



NOTICE OF PREPARATION
of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the
City of Santa Barbara De La Guerra Plaza Revitalization Project

Date: October 29, 2024

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies,
and Interested Parties

Project Title:

City of Santa Barbara (City) De La Guerra Plaza Revitalization Project, Project No. PLN2019-00576

Project Location:

The De La Guerra Plaza Revitalization Project (Project) site is located at 20 East De La Guerra Street in the City of Santa Barbara. The Project's site consists of De La Guerra Street, De La Guerra Plaza Rights-of-Way (ROW), east to Anacapa Street, and west to State Street, and Storke Placita to the south. The vicinity map depicts the Project Site boundary (see Figure 1).

Notice Of Preparation Comment Period:

Friday, November 1, 2024, to Friday, December 6, 2024

Scoping Meeting:

On **Thursday, November 14, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**, the Scoping Meeting will be held at the Palm Park Beach House, at 236 East Cabrillo Blvd, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Lead Agency Contact:

City of Santa Barbara, Public Works Department/Engineering Division, Beth Anna Cornett, Senior Planner I, BCornett@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Introduction:

The City is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). After preparing an Initial Study, the City has determined that the Project may have a potential significant effect on Cultural Resources (including Archaeological Resources, Historic Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources) and Hazards and Hazardous Materials. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared to evaluate these potential effects.

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This Notice of Preparation (NOP) from the City informs agencies and interested parties that an EIR will be prepared for the Project. This NOP solicits guidance from regulatory agencies about the scope and content of the environmental information included in the EIR as related to the agencies' statutory responsibilities. The agencies will use the EIR when considering their respective permits or other approvals related to the Project. This NOP allows interested parties to inform the City regarding environmental issues that should be addressed in the EIR.

Project Description:

The De La Guerra Plaza Revitalization Project (Project) would include improvements to the existing De La Guerra Plaza making it a primarily pedestrian Plaza which would function as a civic center and serve the community's arts and cultural events throughout the year. The project would involve raising the road around the grass area of the Plaza, as well as raising De La Guerra Street between Anacapa Street and State Street, to be level with the existing sidewalk from building to building. Proposed improvements include new landscaping, new surface materials throughout, an interactive water feature, restrooms, a new multi-use building/pavilion, multiple public art locations, new lighting, new water mains and improvements to existing utility connections, a vehicular parking lot and consolidated underground trash/ recycling. Amenities for the revitalized Plaza would include bike racks located throughout the Plaza, free Wi-Fi, public restrooms, and trash/recycling receptacles.

The Project includes the protection of 36 trees, the relocation of 3 trees, the removal of 52 trees, the planting of 46 new trees, and the addition of 14 tree wells that would be used as raised landscape planters. The landscaping of City Hall, on the Anacapa Street side, would also undergo improvements. The existing Washingtonian fan palm tree would be relocated to the Anacapa Street side of City Hall. The proposed new multi-use building/pavilion would be located along the western edge of the City Hall parking lot with landscaping in between the building and the parking lot. Ongoing maintenance of the Plaza would be managed by the City.

The draft of the [CEQA Initial Study](https://santabarbaraca.gov/projects/de-la-guerra-plaza-revitalization-project) for the Project is available for review on the City's website: <https://santabarbaraca.gov/projects/de-la-guerra-plaza-revitalization-project>.

NOP Comment Period:

In accordance with the time limits identified in State law (CEQA Guidelines 15082(b)), please respond to this NOP with your comments on the scope and content of the EIR as soon as possible, but **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 6, 2024**. December 6, 2024, is 35 days following the date this NOP was first posted and published. Comments on the proposed EIR scope of analysis are invited from public agencies, community interest groups, and individual members of the public. We request the views of public agencies as to the scope and content of environmental information be germane to agency statutory responsibilities for the project. Some agencies may need to use the EIR

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prepared by our agency when considering approvals for the project. Please include the name of the contact person for your agency and submit written comments to:

Beth Anna Cornett, Senior Planner I
City of Santa Barbara, Public Works Department, Engineering Division
630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93102
Email: BCornett@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

Americans With Disabilities Act:

If you need services or staff assistance to attend or participate in this meeting, contact the City Administrator's Office at (805) 564 5305. If possible, notification at least 48 hours before the meeting will usually enable the City to make reasonable arrangements. Specialized services, such as sign language interpretation or documents in Braille, may require additional lead time to arrange.

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Figure 1 – De La Guerra Plaza Revitalization Project Vicinity Map

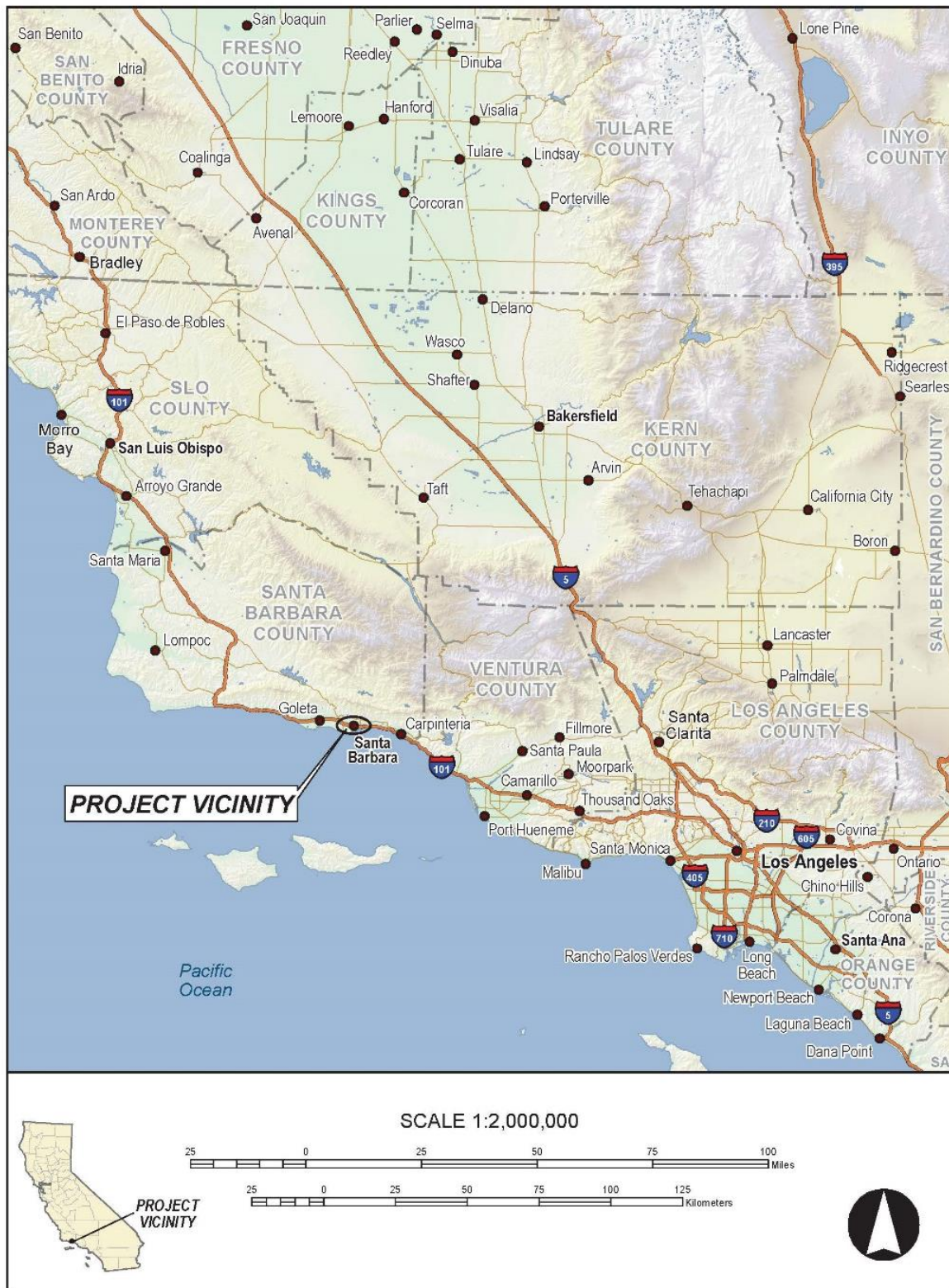




Figure 2 – De La Guerra Plaza Revitalization Project Site and Parcel Boundary

