



DATE: December 15, 2015 (REVISED DECEMBER 18, 2015)
TO: Public Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties
FROM: City of San Rafael Department of Community Development
SUBJECT: **REVISED NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND INTENT TO ADOPT A
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

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, this is to advise you that the Department of Community Development of the City of San Rafael has prepared an Initial Study on the following project:

Project Name:

Andersen Drive At-Grade Crossing with Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Rail Line;
City File No. P15-005

Location:

Andersen Drive public right-of-way, north of Francisco Boulevard West intersection (see location map)

Property Description:

The subject property encompasses the stretch of the City of San Rafael-owned Andersen Drive public right-of-way where it intersects with the SMART rail line. The intersection of the road right-of-way with the rail line occurs at an 11% angle, running a distance of approximately 450 feet. The right-of-way is developed with a two-lane arterial, which includes curb, gutter, sidewalk and Class 2 bicycle lane improvements.

The current at-grade crossing was constructed in 1997. At that time, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) authorized the crossing with the then inactive rail line, but ruled that the crossing authorization would expire once regular train service was scheduled through this crossing. Further, CPUC ruled that in order to accommodate rail service through Andersen Drive, the City must apply for authorization to continue to utilize the crossing, and the City would be financially responsible for making necessary improvements to the crossing deemed necessary by CPUC.

Project Description:

The project proposes to seek CPUC authorization to approve the Andersen Drive intersection with the SMART rail line as an at-grade crossing. Improvements are proposed to ~~realign Andersen Drive to increase the crossing angle to 45 degrees and decrease the crossing length to 60 feet~~ maintain the existing roadway and track geometry and increase the storage capacity for eastbound Francisco Blvd West.

The project action required by the City of San Rafael is for the City Council to authorize the filing of an application to the CPUC for approval of an at-grade crossing of Andersen Drive with the SMART rail line.

Initial Study Completed:

Consistent with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, this project is subject to environmental review and an Initial Study has been prepared. This Initial Study and supportive appendices have been posted on the City of San Rafael website and can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/pubworks-proj-smart/> (scroll down the webpage to “Key Topics”)

Hard copies of this Initial Study are available for review at the City of San Rafael Department of Community Development, Planning Division (address below) and at the San Rafael City Library located at 1100 E Street, San Rafael, CA.

Environmental Issues:

The Initial Study finds that the proposed project would result in potentially significant impacts in Biological Resources, Cultural (Archaeological) Resources, Geology & Soils, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Hydrology & Water Quality, and Noise. The project impacts would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level through implementation of recommended mitigation measures or through compliance with existing Municipal Code requirements or City standards. Recommended measures are summarized in the attached Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) and Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration document has been prepared in consultation with local, and state responsible and trustee agencies and in accordance with Section 15063 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Furthermore, the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration will serve as the environmental compliance document required under CEQA for any subsequent phases of the project and for permits/approvals required by a responsible agency.

Public Review Period for Comment:

A forty-day (40-day) public review period shall commence on Wednesday, December 16, 2015. Written comments must be sent to the City of San Rafael, Community Development Department, Planning Division, 1400 5th Avenue, San Rafael CA 94901 by Monday, January 25, 2016. The City of San Rafael City Council will hold a public hearing on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and project merits on Monday, February 1, 2016, 7:00 PM in the San Rafael City Council Chambers at City Hall (address listed above). Correspondence and comments can be delivered to Paul Jensen, Community Development Director, phone: (415) 485-5064, email: paul.jensen@cityofsanrafael.org.

