



Santa Barbara County Public Works Department
Flood Control & Water Agency

**Notice of Availability of and Public Hearing on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Public Comment Period, Notice of Intent, to adopt A U.S. Department of Transportation Act Section 4(f) De Minimus Finding for the
THE LAS VEGAS/SAN PEDRO CREEKS CAPACITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Santa Barbara County Flood Control District (District), in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is proposing hydraulic capacity improvements along Las Vegas and San Pedro Creeks under Calle Real, Route 101, and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR). The proposed project would increase the hydraulic capacity of the two creeks from a 10-year to a 25-year storm water event

PROJECT LOCATION: The project area is located in the Cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara north of Hollister Avenue between Fairview Avenue and Los Carneros Road. Both Las Vegas Creek and San Pedro Creek run north to south and pass under the local City of Goleta Street Calle Real, U.S. Highway 101, and the UPRR. The creeks originate in the Santa Ynez Mountains and extend across the Goleta Valley to discharge into the Goleta Slough adjacent to the Pacific Ocean, bordering the Second and Third Supervisorial Districts.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT: The District is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the analysis and proposed mitigation measures described in the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft MND). You may comment by providing testimony at the public hearing on **June 13, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Goleta Valley Community Center, 5679 Hollister Avenue, Goleta** and/or submitting written or oral comments to Maureen Spencer identified below prior to the close of public comment on June 29, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

PROJECT DETAILS: The existing hydraulic capacity of Las Vegas and San Pedro Creeks has become inadequate at specific locations, resulting in break-out flooding during 10-year storm events. This hydraulic capacity improvement project would involve Calle Real within the City of Goleta, Route 101 within Caltrans right-of-way (ROW), the UPRR within the UPRR ROW, and the City of Santa Barbara Airport properties downstream of the UPRR.

Currently, the Las Vegas Creek culverts under Route 101 and under the UPRR facility have the hydraulic capacity to carry peak flows of less than a ten-year event, while San Pedro Creek under Calle Real, Route 101 and the UPRR has the hydraulic capacity to carry peak flows of no greater than a ten-year event. As a result, the existing hydraulic capacities of the Las Vegas and San Pedro Creeks under Calle Real, Route 101 and UPRR result in overtopping of the roadway surface at Calle Real and Route 101 during heavy rains. In 1995, 1998, and 2000 flooding of Calle Real and Route 101 occurred. These flooding events resulted in closures of both Calle Real and Route 101. The project has been separated into three components to facilitate implementation by the District and Caltrans. The Draft MND evaluates all three components of this project:

Project A will include areas within Caltrans ROW and within City of Goleta ROW to Calle Real on San Pedro Creek.

- Increasing the capacity of Las Vegas Creek under Route 101 by replacing existing culverts with a bridge
- Increasing the capacity of Las Vegas Creek under the southbound Route 101/ Fairview Avenue off-ramp by replacing existing culverts with a three-sided concrete box culvert.

- Increasing the capacity of San Pedro Creek under Calle Real and under Route 101 by replacing existing culverts with a bridge with a natural bottom.

Project B will include improvements within the UPRR ROW and District ROW upstream of Calle Real on San Pedro Creek.

- Replacement of the UPRR bridge over Las Vegas Creek.
- Replacement of the UPRR bridge over San Pedro Creek.
- Hydraulic drop structure on San Pedro Creek.

Project C will include improvements within the City of Santa Barbara Airport Properties Downstream of UPRR.

- Installation of a berm and floodwall on the Santa Barbara Airport property located along the west side of the San Pedro Creek channel north of Hollister Avenue within Airport Long-Term Parking Lot #2 to compensate for water surface elevation increases resulting from upstream capacity improvements.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: The District has prepared a Draft MND 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 MND prepared for the project identifies and discusses potential impacts and associated mitigation measures that reduce all potential impacts to less than significant level and the monitoring requirements for identified subject areas. Incorporation of mitigation measures that have reduced an effect from a potentially significant impact to a less than significant impact occurs in the following subject areas:

Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology, Hazardous Materials/Risk of Upset, Noise, Transportation/Circulation, Water Resources

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: If a copy of the Draft MND is not attached, the Draft MND may be obtained and all documents referenced in the Draft MND may be reviewed at the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District offices located at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara. Draft documents are also available for review at the Santa Barbara County Public Library – Santa Barbara Branch, 40 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, or Goleta Branch, 500 North Fairview Avenue. An electronic copy of the document can be viewed by going to the County's website at countyofsb.org/pwd and then navigating to the Water Resources Division page. The administrative draft of the MND and the District's formal comments to the preparer are also available for review at the District office.

HOW TO COMMENT: Please provide comments to Maureen Spencer, Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, PHONE 805-568-3440, FAX 568-3434 prior to the close of public comment on June 29, 2011 at 5 p.m. or provide testimony at the public hearing on the date and time specified above. Please limit comments to environmental issues such as traffic, biology, noise, etc. You will receive notice of the dates of future public hearings to consider project approval or denial.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this hearing, please contact Maureen Spencer at 568-3440. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the hearing will enable Hearing Support Staff to make reasonable arrangements.

U.S. Department of Transportation Act Section 4(F) De Minimus Finding:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is a responsible agency under CEQA and has assumed Federal Highway Administration Responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act along with consultation and coordination responsibilities under other Federal environmental laws, pursuant to 23 U.S. Code 327. The Department of Transportation Act (DOT Act) of 1966 included a special provision-Section 4(f)-which stipulated that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other DOT agencies cannot approve the use of land from publicly owned parks,

recreational areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or public and private historical sites unless the following conditions apply:

- There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of land, and
- The action includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the property resulting from use.

Caltrans is soliciting input of the public and the City of Santa Barbara, regarding this proposed undertaking. The proposed improvements at Post Mile 22.3 will occur on UPRR owned property. However, during construction land outside of the UPRR owned ROW is needed for purposes of grading the banks of Las Vegas Creek to conform the capacity improvements to the existing creek dimensions immediately downstream of the project. The adjoining property is owned by the City of Santa Barbara and is part of the Twin Lakes Golf Course. The Project includes downstream components within the golf course that are required to accommodate the increased hydraulic capacity created by the project components. Caltrans welcomes any comments or questions regarding this proposed project. Please submit written comments no later than June 29, 2011 to:

Matt Fowler, Senior Environmental Planner
at California Department of Transportation, District 5, San Luis Obispo
Central Coast Environmental Analysis Branch
50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-5415