Appendix A

Notice of Preparation and Comments Received

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED

ON January 17 2025

UNTIL February 18 2025

REGISTRAR – RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

CITY OF AGOURA HILLS

2025 011592

FILED
Jan 17 2025

Dean C. Logan, Registrar – Recorder/County Clerk

Electronically stored by COURTNEY MAFFITT

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

From: City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills. CA 91301

Date: January 13, 2025

CITY OF AGOURA HILLS
NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

The City of Agoura Hills will be the Lead Agency and will prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code and the "Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970," as amended to date.

PROJECT LOCATION: The City of Agoura Hills is located in western Los Angeles County near the southeastern edge of Ventura County. Agoura Hills is bordered by the City of Westlake Village to the west, the City of Thousand Oaks to the northwest, the unincorporated community of Oak Park (Ventura County) to the north, the City of Calabasas and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County to the east, and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County to the south. Regional access to the City is provided by U.S. Highway 101 which runs east-west through the City of Agoura Hills. Local access within the City is provided primarily by Kanan Road and Reyes Adobe Road in the north-south direction, and Agoura Road and Thousand Oaks Boulevard in the east-west direction. The Planning Area for the Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) includes the existing City boundaries (approximately 7.86 square miles). Specific improvements within the BMP would be located in the areas depicted in Figure 1.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project includes the following components:

1. *Bicycle Master Plan (BMP).* The BMP proposes 30.1 miles of new bikeways and bikeway improvements to build upon the city's existing 1.3 miles of bicycle routes and 9.2 miles of bicycle lanes. The BMP aims to create a network of diverse bike corridors, as well as support facilities and programs to link local and regional destinations and make biking more practical and desirable for a broader range of people. The City seeks to prioritize implementation of two projects within the BMP: the Medea Creek Path (Path), a two-mile bicycle path along the Medea Creek Channel, and the Agoura High School Connection (Connection), a 0.35-mile bicycle path connecting two intersections adjacent to Agoura High School.
2. *VMT Mitigation Exchange and Banking Program (Program).* The Program would establish a mitigation opportunity for projects exceeding the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) threshold by allowing a developer or project proponent to purchase VMT

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reduction credits, which would in turn be used to fund the implementation of bicycle improvement projects identified within the BMP.

3. *General Plan Amendments (Amendments).* To ensure the city's General Plan is consistent with the Bicycle Master Plan, the project would amend the existing General Plan Infrastructure and Community Services Element.

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT: The City of Agoura Hills will prepare a programmatic environmental document evaluating the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. Pursuant to CEQA Section 15168, a Program EIR (PEIR) will be prepared for the Bicycle Master Plan Project. The PEIR will evaluate the potentially significant environmental impacts of the project, will propose feasible mitigation measures that may lessen or avoid such impacts, and will analyze alternatives that could reduce potential environmental impacts. It is anticipated the EIR will evaluate potentially significant environmental effects related to the following environmental issues:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

In addition, the EIR will include a discussion of other topics required by CEQA, including cumulative impacts, project alternatives, growth-inducing effects, and significant irreversible effects.

PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD: The City would like to know the views of all interested parties requesting notice, responsible agencies, agencies with jurisdiction by law, and trustee agencies as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the PEIR that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities (CEQA Section 21080.4 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15082). Your agency may need to use the PEIR when considering a permit or other approval for the individual projects included therein. Due to the time limits mandated by CEQA Section 15082(b), all formal comments on the NOP shall be submitted in writing via e-mail or U.S. mail no later than 30 days from the date of receipt of the NOP by U.S. certified mail, or, if not

received via U.S. certified mail, no later than 5:00 PM on February 17, 2025[1]. When responding, provide the name and contact information for your agency's staff contact.

Please send your response to the following:

Charmaine Yambao, PE
Senior Civil Engineer, Public Works
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills, CA 93101

Responses may also be e-mailed to cyambao@agourahillscity.org. Questions may be directed to this e-mail address, or (818) 597-7360.

A public scoping meeting per CEQA Guidelines Section 15082 is also scheduled. Please see the public meeting notice, attached to this NOP, for further information.

Ch. Yb

Charmaine Yambao, PE, Senior Civil Engineer Date: January 13, 2025

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[1] The NOP was formally filed with the State Clearinghouse on January 13, 2025, indicating that the scoping period would end on February 13, 2025. As the NOP will be filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk on January 17, 2025, the scoping period has been extended to end on February 17, 2025.

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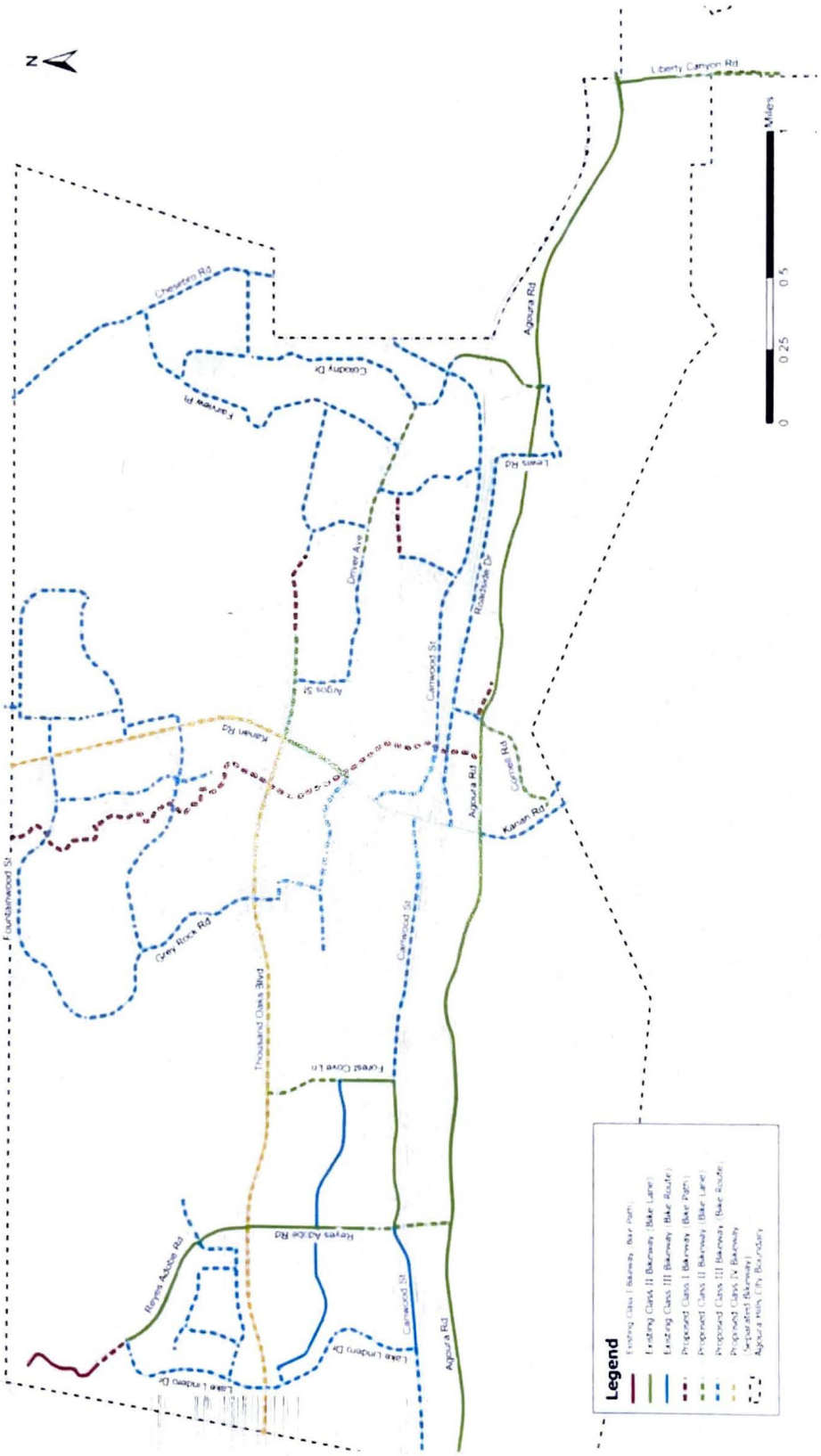

Figure 1 Project Location

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State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director

January 27, 2025

Charmaine Yambao
City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills, California 93101
cyambao@agourahillscity.org

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE BICYCLE MASTER PLAN PROJECT, SCH NO. 2025010338, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA

Dear Charmaine Yambao:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) from the City of Agoura Hills (City) for the Bicycle Master Plan (Project) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines[1].

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, CDFW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW, by law, may be required to carry out or approve through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under the Fish and Game Code.

CDFW ROLE

CDFW is California's Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State (Fish & G. Code, §§ 711.7, subd. (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; CEQA Guidelines § 15386, subd. (a)). CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species (Fish & G. Code, § 1802). Similarly, for purposes of CEQA, CDFW is charged by law to provide, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources.

[1] CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

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CDFW may also act as a Responsible Agency under CEQA. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381). CDFW expects that it may need to exercise regulatory authority as provided by the Fish and Game Code. As proposed, for example, the Project may be subject to CDFW's lake and streambed alteration regulatory authority (Fish & G. Code, § 1600 et seq.). Likewise, to the extent implementation of the Project as proposed may result in "take" as defined by State law[2] of any species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.) or the Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA; Fish & G. Code, §1900 et seq.), the Project proponent may seek related take authorization as provided by the Fish and Game Code.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Proponent: City of Agoura Hills (City)

Objective: The objective of the Project is to create a network of bike corridors, as well as support facilities and programs to link local and regional destinations and make biking more practical and desirable for a broader range of people. Components of the proposed Project include the Bicycle Master Plan, the Vehicle Miles Traveled Mitigation Exchange and Banking Program, and General Plan Amendments. The Bicycle Master Plan proposes 30.1 miles of new bikeways to build upon the City's existing 1.3 miles of bicycle routes and 9.2 miles of bicycle lanes. The Medea Creek Path, a two-mile bicycle path along Medea Creek Channel, and the Agoura High School Connection, a 0.35-mile bicycle path connecting two intersections adjacent to Agoura High School, are prioritized for implementation.

Location: The Planning Area for the Project includes the existing City boundaries (approximately 7.86 square miles). The City is located in western Los Angeles County near the southeastern edge of Ventura County. It is bordered by the City of Westlake Village to the west, the City of Thousand Oaks to the northwest, the unincorporated community of Oak Park (Ventura County) to the north, the City of Calabasas and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County to the east, and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County to the south.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CDFW offers the comments and recommendations below to assist the City in adequately identifying and/or mitigating the Project's significant, or potentially significant, direct and indirect impacts on fish and wildlife (biological) resources.

[2] "Take" is defined in Section 86 of the Fish and Game Code as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill."

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General Comments

1) Disclosure. The PEIR should provide an adequate, complete, and detailed disclosure about the effects which a proposed project is likely to have on the environment (Pub. Resources Code, § 20161; CEQA Guidelines, § 15151). Such disclosure is necessary so CDFW may provide comments on the adequacy of proposed avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures, as well as assess the significance of the specific impact relative to plant and wildlife species impacted (e.g., current range, distribution, population trends, and connectivity).

2) Project Description and Alternatives. To enable adequate review and comment on the proposed Project from the standpoint of the protection of fish, wildlife, and plants, CDFW recommends the following information be included in the PEIR.

   a. A complete discussion of the purpose and need for, and description of the proposed Project.

   b. A range of feasible alternatives to the Project location to avoid or otherwise minimize direct and indirect impacts on sensitive biological resources and wildlife movement areas. CDFW recommends the City select Project designs and alternatives that would avoid or otherwise minimize direct and indirect impacts on biological resources. CDFW also recommends the City consider establishing appropriate setbacks from sensitive and special status biological resources. Setbacks should not be impacted by ground disturbance or hydrological changes from any future Project-related construction, activities, maintenance, and development. As a general rule, CDFW recommends reducing or clustering a development footprint to retain unobstructed spaces for vegetation and wildlife and provide connections for wildlife between properties and minimize obstacles to open space.

   c. Project alternatives should be thoroughly evaluated, even if an alternative would impede, to some degree, the attainment of the Project objectives or would be more costly (CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.6). The PEIR shall include sufficient information about each alternative to allow meaningful evaluation, public participation, analysis, and comparison with the proposed Project (CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.6).

   d. Where the Project may impact aquatic and riparian resources, CDFW recommends the City select Project designs and alternatives that would fully avoid impacts to such resources. CDFW also recommends an alternative that would not impede, alter, or otherwise modify existing surface flow, watercourse and meander, and water-dependent ecosystems and natural communities. Project designs should consider elevated crossings to avoid channelizing or narrowing of watercourses. Any modifications to a river, creek, or stream may

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cause or magnify upstream bank erosion, channel incision, and drop in water level, which may cause the watercourse to alter its course of flow.

3) Biological Baseline Assessment. An adequate biological resources assessment should provide a complete assessment and impact analysis of the flora and fauna within and adjacent to the Project site and where the Project may result in ground disturbance. The assessment and analysis should place emphasis on identifying endangered, threatened, rare, and sensitive species; regionally and locally unique species; and sensitive habitats. An impact analysis will aid in determining the Project's potential direct, indirect, and cumulative biological impacts, as well as specific mitigation or avoidance measures necessary to offset those impacts. CDFW also considers impacts to Species of Special Concern (SSC) a significant direct and cumulative adverse effect without implementing appropriate avoidance and/or mitigation measures. The DEIR should include the following information.

   a. Information on the regional setting that is critical to an assessment of environmental impacts, with special emphasis on resources that are rare or unique to the region (CEQA Guidelines, § 15125(c)). The DEIR should include measures to fully avoid and otherwise protect Sensitive Natural Communities. CDFW considers Sensitive Natural Communities as threatened habitats having both regional and local significance. Natural communities, alliances, and associations with a State-wide rarity ranking of S1, S2, and S3 should be considered sensitive and declining at the local and regional level. These ranks can be obtained by visiting the Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program - Natural Communities webpage[3].

   b. A thorough, recent, floristic-based assessment of special status plants and natural communities following CDFW's *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities*[4]. Botanical field surveys should be comprehensive over the entire Project site, including areas that will be directly or indirectly impacted by the Project. Adjoining properties should also be surveyed where direct or indirect Project effects could occur, such as those from fuel modification, herbicide application, invasive species, and altered hydrology. Botanical field surveys should be conducted in the field at the times of year when plants will be both evident and identifiable. Usually, this is during flowering or fruiting. Botanical field survey visits should be spaced throughout the growing season to accurately determine what plants exist in the Project site. This usually involves multiple visits to the Project site (e.g., in early, mid, and late season) to capture the floristic diversity at a level necessary to determine if special status plants are present.

[3] https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/VegCAMP/Natural-Communities
[4] https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=18959&inline

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c. Floristic alliance- and/or association-based mapping and vegetation impact assessments conducted in the Project site and within adjacent areas. The Manual of California Vegetation[5], second edition, (Sawyer, Keeler-Wolf, & Evens, 2009) should also be used to inform this mapping and assessment. Adjoining habitat areas should be included in this assessment where the Project's construction and activities could lead to direct or indirect impacts offsite.

d. A complete and recent assessment of the biological resources associated with each habitat type in the Project site and within adjacent areas. A full literature review includes but is not limited to CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database[6] (CNDDB). The CNDDB should be accessed to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitat. An assessment should include a minimum nine-quadrangle search of the CNDDB to determine a list of species potentially present in the Project site. A nine-quadrangle search should be provided in the Project's CEQA document for adequate disclosure of the Project's potential impact on biological resources.

e. A complete, recent, assessment of endangered, rare, or threatened species and other sensitive species within the Project site and adjacent areas, including SSC and California Fully Protected Species (Fish & G. Code, §§ 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515). Species to be addressed should include all those which meet the CEQA definition of endangered, rare, or threatened species (CEQA Guidelines, § 15380). Seasonal variations in use of the Project site should also be addressed such as wintering, roosting, nesting, and foraging habitat. Focused species-specific surveys, conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when the sensitive species are active or otherwise identifiable, may be required if suitable habitat is present. See CDFW's Survey and Monitoring Protocols and Guidelines[7] for established survey protocol. Acceptable species-specific survey procedures may be developed in consultation with CDFW and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

f. A recent wildlife and rare plant survey. A lack of records in the CNDDB does not mean that rare, threatened, or endangered plants and wildlife do not occur. Field verification for the presence or absence of sensitive species is necessary to provide a complete biological assessment for adequate CEQA review (CEQA Guidelines, § 15003(i)). CDFW generally considers biological field assessments for wildlife to be valid for a one-year period, and assessments for rare plants may be considered valid for a period of up to three years. Some aspects of the proposed Project may warrant periodic updated surveys for certain sensitive taxa, particularly if Project implementation build out could occur over a protracted time frame or in phases.

[5] https://vegetation.cnps.org/
[6] https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB
[7] https://wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/survey-protocols

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4) Direct and Indirect Impacts on Biological Resources. The PEIR should provide a thorough discussion of direct and indirect impacts expected to affect biological resources with specific measures to offset such impacts. The PEIR should address the following.

   a. A discussion of potential impacts from lighting, noise, temporary and permanent human activity, and exotic species, and identification of any mitigation measures. A discussion regarding Project-related indirect impacts on biological resources. These include resources in nearby public lands, open space, adjacent natural habitats, riparian ecosystems, and any designated and/or proposed or existing reserve lands (e.g., preserve lands associated with a Natural Community Conservation Plan (Fish & G. Code, § 2800 et. seq.)).

   b. A discussion of both the short-term and long-term effects of the Project on species population distribution and concentration, as well as alterations of the ecosystem supporting those species impacted (CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.2(a)).

   c. Impacts on, and maintenance of, wildlife corridor/movement areas, including access to undisturbed habitats in areas adjacent to the Project, should be fully analyzed and discussed in the PEIR.

   d. A discussion of post-Project fate of drainage patterns, surface flows, and soil erosion and/or sedimentation in streams and water bodies. The discussion should also address the potential water extraction activities and the potential resulting impacts on habitat supported by the groundwater. Measures to mitigate such impacts should be included.

   e. An analysis of impacts from proposed changes to land use designations and zoning, and existing land use designation and zoning located nearby or adjacent to natural areas that may inadvertently contribute to wildlife-human interactions. A discussion of possible conflicts and mitigation measures to reduce these conflicts should be included in the PEIR.

5) Cumulative Impact. Cumulative impacts on biological resources can result from collectively significant projects which are individually insignificant. The Project, when considered collectively with prior, concurrent, and probable future projects, may have a significant cumulative effect on biological resources. The Project may have the potential to substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of endangered, rare, or threatened species. Species that may be impacted by the Project include, but are not limited to, the biological resources described in this letter.

   Accordingly, CDFW recommends the PEIR evaluate the Project's potential cumulative impacts on biological resources. The Project may have a "significant effect on the environment" if the possible effects of the Project are individually

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limited but cumulatively considerable. “Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of an individual project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects (Pub. Resources Code, § 21083(b)). The City’s conclusions regarding the significance of the Project’s cumulative impact should be justified and supported by evidence to make those conclusions. Specifically, if the City concludes that the Project would not result in cumulative impacts on biological resources, the City, “shall identify facts and analysis supporting the Lead Agency’s conclusion that the cumulative impact is less than significant” (CEQA Guidelines section § 15130(a)(2)).

6) Nesting Birds. To avoid impacts to nesting birds, CDFW recommends that clearing of vegetation occur outside of the peak avian breeding season, which general runs from February 1 through September 1 (as early as January 1 for some raptors). If Project construction is necessary during the bird breeding season, a qualified biologist with experience in conducting breeding bird surveys should conduct a nesting bird survey within three days prior to work in the area. If an active nest is identified, a buffer shall be established between the construction activities and the nest so that nesting activities are not interrupted. For the given Project site, CDFW generally recommends a 100-foot buffer from common avian species, 300 feet for listed or highly sensitive, and 500 feet for raptors. The buffer should be delineated by temporary fencing and remain in effect as long as construction is occurring. No Project construction shall occur within the fenced nest zone until the young have fledged, are no longer being fed by the parents, have left the nest, and will no longer be impacted by the Project. Reductions or expansions in the nest buffer distance may be appropriate depending on the avian species involved, ambient levels of human activity, screening vegetation, or possibly other factors.

7) Mitigation Measures. Public agencies have a duty under CEQA to prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes in a project through the use of feasible alternatives or mitigation measures (CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15002(a)(3), 15021). Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15126.4, an environmental document shall describe feasible measures which could mitigate impacts below a significant level under CEQA. Mitigation measures must be feasible, effective, implementable, and fully enforceable/imposed by the lead agency through permit conditions, agreements, or other legally binding instruments (Pub. Resources Code, § 21081.6(b); CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.4).

   a. The DEIR should provide mitigation measures that are specific and detailed (i.e., responsible party, timing, specific actions, location) in order for a mitigation measure to be fully enforceable and implemented successfully via a mitigation monitoring and/or reporting program (Pub. Resources Code, § 21081.6; CEQA Guidelines, § 15097).

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b. If a proposed mitigation measure would cause one or more significant effects, in addition to impacts caused by the proposed Project, the DEIR should include a discussion of the effects of proposed mitigation measures (CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.4(a)(1)). In that regard, the DEIR should provide an adequate, complete, and detailed disclosure about the Project's proposed mitigation measure(s). Adequate disclosure is necessary so CDFW may assess the potential impacts of proposed mitigation measures.

8) Compensatory Mitigation. The PEIR should include compensatory mitigation measures for the Project's significant impacts (direct and/or through habitat modification) to sensitive and special status plants, animals, and habitats. Mitigation measures should emphasize avoidance and minimization of Project-related impacts. For unavoidable impacts, on-site habitat restoration or enhancement should be discussed in detail. If on-site mitigation is not feasible or would not be biologically viable and therefore inadequate to mitigate the loss of biological functions and values, off-site mitigation through habitat creation and/or acquisition and preservation in perpetuity should be addressed. Areas proposed as mitigation lands should be protected in perpetuity with a conservation easement and financial assurance and dedicated to a qualified entity for long-term management and monitoring.

9) Long-term Management of Mitigation Lands. For proposed mitigation lands, the PEIR should include measures to protect the targeted habitat values in perpetuity. The mitigation should offset Project-induced qualitative and quantitative losses of biological resources. Issues that should be addressed include (but are not limited to) restrictions on access, proposed land dedications, monitoring and management programs, control of illegal dumping, water pollution, and increased human intrusion. An appropriate endowment should be set aside to provide for long-term management of mitigation lands.

10) CESA. CDFW considers adverse impacts to a species protected by CESA to be significant. Take of any endangered, threatened, candidate species, or NPPA-listed plant species that results from the Project is prohibited, except as authorized by state law (Fish & G. Code §§ 2080, 2085; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §786.9). Consequently, if the Project or any Project-related activity will result in take of a species designated as endangered or threatened, or a candidate for listing under CESA, CDFW recommends that the Project proponent seek appropriate take authorization under CESA prior to implementing the Project. Appropriate authorization from CDFW may include an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) or a consistency determination in certain circumstances, among other options (Fish & G. Code, §§ 2080.1, 2081, subds. (b) and (c)). Early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to a Project and mitigation measures may be required to obtain a CESA Permit.

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To ensure CDFW will be able to use the City's CEQA document for the issuance of an ITP, the PEIR should address all Project impacts to CESA-listed species and specify a mitigation, monitoring, and reporting program that will meet the requirements of an ITP.

11) Translocation/Salvage of Plants and Animal Species. Translocation and transplantation is the process of removing plants and wildlife from one location and permanently moving it to a new location. CDFW generally does not support the use of translocation or transplantation as the primary mitigation strategy for unavoidable impacts to endangered, rare, or threatened plants and animals. These efforts are experimental, and the outcome is unreliable. CDFW has found that permanent preservation and management of habitat capable of supporting these species is often a more effective long-term strategy for conserving plants and animals and their habitats.

12) Scientific Collecting Permit. A Scientific Collecting Permit would be necessary if there is a plan to capture and relocate wildlife. Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 650, qualified biologist(s) must obtain appropriate handling permits to capture, temporarily possess, and relocated wildlife to avoid harm or mortality in connection with Project-related activities. CDFW has the authority to issue permits for the take or possession of wildlife, including mammals; birds, nests, and eggs; reptiles, amphibians, fish, plants; and invertebrates (Fish & G. Code, §§ 1002, 1002.5, 1003). A Scientific Collecting Permit is required to monitor project impacts on wildlife resources, as required by environmental documents, permits, or other legal authorizations; and, to capture, temporarily possess, and relocate wildlife to avoid harm or mortality in connection with otherwise lawful activities (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 650). For more information, please see CDFW's Scientific Collecting Permit webpage[8].

13) Lake and Streambed Alteration. CDFW has regulatory authority over activities in streams that will divert or obstruct the natural flow, or change the bed, channel, or bank (which may include associated riparian resources) of any river, stream, or lake or use material from a river, stream, or lake. For any such activities, the Project applicant (or "entity") must provide written notification to CDFW pursuant to section 1600 et seq. of the Fish and Game Code. Based on this notification and other information, CDFW determines whether a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) with the applicant is required prior to conducting the proposed activities. CDFW's issuance of a LSAA for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by CDFW as a Responsible Agency. CDFW recommends that the City assess whether notification is appropriate. A Notification

[8] https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Scientific-Collecting

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package for a LSAA may be obtained by accessing CDFW's Lake and Streambed Alteration Program website[9].

14) Wetland Resources. CDFW, as described in Fish and Game Code section 703(a), is guided by the Fish and Game Commission's (Commission) policies[10]. Through its Wetlands Resources policy, the Commission "…seek[s] to provide for the protection, preservation, restoration, enhancement, and expansion of wetland habitat in California" (California Fish and Game Commission, 2005). It is the policy of the Commission to strongly discourage development in or conversion of wetlands. It opposes, consistent with its legal authority, any development or conversion that would result in a reduction of wetland acreage or wetland habitat values. To that end, the Commission opposes wetland development proposals unless, at a minimum, project mitigation assures there will be 'no net loss' of either wetland habitat values or acreage. The Commission strongly prefers mitigation which would achieve expansion of wetland acreage and enhancement of wetland habitat values."

    a. The Wetlands Resources policy provides a framework for maintaining wetland resources and establishes mitigation guidance. CDFW encourages avoidance of wetland resources as a primary mitigation measure and discourages the development or type conversion of wetlands to uplands. CDFW encourages activities that would avoid the reduction of wetland acreage, function, or habitat values. Once avoidance and minimization measures have been exhausted, a project should include mitigation measures to assure a "no net loss" of either wetland habitat values, or acreage, for unavoidable impacts to wetland resources. Conversions include, but are not limited to, conversion to subsurface drains, placement of fill or building of structures within the wetland, and channelization or removal of materials from the streambed. All wetlands and watercourses, whether ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial, should be retained and provided with substantial setbacks, which preserve the riparian and aquatic values and functions benefiting local and transient wildlife populations. CDFW recommends mitigation measures to compensate for unavoidable impacts be included in the DEIR and these measures should compensate for the loss of function and value.

    b. The Fish and Game Commission's Water policy guides CDFW on the quantity and quality of the waters of this State that should be apportioned and maintained respectively so as to produce and sustain maximum numbers of fish and wildlife; to provide maximum protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife and their habitat; encourage and support programs to maintain or restore a high quality of the waters of this State; prevent the degradation thereof caused by pollution and contamination; and, endeavor to keep as much water as possible open and

[9] http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA
[10] https://fgc.ca.gov/About/Policies/Miscellaneous

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accessible to the public for the use and enjoyment of fish and wildlife. CDFW recommends avoidance of water practices and structures that use excessive amounts of water, and minimization of impacts that negatively affect water quality, to the extent feasible (Fish & G. Code, § 5650).

15) Use of Native Plants and Trees. CDFW recommends the City require the Project Applicant to provide a native plant palette for the Project. The Project's landscaping plan should be disclosed and evaluated in the PEIR for potential impacts on biological resources such as natural communities adjacent to the Project site (e.g., introducing non-native, invasive species). CDFW supports the use of native plants for the Project especially considering the Project's location adjacent to protected open space and natural areas. CDFW strongly recommends avoiding non-native, invasive species for landscaping and restoration, particularly any species listed as 'Moderate' or 'High' by the California Invasive Plant Council[11] CDFW supports the use of native species found in naturally occurring plant communities within or adjacent to the Project site. In addition, CDFW supports planting species of trees, such as oaks (Quercus genus), and understory vegetation (e.g., ground cover, subshrubs, and shrubs) that create habitat and provide a food source for birds. CDFW recommends retaining any standing, dead, or dying tree (snags) where possible because snags provide perching and nesting habitat for birds and raptors. Finally, CDFW supports planting species of vegetation with high insect and pollinator value.

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e).) Accordingly, please report any special status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). The CNDDB website[12] provides direction regarding the types of information that should be reported and allows on-line submittal of field survey forms.

In addition, information on special status native plant populations and sensitive natural communities, should be submitted to CDFW's Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program using the Combined Rapid Assessment and Relevé Form[13].

The City should ensure data collected for the preparation of the PEIR is properly submitted.

[11] https://www.cal-ipc.org/plants/inventory/
[12] https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB
[13] https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/VegCAMP/Natural-Communities/Submit

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FILING FEES

The Project, as proposed, would have an impact on fish and/or wildlife, and assessment of filing fees is necessary. Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the Lead Agency and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW. Payment of the fee is required in order for the underlying project approval to be operative, vested, and final. (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 753.5; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089.)

CONCLUSION

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the NOP to assist the City in identifying and mitigating Project impacts on biological resources.

Questions regarding this letter or further coordination should be directed to Kelly Fisher[14], Environmental Scientist.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
5991E19EF8094C3...
Victoria Tang
Environmental Program Manager
South Coast Region

ec: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Victoria Tang
Jennifer Turner
Kelly Fisher

Office of Planning and Research
State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

REFERENCES

Sawyer, J. O., Keeler-Wolf, T., & Evens, J. M. (2009). *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Second ed.). Sacramento, CA: California Native Plant Society. Retrieved from https://vegetation.cnps.org/

[14] Phone: 858-354-5083; Email: kelly.fisher@wildlife.ca.gov

CITY of CALABASAS

January 27, 2025

Charmaine Yambao, PE
Senior Civil Engineer, Public Works
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Bicycle Master Plan.

Dear Ms. Yambao,

The City of Calabasas is in receipt of your Notice of Public Scoping Meeting regarding the City of Agoura Hills Bicycle Master Plan scheduled for February 6, 2025 at the City of Agoura Hills Council Chambers. The City would like to forward the following comments relative to the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report:

- The City of Calabasas is interested in the availability and connectivity of safe bicycle infrastructure across the Conejo Valley to provide alternative transportation choices and recreational opportunities. We would like to be invited to any public project meetings related to the project or the environmental document.

- Please provide copies of the draft Bicycle Master Plan and the draft environmental document for our review when available.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the PEIR. Please direct future correspondence, meeting invitations, and future plan coordination opportunities to Tra'a Bezdecny in the City's Public Works Department. She may be contacted at (818) 224-1673 (direct line), or at tbezdecny@cityofcalabasas.com (email).

Sincerely,

Michael Klein, AICP
Community Development Director
(818) 224-1701
mklein@cityofcalabasas.com

VENTURA COUNTY
AIR POLLUTION
CONTROL DISTRICT

ALI REZA GHASEMI, PE
Air Pollution Control Officer
4567 Telephone Road, 2nd Floor | Ventura, CA 93003
Phone: 805.303.4005 | Fax: 805.456.7797

VENTURA COUNTY
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
Memorandum

TO: Charmaine Yambao, Public Works DATE: February 10, 2025

FROM: Nicole Collazo, Air Quality Specialist, Planning Division NC

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draf Environmental Impact Report for City of Agoura Hills Bicycle Master Plan (RMA 25-003)

Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) staff has reviewed the subject Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the draft environmental impact report (DEIR), which will analyze the environmental impacts of the construction of 30.1 miles of new bikeways and bikeway improvements to build upon the city's existing 1.3 miles of bicycle routes and 9.2 miles of bicycle lanes. The BMP aims to create a network of diverse bike corridors, as well as support facilities and programs to link local and regional destinations and make biking more practical and desirable for a broader range of people. The Lead Agency is the City of Agoura Hills within Los Angeles County.

APCD has the following comments regarding the project's NOP.

NOP Comments

1) Due to the proximity of the project to the City of Thousand Oaks residential neighborhoods and unincorporated Oak Park residential areas, please consider the potential for fugitive dust generated from grading/construction activities in constructing bike paths near these areas in the project DEIR's Air Quality Section and what measures will be taken to ensure impacts remain low, including the potential for compliance-driven violations of VCAPCD Rules 50, *Opacity*, Rule 51, *Nuisance*, and Rule 55, *Fugitive Dust*.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the NOP. If you have any questions, you may contact me at nicole@vcapcd.org.

COUNTY of VENTURA

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
DAVE WARD
Planning Director

SUSAN CURTIS
Assistant Planning Director

February 11, 2025

Charmaine Yambao
City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills, CA 93101

Sent via email: cyambao@agourahillscity.org

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) of a Bicycle Master Plan

Dear Charmaine,

Thank you for providing the County of Ventura Planning Division with the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) of a Bicycle Master Plan.

The Bicycle Master Plan includes:

- A Bicycle Master Plan that proposed 30.1 miles of new bikeways and bikeway improvements to create a network of diverse bike corridors and make biking more practical and desirable;
- Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Mitigation Exchange and Banking Program that would establish a mitigation program for developers to purchase VMT reduction credits that would fund the bicycle plan improvements; and,
- General Plan Amendments to the Infrastructure and Community Services Element for consistency with the Bicycle Master Plan.

Ventura County General Plan

The County's General Plan recognizes the importance of a circulation, transportation, and mobility (CTM) network that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, promotes active transportations, and increases roadway safety. The following General Plan Goals and Policies support a regional mobility plan that encourages alternative modes of transportation:

Goal: Regional Multimodal System (CTM-2): To facilitate the safe, efficient, and cost-effective movement of all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, public transportation riders, children, older people, and disabled people, as well as motorists through the provision of an integrated multimodal system.

Policy: Countywide Bicycle Land and Trail System (CTM-2.12): The County shall coordinate with cities in the county and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) to plan and implement a system of bicycle lanes and multi-use trails that link the cities, unincorporated communities, schools including colleges and universities,

commercial/retail, employment centers, health care service facilities, public transportation, and other points of interest.

Goal: Regional Multimodal System (CTM-3): To develop an accessible and interconnected bicycle network that addresses resident and visitor needs for commuting, daily activities, and recreation.

Policy: Interjurisdictional Bicycle Network Connectivity (CTM-3.4): The County shall promote bicycle network connectivity between Ventura County communities as well as Santa Barbara and Los Angeles Counties.

Policy: Bicycle Network Routes and Wayfinding (CTM-3.8): The County shall use clear and consistent message and placement for on- and off-street regional bikeways and to regional destinations.

For the complete 2040 General Plan, please visit the Planning Division website at https://vcrma.org/divisions/planning/ventura-county-general-plan/.

Recommendations

The County's Ventura Public Works Agency oversees the Active Transportation Plan (2024) that identified 80 miles of bicycle facilities and several wayfinding routes. The City's Bicycle Master Plan proposes that the bicycle route along Kanan Road be upgraded to a Class IV separated bikeway, with a protected bike lane separate from vehicular traffic. Kanan Road connects to the unincorporated County community of Oak Park and the City's proposed improvements would benefit both City and County residents. The City's improvements along Kanan Road support the General Plan Policies CTM-2.12 and CTM-3.4.

The County portion of Kanan Road is currently a Class II bike lane, marked by striping and signage, and the County's Active Transportation Plan recommends that Kanan Road be upgraded to a Class IIB buffered bikeway. When City's improvements along Kanan Road begin, please contact the County to coordinate striping, signage, and wayfinding for bicyclists when there is a transition from a Class II to a Class IV bikeway or vice versa in accordance with Policy CTM-3.8.

As stated in Policy CTM-2.12, the County coordinates with the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) on maintaining and expanding bike land infrastructure. VCTC hosts an online map (https://www.goventura.org/getting-around/bike-map/) of the existing bike lanes in Ventura County. Please notify VCTC when the improvements along Kanan Road are completed so the online map can be updated which helps inform both city and county residents of their bike route planning.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Brittany Webber at Brittany.Webber@ventura.org or (805) 654-2469.

Sincerely,

Dave Ward, AICP
Planning Director