

To: Interested Persons From: Tom Buford

**Community Development Department** 

File: Del Rio Trail Project Date: June 8, 2018

Reference: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE DEL RIO TRAIL PROJECT (K15165100)

## **COMMENT PERIOD**

Friday, June 8, 2018 - Monday, July 9, 2018

## **INTRODUCTION**

The City of Sacramento (City) is the Lead Agency for preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the City's proposed Del Rio Trail Project (proposed Project). The EIR to be prepared by the City will evaluate potential significant environmental effects of the proposed Project and other actions associated with construction and operation of the proposed Project. Written comments regarding the issues that should be covered in the EIR and the scope of the analysis are invited.

The EIR for the proposed Project is being prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Under CEQA, upon deciding to prepare an EIR, the City as lead agency must issue a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to inform trustee agencies, the public, and responsible agencies of that decision. The purpose of the NOP is to provide information describing the proposed Project and its potential environmental effects to those who may wish to comment regarding the scope and content of the information to be included in the EIR. Agencies should comment on such information as it relates to their statutory responsibilities in connection with the project.

The EIR will provide an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with development of the proposed Project. The proposed Project location, description, and environmental issue areas that may be affected by development of the proposed Project are described below. The EIR will evaluate potentially significant environmental impacts of the proposed Project, on both a direct, indirect, and cumulative basis; identify mitigation measures that may be feasible to lessen or avoid such impacts; and identify alternatives that may lessen one or more potentially significant impact to the proposed Project.

#### SUBMITTING COMMENTS

Comments and suggestions as to the appropriate scope of analysis in the EIR are invited from all interested parties. Written comments or questions concerning the EIR for the proposed Project should be directed to the City's project manager at the following address by  $5:00 \, \text{p.m.}$  on July 9, 2018 (Please note, public counter hours are  $9:00 \, \text{am} - 4:00 \, \text{pm}$ ). Please include the commenter's full name and address.

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Reference: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

FOR THE DEL RIO TRAIL PROJECT

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### PROJECT LOCATION/SETTING

The project begins approximately 0.4 mile south of Pocket Road near the Freeport Water Tower adjacent to the Interstate 5 (I-5) bridge over Freeport Boulevard, and extends approximately 4.5 miles north along the abandoned railway corridor within the City of Sacramento (see Figures 1 and 2). Regional features adjacent to the proposed Project area include the Sacramento River to the west, and Interstate 5 to the west.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### PROPOSED PROJECT

The City proposes to construct 4.5 miles of Class 1 multi-use trail along the abandoned railway corridor west of Freeport Boulevard from south of Meadowview Road/Pocket Road to the Sacramento River Parkway north of Sutterville Road. The proposed Del Rio Trail Project consists of a Class I multi-use trail (12 to 16 feet of pavement with unpaved shoulders ranging from 2 to 3 feet) and when feasible, an adjacent 5 to 6-foot wide unpaved walking trail. The Del Rio Trail would include at-grade crossings and intersection modifications at each location where the trail intersects a vehicular roadway.

The project begins approximately 0.4 mile south of Pocket Road near the Freeport Water Tower adjacent to the I-5 bridge over Freeport Boulevard, and extends approximately 4.5 miles north along the abandoned railway corridor within the City of Sacramento. At the southern entry, the trail would connect directly to the newly constructed Freeport Shores Trail and the South Sacramento Parkway West Trail. The route would then cross at Meadowview-Pocket Road and continue north through the South Land Park neighborhood towards William Land Park and the Sacramento River Parkway. North of Sutterville Road, the trail connects to the Sacramento River Parkway via two alignments: west along Sutterville Road with Class 2 bike lanes, and northwest along the existing railway corridor.

Permanent right-of-way acquisitions and temporary construction easements are needed where the trail passes through Sacramento Regional Transit and state-owned parcels along the trail.

This project is federally funded through the Active Transportation Program grant and therefore requires compliance with both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The lead agency for CEQA compliance is the City; the federal lead agency for NEPA compliance is Caltrans.

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FOR THE DEL RIO TRAIL PROJECT

#### PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Del Rio Trail Project is to:

 Advance and complete the planned connection between the Sacramento River Parkway and the Freeport Shores Bikeway in accordance with the City of Sacramento Bikeway Master Plan utilizing public right of way and public agency parcels;

- Connect logical origins and destinations proximate to the trail alignment by improving pedestrian and bicycle access throughout the South Land Park, Freeport Manor, Z'berg, Land Park, Meadowview, and Pocket communities; and
- Provide an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant, active transportation connection to adjacent communities throughout the south Sacramento area for pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities to access schools, retail, jobs, and recreational amenities.

#### **PROJECT NEED**

The Del Rio Trail Project is needed because the South Land Park, Pocket, and adjacent communities in South Sacramento currently have limited ADA-compliant, active modes of transportation to schools, retail, jobs, and recreational amenities thereby increasing automotive dependency and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), while reducing opportunities for those who do not drive or do not have access to a car including children, the elderly, the disadvantaged, and persons with disabilities.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND SCOPE OF THE EIR**

The EIR will analyze potentially significant impacts that result from construction and operation of the proposed Project. The City has elected to conduct a project specific environmental analysis of the proposed Project to ensure project level detail is analyzed and provided to the public. Pursuant to section 15063(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, an Initial Study has not been prepared for the proposed project. The EIR will evaluate the full range of environmental issues contemplated for consideration under CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, as well as non-environmental issues including:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Climate Change, and Energy
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise and Vibration
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems

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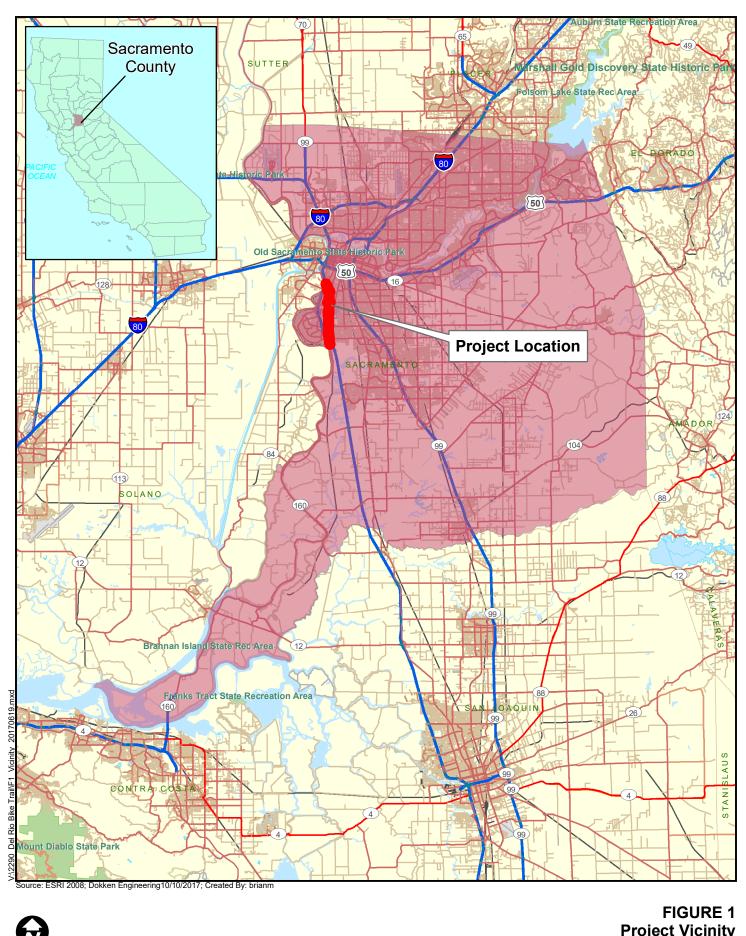
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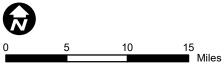
- Growth Inducement
- Population and Housing
- Cumulative Impacts

Environmental issues not contemplated for consideration due to the determination that there will be no impact include:

- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Mineral Resources

The EIR will identify and evaluate alternatives to the proposed Project. CEQA requires that an EIR evaluate a "no project" alternative, and in addition a reasonable range of other project alternatives. Comments on potential alternatives for discussion in the EIR are welcomed.





# **Project Vicinity**

ATPL-5002(189) Del Rio Trail Project City of Sacramento, Sacramento County, California



0.5 Miles FIGURE 2
Project Location
ATPL-5002(189)
Del Rio Trail Project
City of Sacramento, Sacramento County, California