



## NOTICE OF PREPARATION

**Subject: Notice of Preparation and Scoping of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**

**Project Title:** Hollister Avenue - State Street Improvement Project

**Lead Agency:** This is to inform you that the Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, Transportation Division will be the lead agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) for the Hollister Avenue - State Street Improvement Project in Santa Barbara County. In accordance with Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been prepared for the Hollister Avenue - State Street Improvement Project. This NOP is a request for comment on the scope of environmental issues that you or your organization believes should be addressed in the EIR/EA regarding the proposed project. Your participation as a responsible agency (if applicable) is requested in the preparation and review of this document.

**Project Location:** In the unincorporated Goleta Valley Planning Area of Santa Barbara County within the Hollister Avenue - State Street corridor. The project extends from the intersection of SR 154 and State Street on the east to the intersection of San Antonio Road and Hollister Avenue on the west, a distance of approximately 1.25 miles.

**Project Description:** The Hollister Avenue - State Street Improvement Project proposes roadway and intersection improvements for the 1.25-mile segment of the Hollister Avenue - State Street corridor. The project would include the addition of bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities to improve traffic circulation and vehicular and pedestrian safety within the surrounding community. The project also includes public streetscape improvements, such as lighting, seating, landscaping, transit structures, bike racks, public art, signage, and hardscape. Construction activities may impact an existing box culvert which runs along Atascadero Creek (just west of Arboleda Road and the Creekside Bar and Grill), potentially requiring lengthening, retrofitting, or replacing of the box culvert.

The project proposes two alternatives that widen Hollister Avenue-State Street to four-lane arterial standards and/or two-lane arterial standards. Alternative 1 proposes four-lane widening from San Antonio Road to SR 154. Alternative 2 proposes four-lane widening from San Antonio Road to Modoc Road and two-lane widening from Modoc Road to SR 154. A third alternative is the No Build ("No Project") Alternative.

Both Alternatives 1 and 2 include replacing the underpass structure over Hollister Avenue just east of Modoc Road to meet UPRR's minimum vertical clearance requirements (17'-6" to bottom of girder), an increase of 3.5 feet. Based on the proposed geometry of the roadway widening and the relatively large skew of the UPRR mainline relative to the roadway, the replacement underpass would be required to span a minimum of approximately 200 feet. Abutments and piers would be placed parallel to Hollister Avenue - State Street.

A more detailed project description, location map, and the potential environmental effects checklist (Initial Study) may be downloaded from the Public Works Department's website, at <http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/pwhome.aspx>.

**Public Environmental Scoping Hearing:** A public Scoping Hearing will be held at the County Planning Commission Hearing Room on **Wednesday, October 29 at 5:30 p.m.** The purpose of the meeting is to involve the public and other affected agencies in the project and receive comments on the scope and content of the environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR/EA. The County Planning Commission Hearing Room 17 is located at 123 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara.

**Public and Agency Comments:** We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR/EA prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please direct your response to Joy Hufschmid at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 or [jhufsch@cosbpw.net](mailto:jhufsch@cosbpw.net) or (805) 568-3373. Please supply us with the name for a contact person in your agency.

Date 9-29-14

Signature

Title

Joy Hufschmid  
Environmental Coordinator

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