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**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR THE PROPOSED
Santa Maria River Levee Trail Project
SCH 2024080368**

Project Description: 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.

Project Location: The project site is located in unincorporated northern Santa Barbara County and southern San Luis Obispo County, along the south side of the Santa Maria River atop the Santa Maria River Levee between the City of Santa Maria and the City of Guadalupe.

Public Hearing and Comment: The County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the Draft EIR prepared for the Santa Maria River Levee Trail Project. You may comment by submitting written or oral comments to the project manager identified below prior to the close of public comment on July 14 at 5:00 PM. A public hearing will be held at the Joseph Centeno Betteravia Government Administration Building at 511 Lakeside Pkwy, Santa Maria, on June 30, 2026 at 3:00 PM.

Environmental Review Findings: Public Works has prepared a Draft EIR pursuant to requirements 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. The Draft EIR prepared for the project identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts, and monitoring requirements for identified subject areas. **Significant but mitigable** effects on the environment identified in the Draft EIR include: agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, surface and stormwater quality, and visual aesthetics.

Document Availability: The Draft EIR and all documents incorporated by reference may be reviewed at the Public Works Department offices at 123 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara and on the County of Santa Barbara website at <https://www.countyofsb.org/4804/Santa-Maria-Levee-Trail>. Documents are also

123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 • 620 W. Foster Road, Santa Maria, CA 93455
(805) 568-3000 <http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd>

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**



CHRIS SNEDDON
Director

available for review at the Santa Maria Public Library, located at 421 South McClelland Street in Santa Maria, the Guadalupe Branch Library, located at 4719 West Main Street Suite D in Guadalupe, and at the County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department offices at 620 West Foster Rd in Santa Maria and 123 E Anapamu St in Santa Barbara.

How to Comment: Please provide comments to SMRLT@countyofsb.org or at 123 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 prior to the close of public comment on July 14 at 5:00 PM.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the hearing, please contact Hearing Support Staff (805) 568-2000. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the hearing will enable Hearing Support Staff to make reasonable arrangements.

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