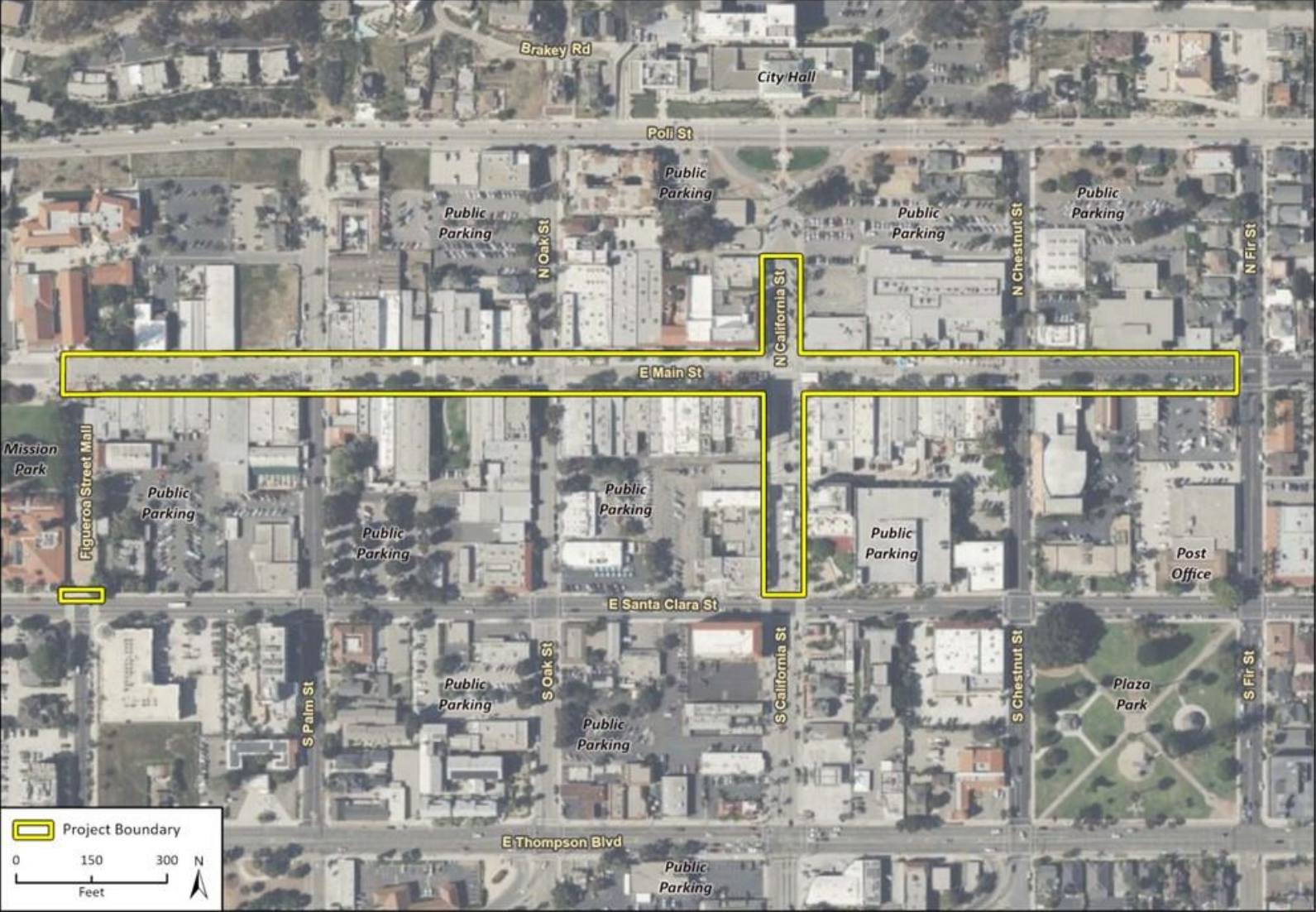
Hazardous Waste Sites: No hazardous waste sites identified on lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 are present within the project site.

Document Availability: The Draft EIR may be viewed on the City's website at: www.cityofventura.ca.gov/MSM. Hard copies of the Draft EIR will also be available by request at the E.P. Foster Library (651 E Main Street) and at the City Counter (501 Poli Street). If an additional hard copy or electronic review copy is required, please contact Jared Rosengren at the email address provided below.

Public Review Period: The public review and comment period for the Draft EIR begins **October 9, 2024**, and ends **November 25, 2024** at 5:00 p.m. Written comments must be submitted in writing no later than 5:00 p.m. on **November 25, 2024**.

Contact Person: Written comments may be submitted to Jared Rosengren, Principal Planner, via email: jrosengren@cityofventura.ca.gov.

Figure 1. Project Site Location – Main Street Moves Project



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Fig 2-2 Project Site Location