

Exhibit E Environmental and Social Justice Statement



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Exhibit E

Environmental and Social Justice Statement

COMMENT OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA REGARDING THE CPUC ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN

The County of Santa Barbara (County) submits this comment regarding the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan relative to the County's Application to construct a new public grade separation, the Paradiso del Mare Overpass, over the existing track of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), Santa Barbara Subdivision Line, in the County of Santa Babara.

As background, the Application is an implementation item of the California Coastal Trail bounded by the UPRR on the north, the coastal bluff on the south, Eagle Cayon on the east, and the Coastal Estate development envelops on the west (Project). The Project involves the construction of a new parking lot for up to 20 vehicles on the north side of UPRR and a 1.1-mile segment of the California Coastal Trail along the east-west length of the coastal lot. The trail would be 18 feet wide, constructed of aggregate base, and include 4-foot-wide shoulders. The trail would increase pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle safety and promote active modes of transportation. Part of the Project includes the construction of a grade separation over existing UPRR tracks which is the subject of the Application. The grade separation would be utilized by pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists.

As summarized below, both the Application and the Project are consistent with the CPUC's Action Plan and vision to advance equity in its programs and policies for Environmental Justice and Social Justice (ESJ) Communities.

Goal 1: Consistently Integrate Equity and Access Considerations Throughout CPUC Regulatory Activities.

The Application and Project are consistent with and advanced this goal. The Project would increase accessibility and mobility within the region for all people through the provision of non-motorized active transportation option and improvement of linkages to the overall transportation system. None of the anticipated Project benefits would be denied to ESJ communities. The Project coordinated with various local agencies and was open to public comment during the environmental review and planning phase. The County of Santa Barbara, as the lead agency under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), prepared the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Project, and it was determined that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment. The EIR was certified by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors on February 4, 2014.

Goal 2: Increase Investment in Clean Energy Resources to Benefit ESJ Communities, Especially to Improve Local Air Quality and Public Health.

The Application and Project are consistent with and advanced this goal. The Project's multi-use trail would be used by pedestrians, equestrians, and bicyclists for recreational activities and provides for alternative modes of transportation. The non-motorized uses of the trail would help improve local air quality and the recreational uses promote public health.

Goal 3: Strive to Improve Access to High-Quality Water, Communications, and Transportation Services for ESJ Communities.

The Application and Project are consistent with and advanced this goal. The alignment of the Project would extend across the proposed Paradiso del Mare property to the coastal trail segment. The Project would create a means for pedestrians to travel between communities in Goleta and Gaviota using alternative multimodal options.

Goal 4: Increase Climate Resiliency in ESJ Communities.

The Application and Project are consistent with and advanced this goal. The Project would provide sustainability and climate resiliency by offering transportation efficiencies. The

Project aims to encourage alternative methods of transportation which will reduce emissions from motorized vehicles.

Goal 5: Enhance Outreach and Public Participation Opportunities for ESJ Communities to Meaningfully Participate in the CPUC’s Decision-Making Process and Benefit from CPUC Programs.

The Application and Project are consistent with and advanced this goal. During the Project’s environmental phase, the public had the opportunity to make any comments related to the project. Community participation opportunities for ESJ communities will continue throughout the project. The goal of the Project is to create safer conditions for the community, and create healthier living conditions for local communities.

Goal 6: Enhance Enforcement to Ensure Safety and Consumer Protection for All, Especially for ESJ Communities.

The Application and Project are consistent with and advanced this goal. One of the primary goals of the Project and the construction of the UPRR overhead structure is to promote public safety by separating trail users from any conflicts with the existing railroad. The Project would address ongoing safety hazards created by unauthorized at-grade railroad crossing by individuals accessing a nearby surf spot.

Goal 7: Promote High Road Career Paths and Economic Opportunity for Residents of ESJ Communities.

The Application and Project are consistent with and do not inhibit this goal.

Goal 8: Improve Training and Staff Development Related to Environmental and Social Justice Issues within the CPUC’s Jurisdiction.

The Application and Project are consistent with and do not inhibit this goal.

Goal 9: Monitor the CPUC’s Environmental and Social Justice efforts to Evaluate how they are Achieving their Objectives.

The Application and Project are consistent with and do not inhibit this goal.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed *Jill Van Wie*

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