

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 #: 2024080368

Project Title: Santa Maria River Levee Trail

Lead Agency: County of Santa Barbara

Contact Name: Kalani Durham

Email: kdurham@countyofsb.org Phone Number: (805) 568-3110

Project Location: Unincorporated Santa Barbara County

City

County

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

The Santa Maria River Levee Trail ("project") is being proposed to meet County of Santa Barbara ("County") objectives. The proposed project consists of a 6.7-mile portion ("project site") of the 17-mile Santa Maria River Levee System in unincorporated Santa Barbara County, between the cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe. The purpose of the project is to expand and improve public access and provide an alternative east-west active transportation corridor for pedestrians and cyclists through the development of a portion of the existing Santa Maria River Levee System as directed by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and outlined in the 2022 Santa Maria River Levee Trail Study. The project would improve an informal trail in the existing right-of-way along the top of the levee and extend the existing Tom Urbanske Multi-Purpose Trail in the City of Santa Maria to the City of Guadalupe and would include to-be-determined design improvements.

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

Agricultural Land, Productivity, or Preserve Programs: MM 5-1 to coordinate with agricultural activities; Effects upon Important Farmland: MMs 5-2a and 5-2b for construction and maintenance of fencing and signage; Toxic Air Contaminants: MM 6-1 for preparation and implementation of a Construction Management Plan and include measures to reduce TAC emissions during construction; Potential Effects on Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species: MMs 7-1 through 7-9 through conducting surveys, assessments, avoidance, and implementation of conservation measures; Nesting Migratory Birds and Raptors: MM 7-10 through conducting surveys and limiting construction activities; Riparian Habitat or Other Sensitive Habitat: MMs 7-11a and 7-11b through avoidance or mitigation and through preparation of a native riparian landscape plan; Protected Wetlands or Waters: MMs 7-12a through 7-12e through permitting, buffers, reporting, or compensation; Interference with Wildlife Movement: MMs 7-13a and 7-13b through implementation of wildlife-friendly fencing and lighting; Unknown Historic, Unique Archaeological Resources, or Native American Remains : MMs 8-1 and 8-2 by halting work, conducting analyses, and notifying; Construction Noise: MM 11-1 through noise reduction measures; Degrade Water Quality: MM 12-2 through a stormwater quality control plan; Stormwater Drainage: project design to limit run-off; Light or Glare: MM 13-1 through a lighting plan.

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

General public concern about agricultural and biological resource impacts as a result of the proposed project; consultation with California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project; potential impacts to the following: alteration of hydrology, including aquatic and riparian resources, existing watercourses, water-dependent ecosystems and natural communities; riparian habitats, wetlands, or other sensitive areas; special-status species or sensitive natural communities; loss or modification of breeding, nesting, dispersal, foraging, and overwintering habitat, including vegetation removal, and removal of habitat structural features (e.g., tree trimming, vegetation removal); permanent and temporary habitat disturbances associated with ground disturbance, noise, lighting, human presence; and obstruction of movement corridors.

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), City of Santa Maria, City of Guadalupe