



City of Santa Barbara California

PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

REPORT DATE: November 17, 2011
AGENDA DATE: December 1, 2011
PROJECT ADDRESS: Sycamore Creek, Punta Gorda Street (MST2009-00374)
 Lower Sycamore Creek Widening and Punta Gorda Street Bridge
 Replacement Project – Environmental Hearing
TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Planning Division, (805) 564-5470
 Danny Kato, Senior Planner *DK*
 Kathleen Kennedy, Associate Planner *KK*

I. SUBJECT

The purpose of the environmental hearing is to receive comments from the Planning Commission, interested agencies and the public on the adequacy and completeness of the Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Lower Sycamore Creek Widening and Punta Gorda Street Bridge Replacement project. **No action will be taken at this hearing on the environmental document or the project.**

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Lower Sycamore Creek Channel Widening and Punta Gorda Street Bridge Replacement Project is comprised of two phases. The Phase 1 component includes channel improvements beginning five feet north of the Highway 101 right-of-way and extending approximately 150 feet upstream toward Punta Gorda Street. The Phase 2 component includes channel improvements beginning at the northerly end of Phase 1 and extending 195 feet upstream to a point approximately 75 feet upstream of the Punta Gorda Street Bridge. Phase 2 includes the replacement of the Punta Gorda Street Bridge. A creek restoration plan is incorporated into both phases.

III. REQUIRED APPLICATION

The discretionary application required for this project is Design Review Approval by the Architectural Board of Review (SBMC Chapter 22.68).

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

A Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (DMND) has been prepared for this project and is available for review and comment. The DMND examines environmental impacts which may be associated with this project. Potentially significant environmental effects identified in the DMND, which are anticipated as a result of the project, include impacts related to Biological Resources, Noise, Public

Services, and Water Quality. The DMND includes proposed measures to mitigate potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.

The public review period began on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. Comments on the DMND must be submitted by Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. Please send your comments to: City of Santa Barbara, Planning Division, Attn: Kathleen Kennedy, Associate Planner, P.O. Box 1990, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990, or send them electronically to KKennedy@SantaBarbaraCa.gov.

V. RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission hold an environmental hearing to receive public comments on the adequacy and completeness of the Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration. No action will be taken at this hearing on the environmental document or the project.

VI. NEXT STEPS

An Architectural Board of Review hearing will be scheduled to consider actions to adopt the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve the project.

Exhibit: The Draft Initial Study and DMND (previously distributed to the Planning Commission) is available at the Community Development Department at 630 Garden Street, the Main Library at the corner of Anapamu and Anacapa Streets, and online at: <http://www.SantaBarbaraCa.gov/eir>.