



March 9, 2016

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE
DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE PROPOSED SANTA CLAUS LANE PEDESTRIAN AT-GRADE RAIL
CROSSING
14NGD-00000-00015**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: County of Santa Barbara (County) proposes to construct a public pedestrian at-grade rail crossing across the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks to Santa Claus Lane beach and associated fencing to improve public safety and access to the beach. The rail crossing would serve as a single legal point of entry to the beach, eliminating approximately 15 existing informal crossings.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located along the South Coast of the County of Santa Barbara, approximately 2.5 miles south of the community of Summerland and approximately 0.5 miles north of the City of Carpinteria, in the Toro Canyon Planning Area, First Supervisorial District. The project would occur within a portion of the Santa Claus Lane right-of-way and the UPRR corridor (APN 005-010-025) located between Padaro Lane (to the north) and the Santa Claus Lane commercial area (to the south). The project would also occur on two County-owned parcels (APN 005-440-002 and 005-440-003) on Santa Claus Lane beach. The proposed rail crossing would be located approximately 850 feet south of Padaro Lane.

PUBLIC COMMENT: County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department (P&D) is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, **14NGD-00000-00015**. You may comment by submitting written or oral comments to the planner identified below prior to the close of public comment on **April 7, 2016 at 5 p.m.** Due to the non-complex nature of the project, a separate environmental hearing will not be held.

PROJECT DETAILS: The project includes the following: a pedestrian pathway, crossing gates, crossing signs, a crossing signal house, fencing, and two new whistle boards. The approximately 180-foot-long, 10-foot-wide paved and boardwalk pedestrian pathway would be constructed from the County right-of-way on Santa Claus Lane across the tracks to Santa Claus Lane beach. Two California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) standard red flashing lights with a gate arm spanning the width of the crossing would be constructed to warn pedestrians of approaching trains. Push-to-open swing gates would adjoin the gate arm to create an emergency egress point when the gates are in the down position. Standard signage would be provided. An 8 foot by 10 foot signal house (measuring 9 feet in height) would be constructed on the landward side of the tracks about 30 feet north of the new crossing. As required by CPUC, fencing would be constructed on both sides of the tracks to prevent pedestrians from crossing in unauthorized locations. The proposed fencing would be designed to minimize aesthetic and visual impacts. Two new whistle boards (marking the location where the locomotive engineer is required to sound the train whistle) would be installed both a ¼ mile to the north and a ¼ mile to the south of the proposed crossing.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: P&D prepared the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to Section 15070 of the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County's Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA. P&D's issuance of the Mitigated Negative Declaration affirms our opinion that any potentially significant impacts associated with the proposed project may be reduced to a less than significant level with the adoption of mitigation measures. The Mitigated Negative Declaration identifies and discusses the County's environmental thresholds and potential impacts on the environment for identified subject areas, along with applicable mitigation measures, residual impacts, and monitoring requirements. If the project description changes, P&D will require a reevaluation to consider the changes. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed project.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and all documents referenced therein may be reviewed at P&D offices located at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara and 624 Foster Road, Suite C, Santa Maria, and on our website at: <http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/torocanyon/santaclauslane.php>. **HOW TO COMMENT:** Please provide comments to Ryan Cooksey, Telephone: (805) 884-6836, Fax: (805) 568-2030, Email: rcooksey@countyofsb.org, Mail: 123 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, prior to the close of public comment on **April 7, 2016 at 5 p.m.**