



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Public Works  
**Department No.:** 054  
**For Agenda Of:** April 19, 2022  
**Placement:** Administrative - Set  
Hearing (4/19/22),  
Departmental (6/28/22)  
**Estimated Time:** 60 minutes on 6/28/22  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director: Scott D. McGolpin, P.E., Public Works Director, 568-3010  
Contact Info: Christopher Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation 568-3064  
**SUBJECT:** Santa Maria River Levee Trail Study; 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Set a hearing on the departmental agenda on June 28, 2022 (ESTIMATED TIME: 60 MINUTES) to:

- a) Receive and file the Santa Maria River Levee Trail Study;
- b) Provide direction to staff on next steps related to the trail; and
- c) Find that this action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 because it consists of a feasibility study for a future trail that the Board has not approved, adopted, or funded and that will not result in any direct or indirect physical changes in environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item includes a presentation of the Santa Maria River Levee Trail Study (Study) for your Board to provide direction on next steps. The Study is a trail feasibility study that explores general opportunities and constraints to developing a multi-purpose trail on top of the Santa Maria River Levee in the unincorporated area of the Santa Maria Valley. The Study area includes the southern levee from the western terminus of the Tom Urbanske Multi-Purpose Trail in the City of Santa Maria to the City of Guadalupe.

On June 28, 2022, Staff will present a summary of the Study and its findings and seek direction from your Board on next steps.

**Background:**

On June 2, 2020, your Board accepted a \$40,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy to study the feasibility of developing a trail on the Santa Maria River Levee. At the meeting, the Board directed staff to focus on outreach, particularly to landowners and stakeholders in the agricultural community.

Staff worked with the consultant, KTUA, to develop a website, survey, outreach materials, and to draft the Study. Staff also collaborated with the Santa Barbara County Promotores Network and CAUSE for additional outreach and Spanish-translation support. Staff, along with the consultants, hosted two virtual stakeholder meetings and three in-person outreach events in summer 2021. Additionally, over 500 surveys were collected in English and Spanish. The results from the survey and feedback received from the stakeholder meetings were used to inform the Study and the amenities toolkit included in the report.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: n/a

**Authored by:**

Mark Friedlander, Alternative Transportation Manager, 568-3576