



Notice of Preparation

To: Interested Parties

Date: August 6, 2024

Subject: Notice of Preparation of Draft Environmental Impact Report
Santa Maria River Levee Trail Project

Lead Agency: County of Santa Barbara

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the County of Santa Barbara will be the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project. This Notice of Preparation (NOP) includes a project description and an overview of the potential impacts that will be addressed in the EIR. An initial study has not been prepared for the proposed project.

Project Title: Santa Maria River Levee Trail

Project Applicant: County of Santa Barbara (Public Works Department, Transportation Division)

Project Location: The proposed bike/pedestrian trail would extend approximately 6.7 miles between the City of Guadalupe and the City of Santa Maria with an intersecting connection at Bonita School Road. The proposed project is located entirely within unincorporated Santa Barbara County. Bonita School Road is the only public road that intersects the proposed trail. Bonita School Road is a high-speed (55 MPH) arterial road that provides critical access between the counties of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara.

The project description, location map, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached environmental scoping document.

The purpose of this notice is: (1) to serve as the Notice of Preparation of an EIR to potential Responsible Agencies involved in funding or approving the project, and Trustee Agencies responsible for natural resources that may be affected by the project, pursuant to Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines; and (2) to advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the preparation of the EIR, environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR, and any related issues, from interested parties in addition to those noted above, including interested or affected members of the public. The County of Santa Barbara requests that any potential Responsible or Trustee Agency responding to this notice do so in a manner consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b).

All parties that have submitted their names and mailing addresses will be notified as part of the project's CEQA review process. If you wish to be placed on the mailing list or have any questions or need additional information, please contact the person identified below. A copy of the NOP and attachment document is on the County of Santa Barbara's website (<https://www.countyofsb.org/3467/Active-Transportation>) and is on file at the County of Santa Barbara offices, located at the address provided below.

AA/EEO Employer

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-3000
www.countyofsb.org



CHRIS SNEDDON
Director

Scoping Meeting Information:

Date: September 5, 2024

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Via telephonic/electronic meeting. Link will be posted on County of Santa Barbara website no later than time and date of the meeting.

30-Day NOP Review Period: In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b), should your agency have any specific detail about the scope and content of the environmental information related to your agency's area of statutory responsibility that must be included in the draft EIR, it is requested that your agency provide a written response to this NOP within 30 days of receipt of the NOP.

Please indicate a contact person in your response and send it to the following contact:

Kalani Durham, Environmental Planner/Coordinator
County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department
Transportation Division, Engineering Design Section
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Email: SMRLT@countyofsb.org

08/06/2024

Kalani Durham

Kalani Durham, Environmental Planner/Coordinator

AA/EEO Employer

Mostafa Estaji, Transportation

Julie Hagen, Finance and Administration

Walter Rubalcava, Water Resources

Jeanette Gonzales-Knight/Martin Wilder, Resource Recovery and Waste Management

Aleksandar Jevremovic, County Surveyor