

Notice of Preparation

Date: June 21, 2024

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties

Subject: **Notice of Preparation and Public Scoping Meeting for the Main Street Moves Environmental Impact Report**

Project Location: Five-block portion of East Main Street and California Street

Public Comment Period: June 21, 2024 to July 22, 2024. Written comments must be submitted to the City's Community Development Department no later than July 22, 2024, by 5:00 p.m.

Scoping Meeting: An in-person scoping meeting workshop will be conducted on Monday, July 1, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., at City Hall (501 Poli Street, Community Meeting Room).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Jared Rosengren, Principal Planner
City of Ventura, Community Development Department
501 Poli Street
Ventura, California 93001
Email: jrosengren@cityofventura.ca.gov
Office: 805-658-4737

The City of Ventura (City), as the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is commencing its preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Main Street Moves Project. The EIR will evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with the Main Street Moves Project. This NOP has been issued to provide an opportunity for the general public, responsible and trustee agencies, and other interested entities to submit comments on the scope of the EIR.

Project Location

The project site is located within a five-block portion of East Main Street and California Street in the City of Ventura, California. The project site is located entirely within existing City right-of-way, is relatively flat, and encompasses approximately 5.4 acres. The area surrounding the project site is fully developed with a variety of private businesses and public uses. Figure 1 shows the regional location of the project site and Figure 2 shows the location of the site in its neighborhood context.

Project Description

The proposed Main Street Moves Project is a continuation of the existing temporary closure, initially approved by Ventura City Council on May 18, 2020 and extended six times through January 31,

2025. The project would result in the full-time, long-term closure of Main Street, from Fir Street to Figueroa Plaza; South California Street, from Main Street to the alleys south of Main Street; and North California Street, from Main Street to the North California Street parking lot. The project would also result in the reopening of South California Street, south of the alleys. The project would result in the construction of semi-permanent removeable bollards and crash-rated planters to limit general traffic flow. Overall, up to 69 semi-permanent bollards and up to 20 crash rated planters would be installed within the project site. Figure 3 depicts the general locations of proposed bollards and planters, along with the proposed change in roadway closure or reopening associated with the project.

The existing traffic signal at the intersection of South California Street and Santa Clara Street would return to full operation, and the existing traffic signal at the intersection of South California Street and Main Street would be modified to operate as a pedestrian signal for Main Street pedestrian travel. All other traffic signals along Main Street would be permanently modified to flash, as they are currently. The project would result in the potential loss of up to 154 parking spaces on Main Street, the potential loss of up to 12 parking spaces on South California Street, and the potential loss of up to five parking spaces on North California Street, for a total loss of up to 171 parking spaces. The project would retain the existing sidewalk, curb, and gutter configuration.

Potential Environmental Impacts to be Considered

The EIR will evaluate the potentially significant environmental impacts of the project and will propose feasible mitigation measures that may lessen or avoid such impacts. It is anticipated the EIR will evaluate potentially significant environmental effects related to the following environmental issues:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Public Services
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems

In addition, the EIR will include a discussion of environmental topics anticipated to have no impact, including Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Biological Resources, Hydrology and Water Quality, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Recreation, and Wildfire. The EIR will also include a discussion of other topics required by CEQA, including cumulative impacts, project alternatives, growth-inducing effects, and significant irreversible effects.

Submittal of Written Comments

Please send written/typed comments (including a name, email, telephone number, and/or other contact information) electronically or by mail by 5:00 p.m. on July 22, 2024 to the following:

City of Ventura, Community Development Department
RE: Main Street Moves Project EIR
ATTN: Jared Rosengren, Principal Planner
501 Poli Street
Ventura, CA 93001
Email: jrosengren@cityofventura.ca.gov

Accommodations

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Ventura does not discriminate. Closed captioning or other assistive services may be provided upon request. Other services, such as translation between English and other languages, may also be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request no later than three working days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting Jared Rosengren at 805-658-4737 or jrosengren@cityofventura.ca.gov.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING TO ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE EIR. ATTENDEES WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE INPUT TO THE CONSULTANTS PREPARING THE EIR.



Jared Rosengren, Principal Planner

Figure 1 Regional Location



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Fig 1 Regional Location

★ Project Location

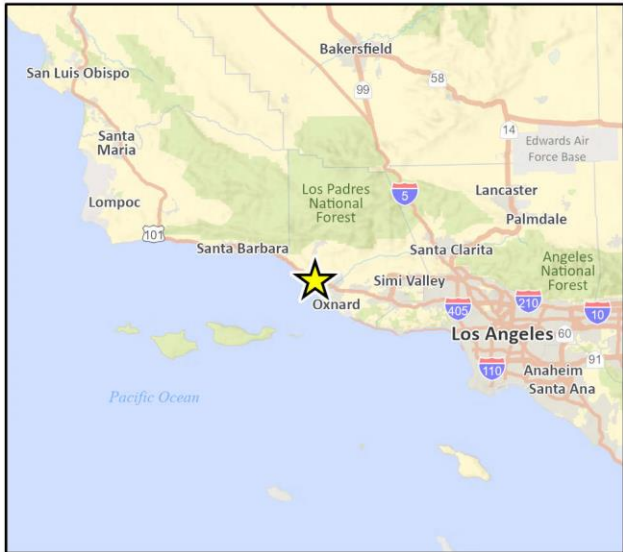


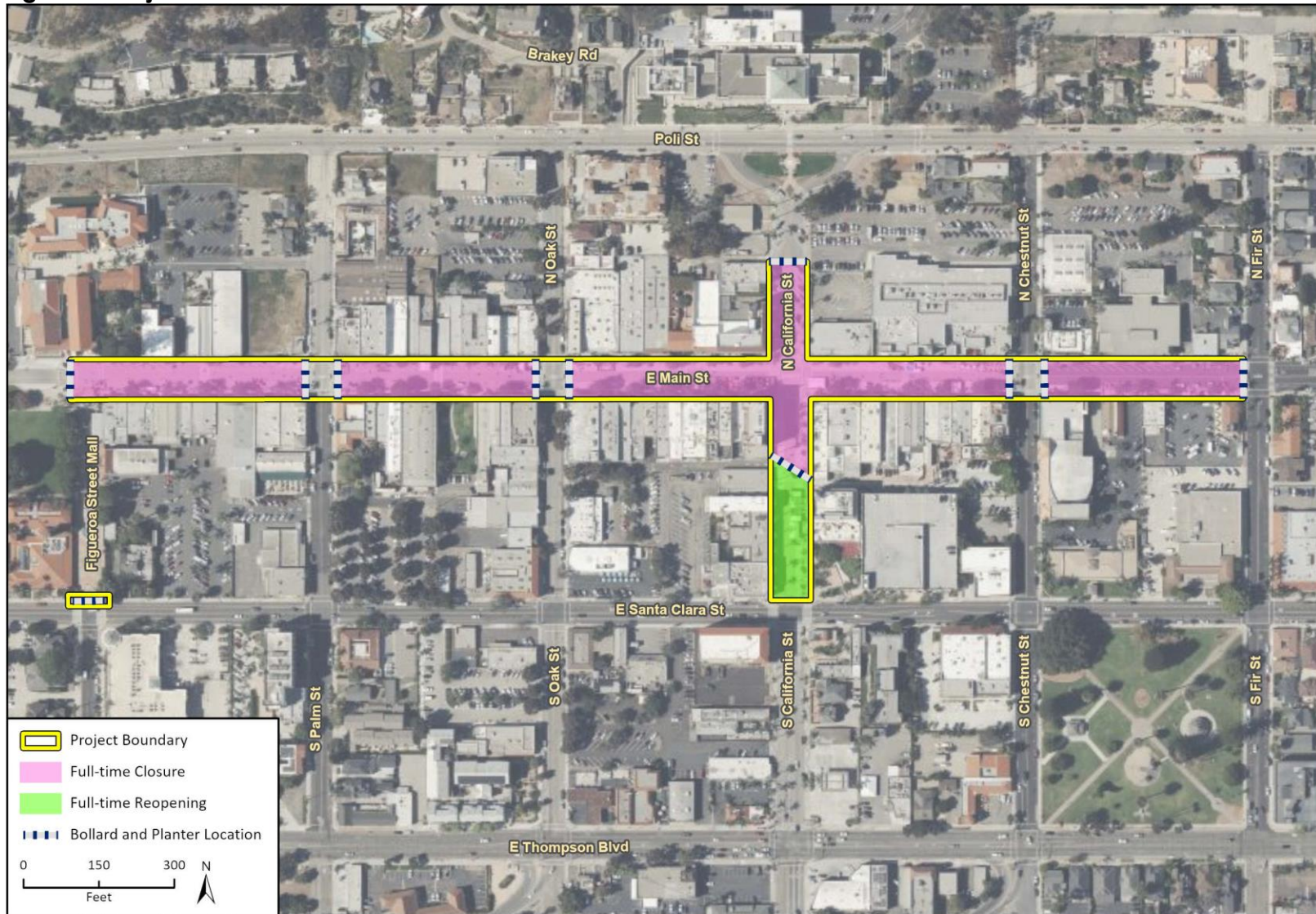
Figure 2 Project Site Location



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Fig 2-2 Project Site Location

Figure 3 Project Characteristics



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Fig 2-3 Project Characteristics