

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
INITIAL STUDY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

PROJECT NUMBER: WO #1025
CP# 15-51

PROJECT NAME: San Pablo Dam Road Sidewalk Project – Appian to Clark
PREPARED BY: Alex Nattkemper DATE: January 6, 2016
APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ☒ **Categorical Exemption** [**Class 1(c)**]
☐ Environmental Impact Report Required
- ☐ Negative Declaration
☐ Conditional Negative Declaration

The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The recommendation is based on the following: The project consists of minor alteration of existing public facilities, involving negligible expansion of use beyond that previously existing pursuant to section 15301(c) of the CEQA guidelines. The project will not result in the removal of any scenic resource.

What changes to the project would mitigate the identified impacts: N/A

USGS Quad Sheet: Richmond	Base Map Sheet #: J-6	Parcel #: N/A
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GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. **Location:** The project is located in west Contra Costa County in the unincorporated community of El Sobrante [Figures 1-3].

2. **Project Description:** The purpose of this project is to improve pedestrian access and safety on a segment of San Pablo Dam Road, which is a principal arterial that runs through the heart of El Sobrante. Currently, pedestrian infrastructure on San Pablo Dam Road east of Appian Way has multiple gaps which force pedestrians to walk in the parking lane or to cross the street midblock in order to walk on the opposite side of the street. The proposed project will fill four sidewalk gaps on San Pablo Dam Road from Appian Way to Clark Road, making the area more pedestrian friendly.

Gap 1 is located on the south side of San Pablo Dam Road, from 450 feet east of Appian Way to 620 feet east of Appian Way. Gap 1 will include construction of approximately 170 feet of curb, gutter and five foot wide sidewalk, as well as one driveway conform. Non-native vegetation and fencing will be removed to accommodate the proposed sidewalk. Gap 2 is located on the north side of San Pablo Dam Road, from Milton Drive to 230 feet east of Milton Drive. Gap 2 will include construction of approximately 230 feet of curb, gutter, and five foot wide sidewalk, as well as four driveway conforms. Gap 3 is located on the south side of San Pablo Dam Road, from 500 feet west of Clark Road to 300 feet west of Clark Road. Gap 3 will include construction of approximately 200 feet of curb, gutter, and five foot wide sidewalk, as well as two driveway conforms. Gap 4 is located on the north side of San Pablo Dam Road, from 820 feet west of Clark Road to Clark Road. Gap 4 will include construction of approximately 820 feet of curb, gutter, and five foot wide sidewalk, as well as thirteen driveway conforms.

Appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to protect storm drain inlets. One lane will be open for traffic in both directions during construction activities. Emergency vehicles will have access at all times. Real property transactions, including right-of-way acquisitions and temporary construction easements from adjacent properties, may be necessary in support of this project. Tree and shrubbery trimming may be necessary throughout the project area and some limited removal of ornamental shrubs and trees may be required. In order to minimize damage to trees, any roots exposed during construction activities will be clean cut. Utility poles, fencing, decorative frontage walls, mailboxes and drainage infrastructure will be removed, relocated or modified to accommodate the proposed sidewalk. On-street parking may be prohibited along short segments of curb in order to avoid removal of fences, walls, or trees. Driveways of fronting property owners will be temporarily closed during construction, but advance warning of the project construction schedule will be provided to property owners.

3. **Does it appear that any feature of the project will generate significant public concern?**
☐ Yes ☒ **No** ☐ maybe (Nature of concern):

4. **Will the project require approval or permits by other than a County agency?**
☐ Yes ☒ **No**

5. **Is the project within the Sphere of Influence of any city?** City of Richmond