

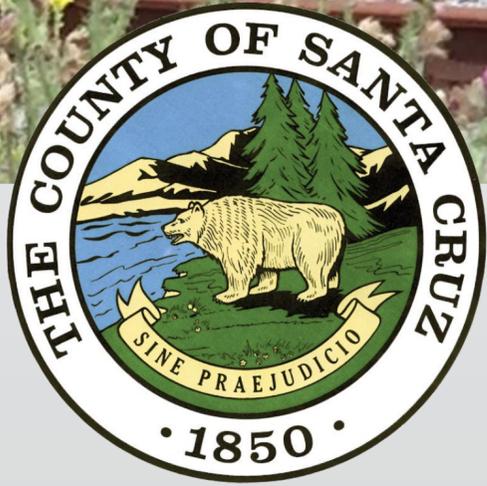
# COASTAL RAIL TRAIL SEGMENTS 10 AND 11

## DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) PUBLIC MEETING

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

November 16, 2023  
5:00 pm-7:30 pm





# HOUSE KEEPING ITEMS

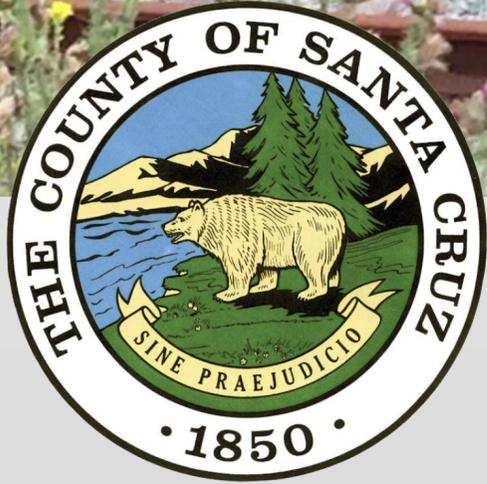
- Presentation followed by Verbal Comment Period
- This is a public meeting and conversations will be recorded and uploaded to the County website.

[www.santacruzcountyca.gov/RailTrail](http://www.santacruzcountyca.gov/RailTrail)

- Public Review ends:

**Friday, December 15, 2023 @ 5:00 PM**

- Submit written comments to: [RailTrail@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:RailTrail@santacruzcountyca.gov)



**Para los residentes que hablan español, esta diapositiva contiene información para solicitar traducción al español, así como a donde enviar sus comentarios (for Spanish Speaking Residents)**

El Condado agradece sus comentarios sobre el Borrador del Informe de Impacto Ambiental disponible en español. Por favor proporcione sus comentarios en español antes del **15 de diciembre de 2023**, a:

**Rob Tidmore, Gestor de Proyectos (*Project Manager*)**

**979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062**

**o al correo electrónico [RailTrail@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:RailTrail@santacruzcountyca.gov)**

Si desea comunicarse directamente con un miembro del personal del condado que hable español con respecto al Borrador del Informe de Impacto Ambiental (EIR), comuníquese con:

**Mariana Colibri-Urgo, 831-454-7963 o [Mariana.Colibri-Urgo@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:Mariana.Colibri-Urgo@santacruzcountyca.gov)**



# MEETING OUTLINE

- Introduction of Project Team
- Project Overview
- Clarification Questions
- Environmental Review Process
- Summary of Public Draft EIR
- Verbal Comments on Draft EIR



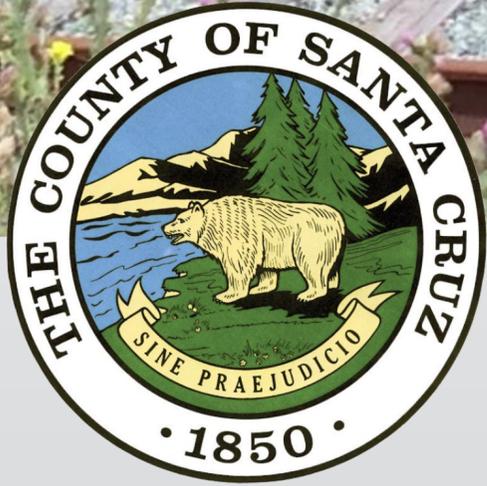
# TEAM INTRODUCTIONS

- Lead Agency – *County of Santa Cruz*
- Responsible/Partner Agencies
  - *Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission*
  - *City of Capitola*
- Design Consultant - *RRM Design Group*
- Environmental Consultant – *Harris & Associates Team*



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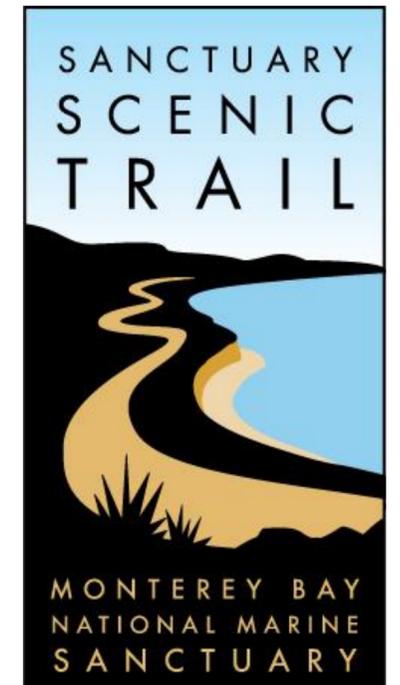
# PROJECT OVERVIEW



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

# BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

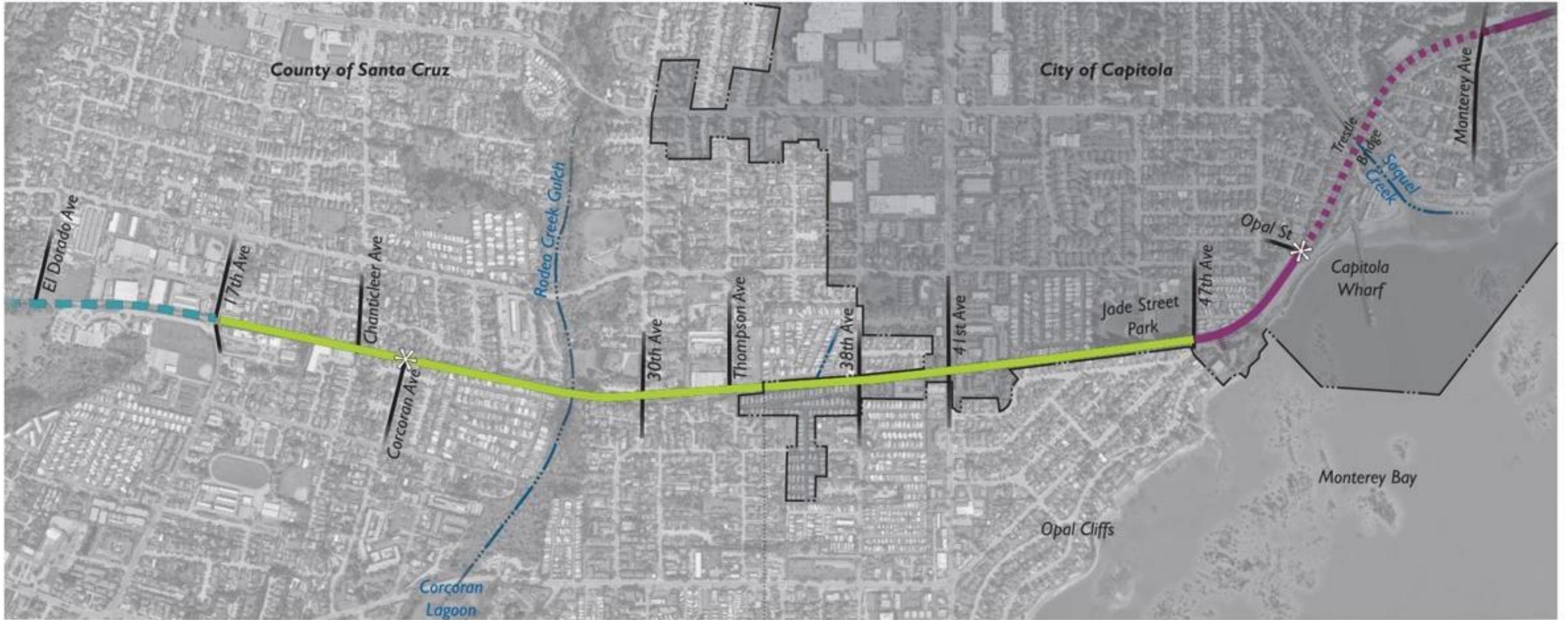
- Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST)
  - Trail Master Plan & Programmatic EIR
  - 50-mile trail network
  - Connects to Monterey County
  - 32-mile Coastal Rail Trail/Santa Cruz Branch Line
  - Adopted by County of Santa Cruz in 2014



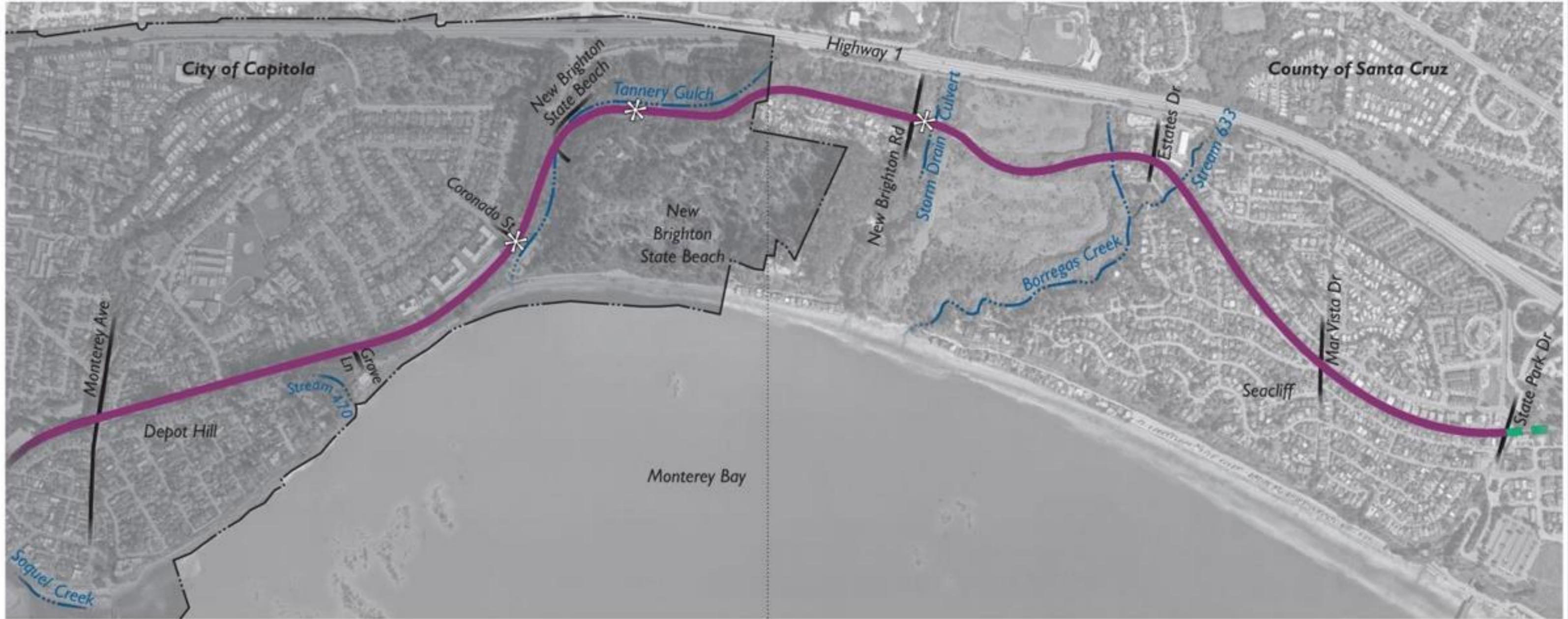
# The Coastal Rail Trail



# SEGMENT 10 ALIGNMENT



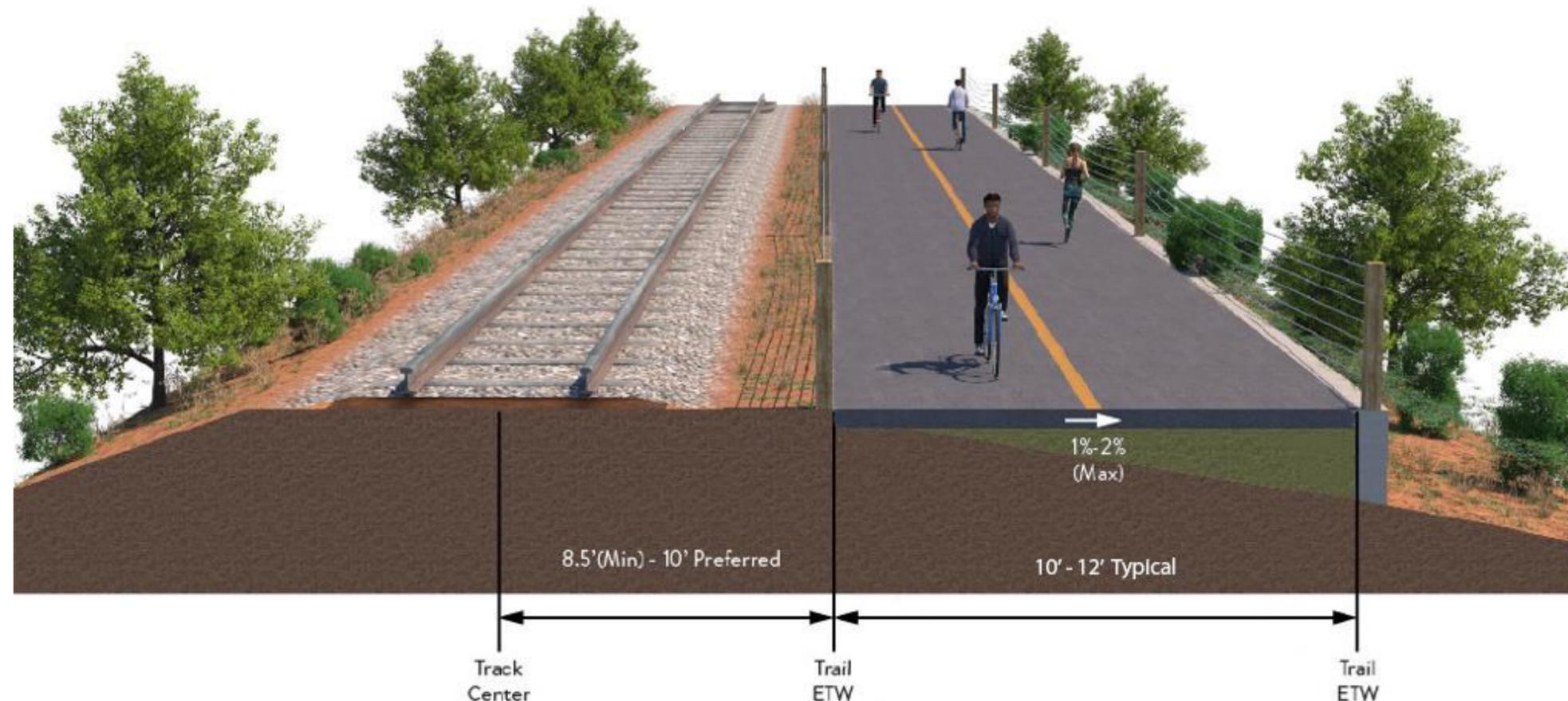
# SEGMENT 11 ALIGNMENT





# Ultimate Trail Configuration (Trail next to Rail Line)

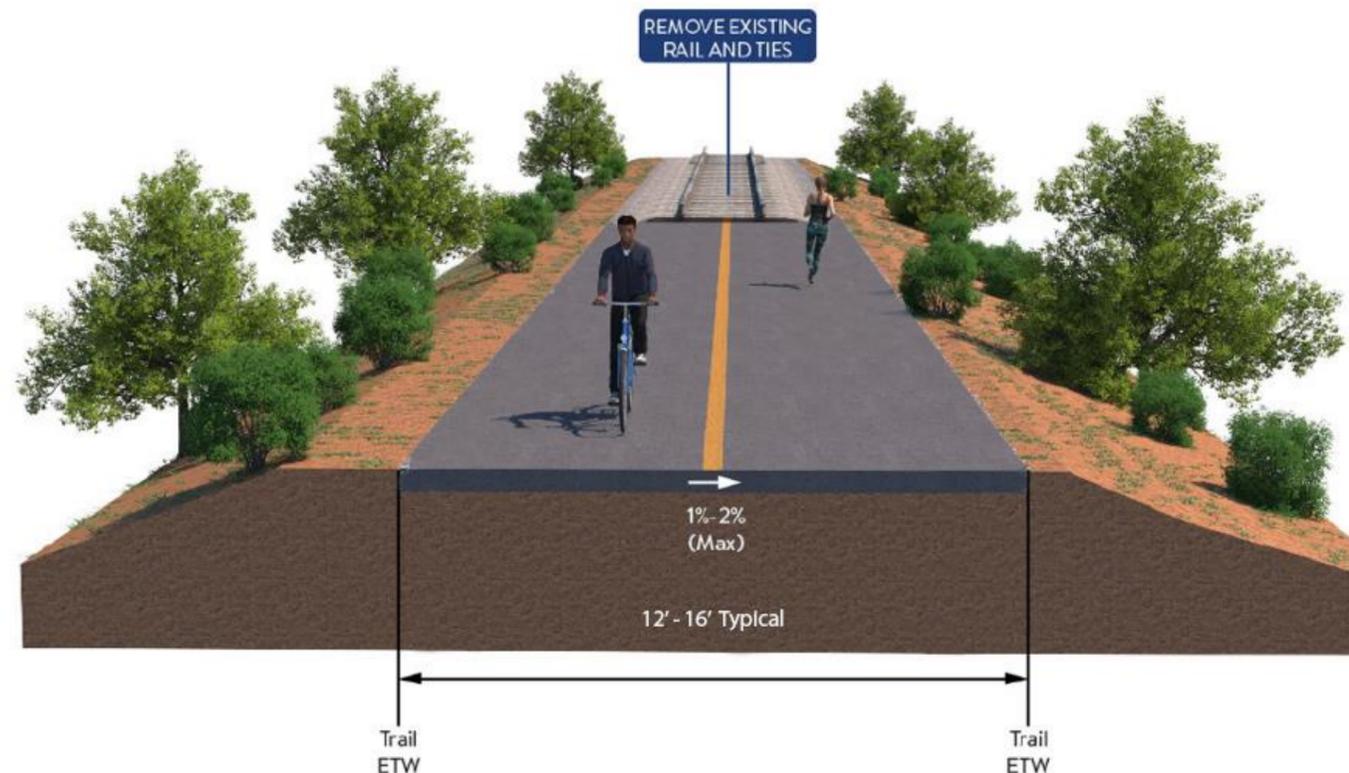
- Generally 12' wide. 4.2 miles long.
- Segment 10: Inland side of railroad tracks
- Segment 11: Coastal side of railroad tracks, except for Mar Vista Drive to State Park Drive



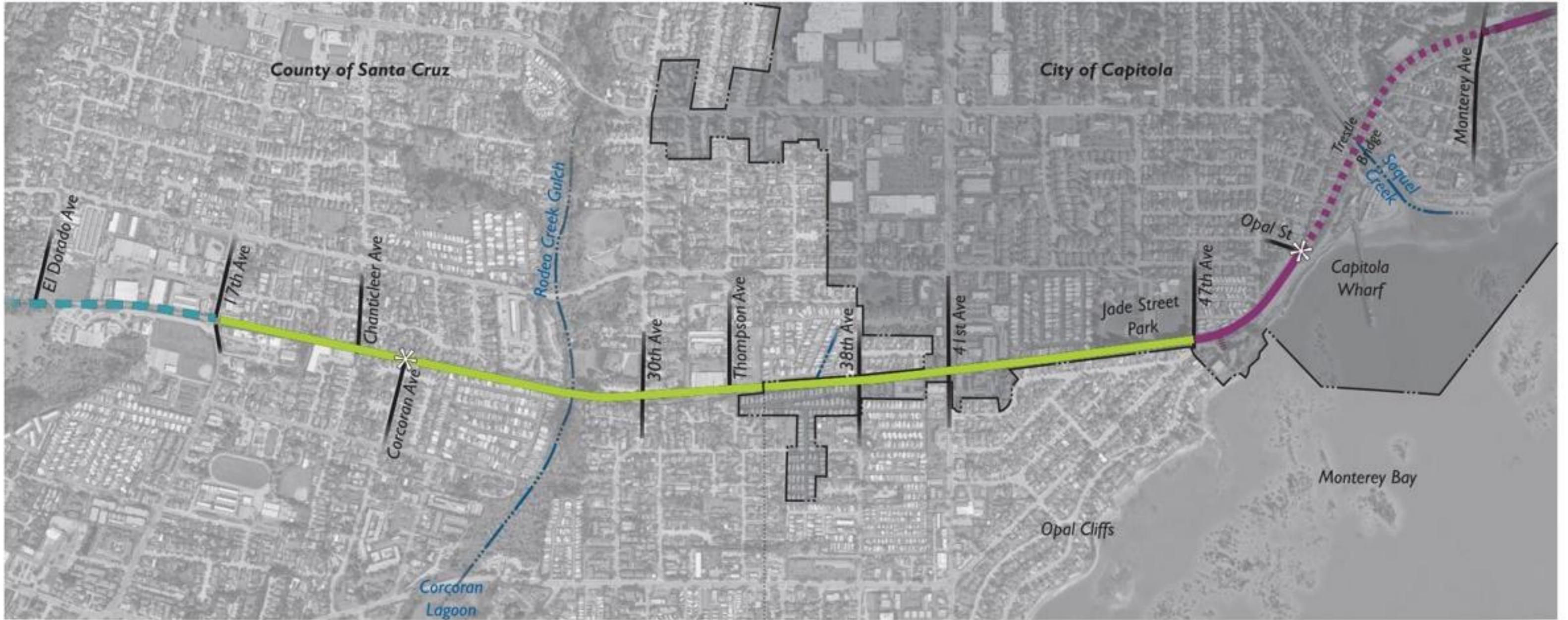


# Optional Interim Trail (Trail on the Rail Line)

- Generally 16 feet wide, 4.7 miles long
- Three phases, requires railbanking
  - Part 1. Remove rail and construct Interim Trail on centerline
  - Part 2. Remove Interim Trail and rebuild rail line
  - Part 3. Construct Ultimate Trail Configuration (12 feet wide, 4.2 miles long)



# SEGMENT 10 ALIGNMENT



# CAPITOLA VILLAGE

## Ultimate Trail Configuration

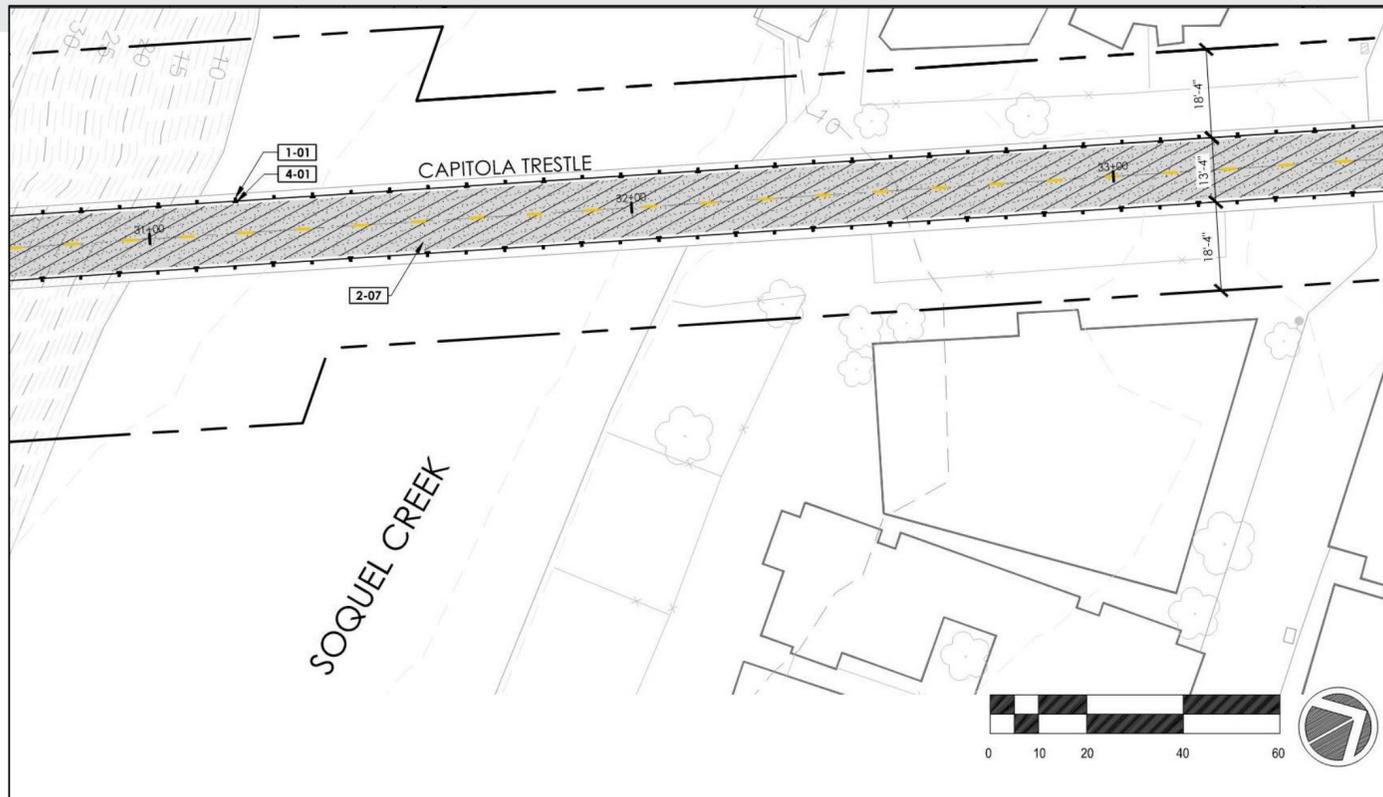
- Trail users directed to on-street bike lanes and sidewalks
- Wayfinding directional signage
- Green pavement paint and restriping for safety
- Trestle replacement part of separate RTC project



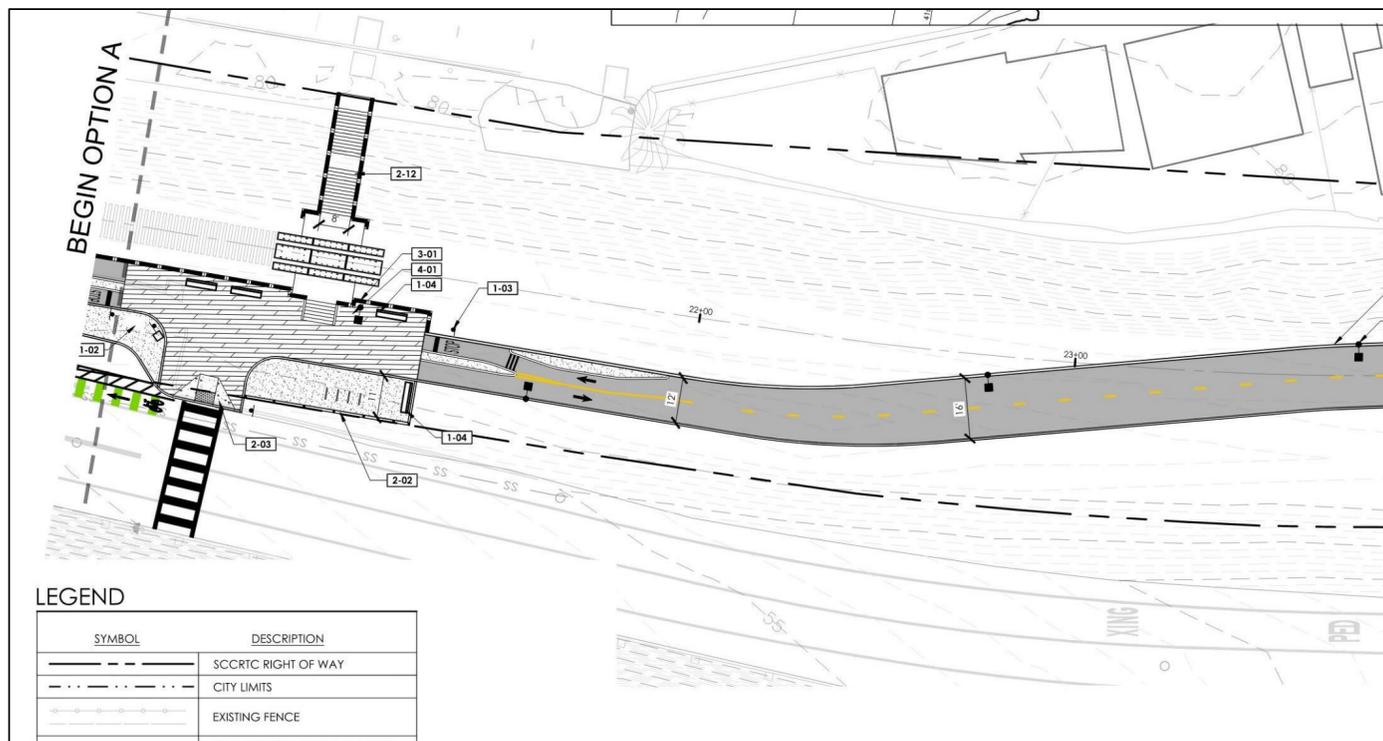
# CAPITOLA TRESTLE

## Interim Trail & Design Option A

- Trail users remain on rail line alignment over Capitola Trestle
- Removal of tracks
- Requires structural repairs to Trestle and conversion to trail use

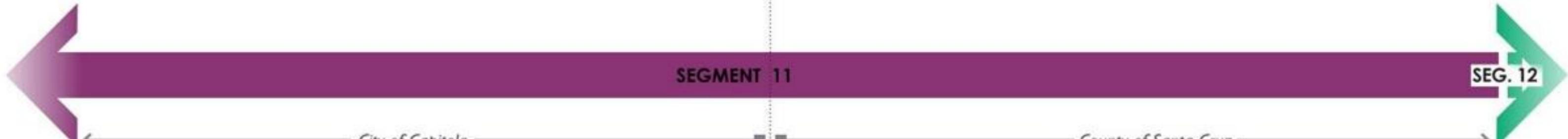
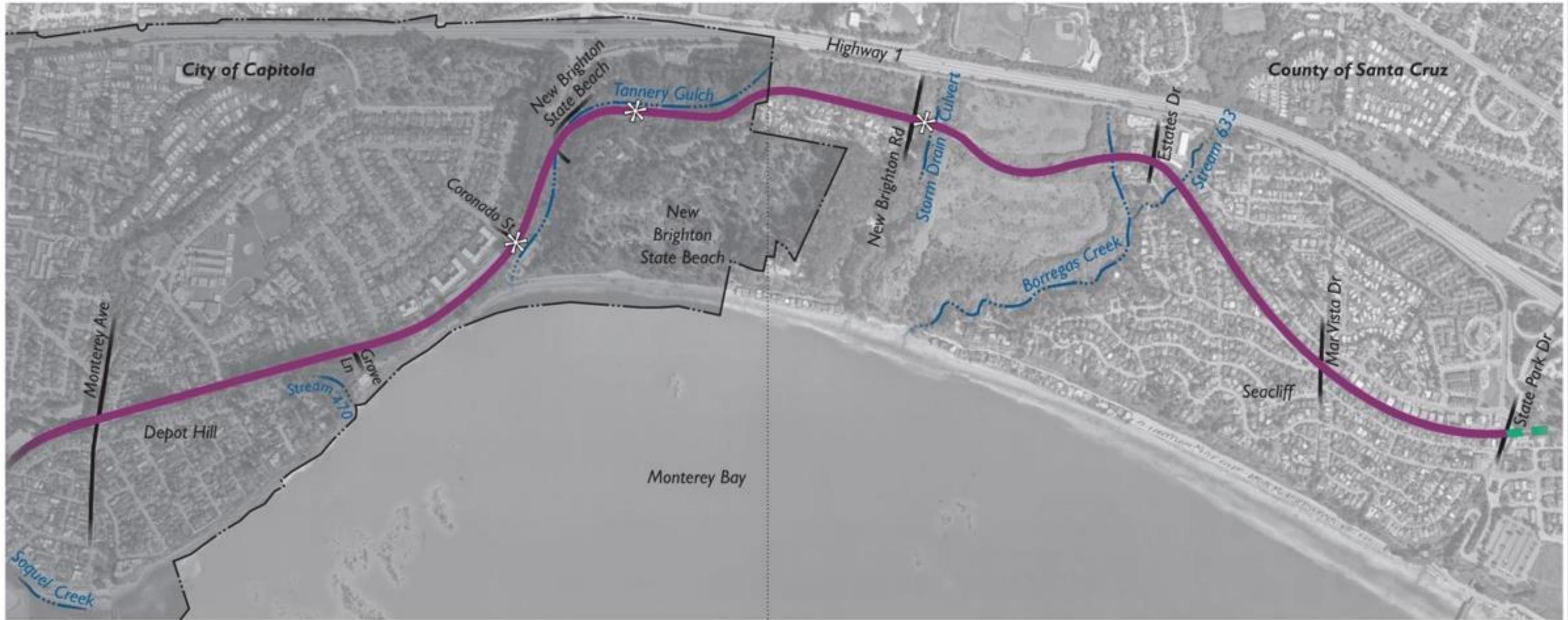


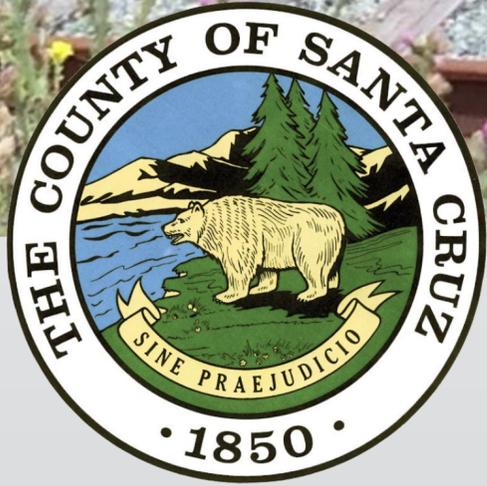
### Interim Trail & Design Option A



### Design Option A

# SEGMENT 11 ALIGNMENT





# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## PUBLIC OUTREACH TO DATE

- October 12, 2021 – Rio Del Mar Improvement Association
- November 17, 2021 – NOP Scoping Meeting
- January 13, 2022 – Mid County Democrats
- February 17, 2022 – RTC Transportation Policy Workshop
- April 6, 2022 – Virtual Schematic Design Open House
- April 11, 2022 – RTC Bicycle Advisory Committee
- April 12, 2022 – RTC Elderly and Disabled Technical Advisory Committee
- April 13, 2022 – In-person Schematic Design Open House
- April 19, 2022 – Online survey posted for 60 days to allow the public to comment on the design
- May 17, 2022 – Walk for Wellness Live Oak event
- May 19, 2022 – Bike and Walk to School Day at Live Oak Elementary
- May 19, 2022 – Boys & Girls Club Live Oak End of Year event
- May 23, 2022 – Live Oak Resource Center Food Distribution event
- May 24, 2022 – Family Drop-In Day at Chanticleer Park
- May 27, 2022 – Walk for Wellness Capitola event
- June 6, 2022 – Parks and Recreation Commission
- March 14, 2023 – Seacliff Improvement Association
- March 23, 2023 – Capitola City Council
- October 26, 2023 – Capitola City Council



# CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS?

- Online viewers use the Q&A function
- Focus on **clarifying** questions regarding the Project overview
- Questions regarding the Draft EIR shall be submitted as comments by December 15. **Reponses will be included in the Final EIR.**



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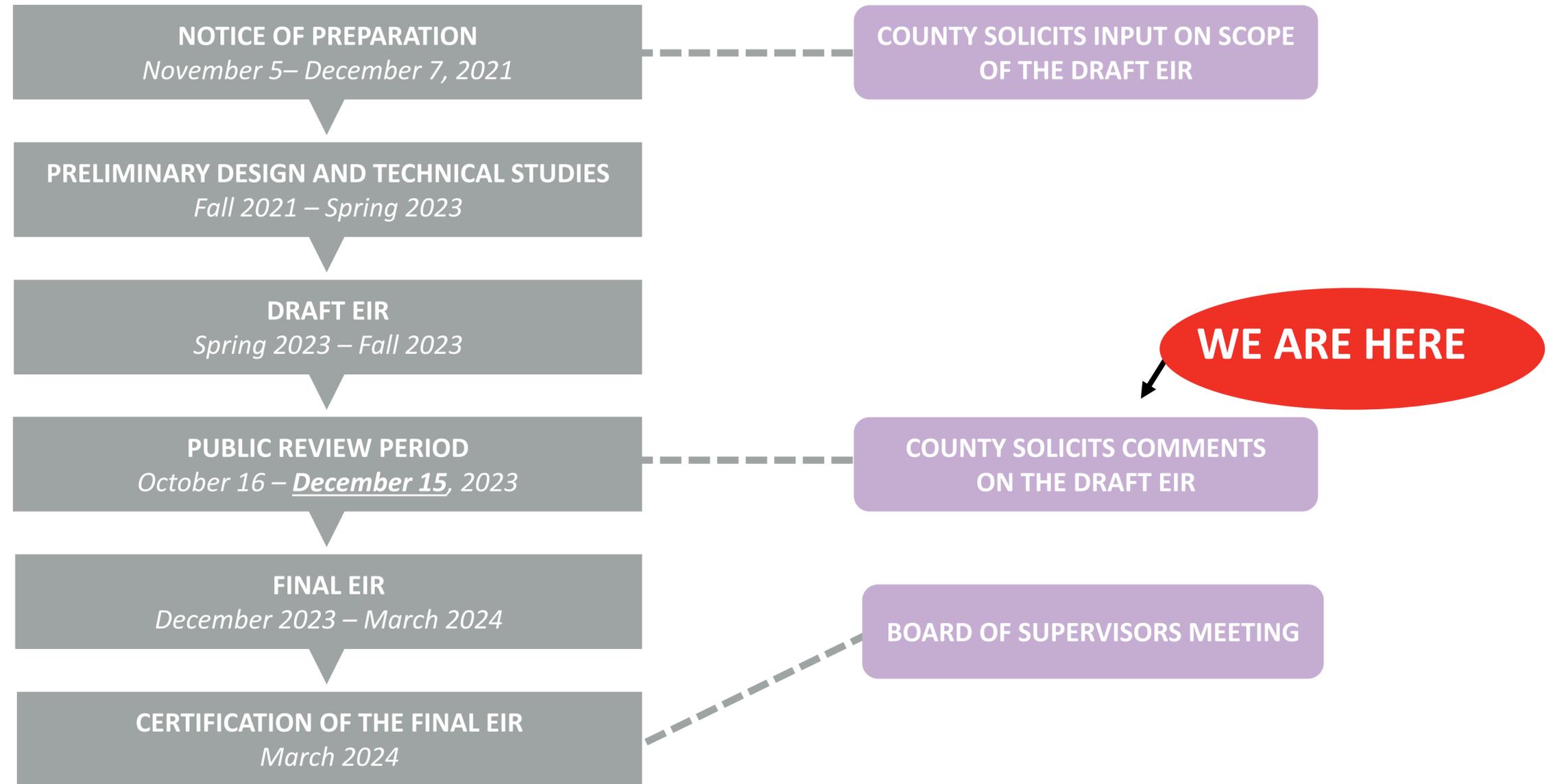
# ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS





# ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

## THE EIR PROCESS



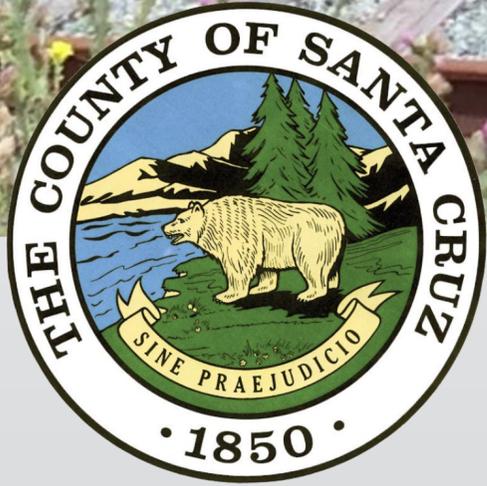


# SUMMARY OF DRAFT EIR

**Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11**  
Draft Environmental Impact Report  
State Clearinghouse #2021110080



**County of Santa Cruz**  
October 2023



## SUMMARY OF DRAFT EIR

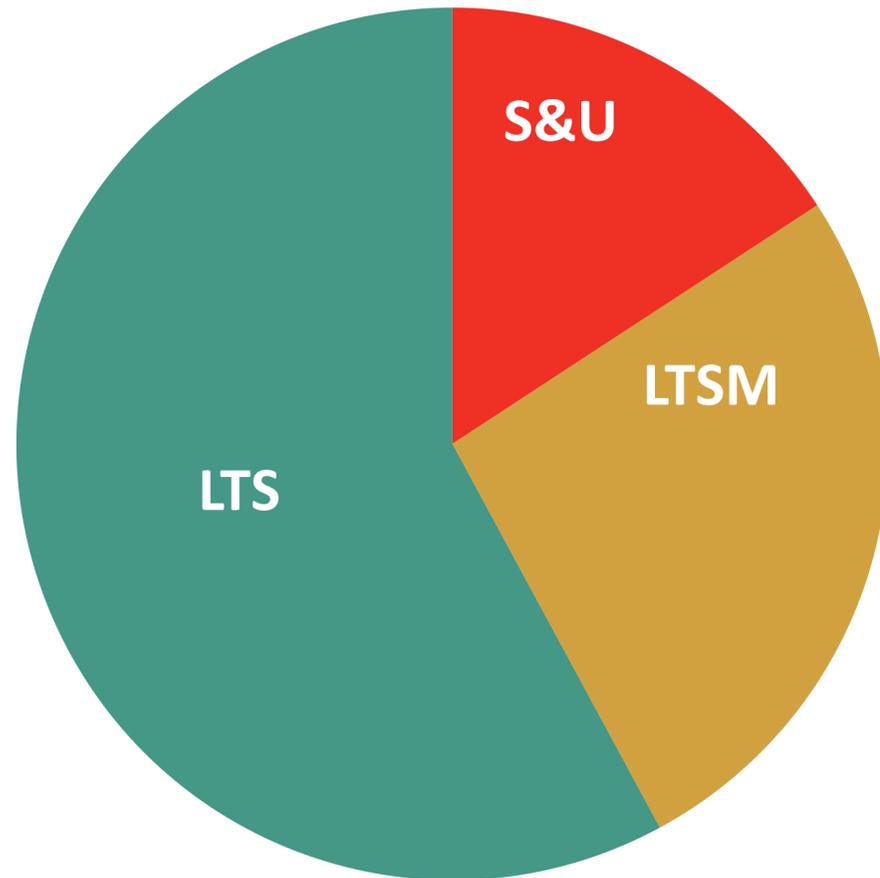
# PROPOSED PROJECT

## Ultimate Trail Configuration (Trail next to Rail Line)

### Optional Interim Trail (Trail on the Rail Line)

- Part 1. Remove tracks/ties. Construct 16-foot-wide Interim Trail on centerline
- Part 2. Remove Interim Trail and rebuild rail line
- Part 3. Construct 12-foot-wide Ultimate Trail Configuration

# EIR TOPICS AND IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

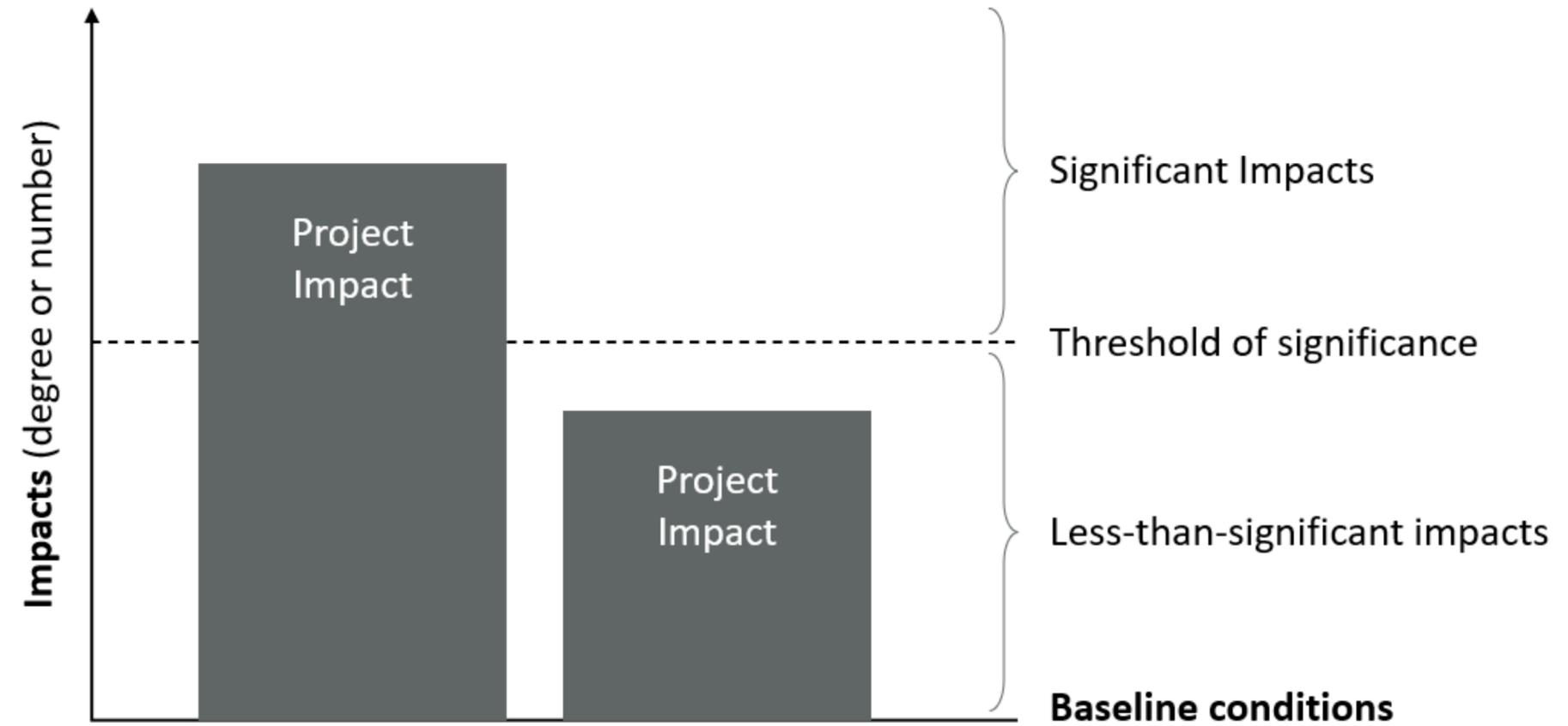


1. **Aesthetics**
2. **Biological Resources**
3. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**
4. **Cultural Resources**
5. **Geology/Soils**
6. **Hazards/Hazardous Materials**
7. **Noise**
8. **Tribal Cultural Resources**
9. **Agricultural Resources**
10. **Air Quality**
11. **Energy**
12. **Hydrology/Water Quality**
13. **Land Use/Planning**
14. **Mineral Resources**
15. **Population/Housing**
16. **Public Services**
17. **Recreation**
18. **Transportation**
19. **Utilities/Service Systems**
20. **Wildfire**



# SUMMARY OF DRAFT EIR

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS





# SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS



Ultimate Trail Configuration

## 48 Potential Impacts

- 29 LTS
- 13 LTSM
- 6 S&U
  - Aesthetics (2)
  - Biological Resources (3)
  - Greenhouse Gas Emissions (1)



Optional Interim Trail

## 48 Potential Impacts

- 28 LTS
- 14 LTSM
  - MM CR-1, MM HAZ-1c
- 6 S&U
  - Aesthetics (2)
  - Biological Resources (3)
  - Greenhouse Gas Emissions (1)

SUMMARY OF  
DRAFT EIR

LTS = Less than Significant, LTSM = Less than Significant with Mitigation, S&U = Significant & Unavoidable



# SIGNIFICANT & UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS



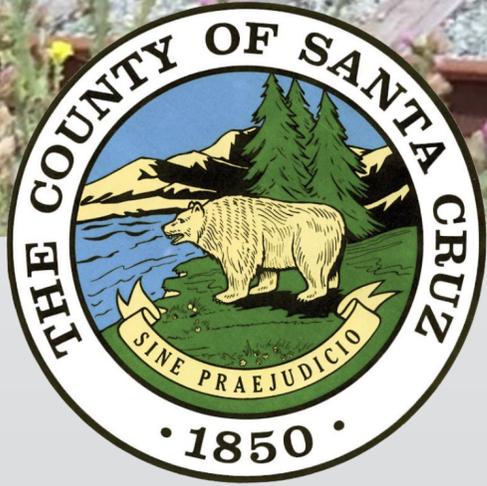
**Aesthetics/Visual Resources (2)**



**Biological Resources (3)**



**Greenhouse Gas Emissions (1)**



## SUMMARY OF DRAFT EIR

# BENEFICIAL EFFECTS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Aesthetics</b>                           | Facilitate public access to scenic vistas  |
| <b>Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b> | Reduce vehicle emissions   |
| <b>Land Use</b>                             | Increase connectivity across established communities   |
| <b>Public Safety &amp; Services</b>         | Improve access to parks/rec facilities and to rail corridor for emergency response           |
| <b>Transportation</b>                       | Improve circulation and safety by providing multi-use trail separated from vehicular traffic |

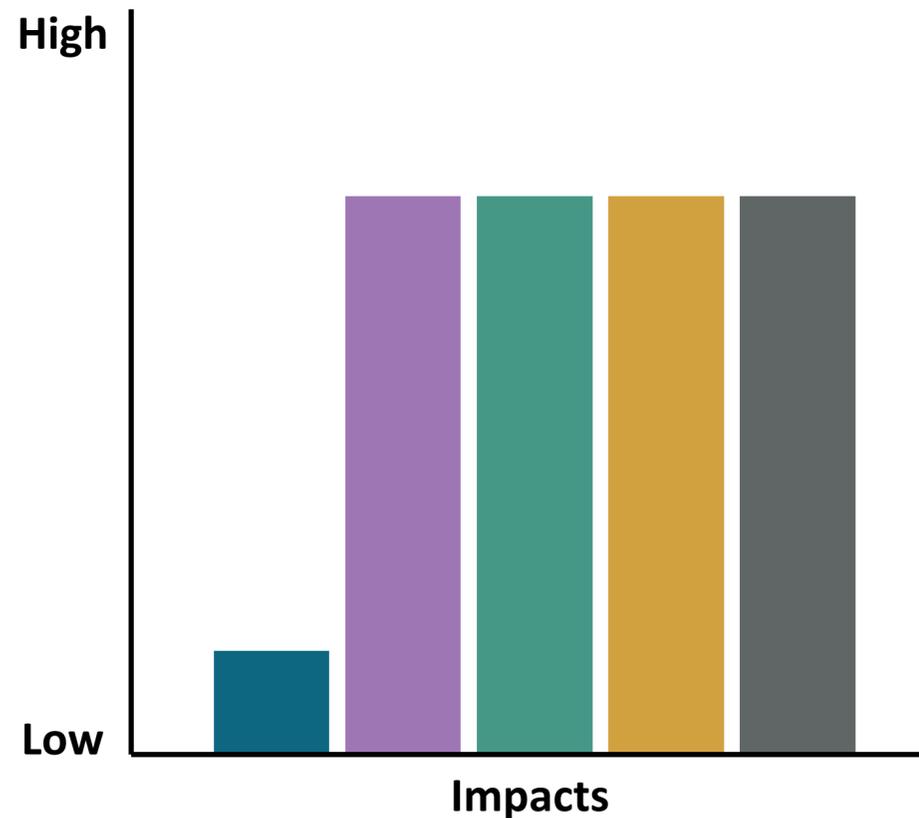
# PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

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- **Alternative 1: Trail Only**
  - 16 feet wide on the rail line
  - Permanent removal of rail
- **Alternative 2: Rail with Trail on Opposite Side of Tracks**
  - 12 feet wide
- **Alternative 3: No Project**

# COMPARING IMPACTS



## Least Impacts

- Alternative 3: No Project

## Similar Impacts

- Ultimate Trail Configuration (Trail next to Rail Line)
- Optional Interim Trail (Trail on Rail Line)
- Alternative 1: Trail Only
- Alternative 2: Rail with Trail on Opposite Side of Tracks



# COMPARING TREE REMOVAL

|               | Proposed Project             |  | Project Alternatives       |  |
|---------------|------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
|               | Ultimate Trail Configuration | Optional Interim Trail   | Alternative 1 (Trail Only) | Alternative 2 (Trail on Opposite Side of Tracks) |
| Trail Width   | 12 feet                      | 16 feet  | 16 feet                    | 12 feet  |
| Trees Removed | 803 trees                    | 957 trees<br>Part 1: 288 trees<br>Part 2: 0 trees<br>Part 3: 669 trees | 288 trees                  | 1,000 trees                                      |

# COMPARED TO ULTIMATE TRAIL CONFIGURATION:

## More or Less Impacts

|   |  <br>Aesthetics<br>Biological Resources<br>Greenhouse Gas | <br>Construction-Related<br>Impacts* |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Optional Interim Trail (Trail on the Rail Line)</b>            | <b>More</b>   | <b>More</b>   |
| <b>Alternative 1 (Trail Only)</b>                                 | <b>Less</b>   | <b>More</b>   |
| <b>Alternative 2 (Rail with Trail on Opposite Side of Tracks)</b> | <b>More</b>   | <b>More</b>   |

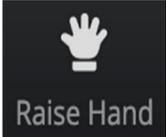
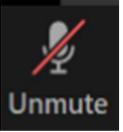
\*Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Geology/Soils, Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Noise, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities (Solid Waste)

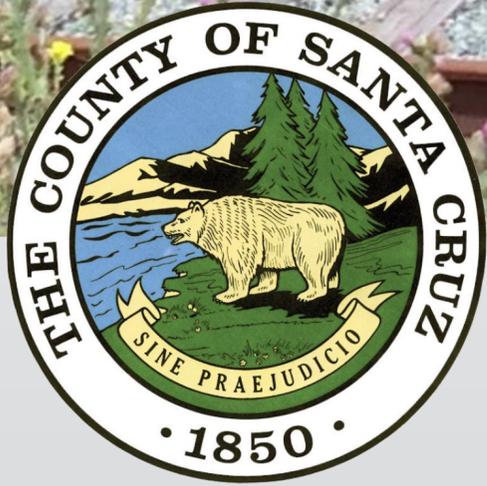
# ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR

| <b>Measure</b>  | <b>Environmentally Superior</b> | <b>Reason</b>           |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Minimizing Significant and Unavoidable Project Impacts</b> | Alternative 1 (Trail Only)      | Less tree removal       |
| <b>Environmentally Superior for Most Resource Topics</b>      | Ultimate Trail Configuration    | Less ground disturbance |



# VERBAL COMMENTS ON DRAFT EIR

- Recorded, transcribed, and responded to in Final EIR
- Raise your hand on zoom toolbar  then  when called on
- When called, clearly state your first and last name
- **2 minutes** (submit written comments if need more time)
- Responses to verbal & written comments will be in Final EIR
- Comments should focus on the **sufficiency of the Draft EIR** in analyzing potential impacts on the environment



# SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS ON DRAFT EIR

- Submit written comments to Rob Tidmore by mail or email:

Rob Tidmore, Project Manager  
County of Santa Cruz Parks Department,  
979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

or

[RailTrail@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:RailTrail@santacruzcountyca.gov)

- Written comments due: **Friday, December 15, 2023 @ 5:00 PM**