


# Memorandum



**Date:** April 5, 2019

**To:** Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (Board)

**From:** Lisa Plowman, Director, Planning and Development Department 

**Subject:** Interactive Map for the Hoop Structures Ordinance Amendments, Case No. 17ORD-00000-00005; Departmental Item No. 6 on the Board of Supervisors' April 9, 2019, Hearing Agenda

**CC:** Dan Klemann, Deputy Director, Long Range Planning Division  
David Lackie, Supervising Planner  
Julie Harris, Senior Planner

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As stated in the Board letter (page 2) regarding the Hoop Structures Ordinance Amendments item on the April 9, 2019, Board hearing agenda, the Board requested staff to revise Mitigation Measure MM-BIO-3 such that the structural setback from streams and creeks for hoop structures and shade structures located in the Rural Area would be 100 feet instead of 50 feet. The streams and creeks to which Mitigation Measure MM-BIO-3 would apply are "natural creek channels," which the Land Use and Development Code (§ 35.110.020) defines as "[a] water course that has not been altered by human activity. Appears as a solid or dashed blue line on a USGS 7½-minute or 15-minute quadrangle map."

Staff prepared an interactive map that identifies the water courses shown on the USGS 7½-minute quadrangle maps<sup>1</sup> which *might* qualify as a "natural creek channel," depending on whether the creek or stream has been altered by human activity. The map is available on-line at: <https://arcg.is/1v15Ti>. (To view the map: (1) click on the "Basemap" tab in the upper left portion of the interactive map and select the "USA Topo Maps;" and (2) click on the "Content" tab and select the "Rural Boundary" and "national Hydrologic Database (NHD) Creek" layers. Staff also will have the interactive map available for use at the April 9, 2019, Board hearing.)

The water courses shown on the interactive map are extensive, and located throughout a substantial amount of the Rural area within the county. However, although the interactive map identifies the creeks or streams which *might* qualify as a "natural creek channel," one must consider the current, actual conditions of the creek or stream to determine whether it has been altered by human activity and, consequently, qualifies as a "natural creek channel." This is due to the fact that the USGS 7½-minute quadrangle maps reflect the conditions at the time the maps were created, are not updated regularly to reflect changes in hydrological conditions, and may contain errors with regard to the precise locations of the creeks and streams depicted on the maps. Therefore, the map should not be used in lieu of a site inspection to determine the actual condition of the creek or stream, and whether it qualifies as a "natural creek channel."

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<sup>1</sup> The USGS mostly discontinued the creation of 15-minute quadrangle maps in the 1950s and currently only 7½ minute quadrangle maps exist for Santa Barbara County. The 7½ minute quadrangle maps are prepared using a different scale, and provide more detail, than the 15-minute quadrangle maps.