

Notice of Preparation





NOTICE OF PREPARATION

August 3, 2006

To:
Reviewing Agencies and Organizations

From:
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Environmental Planning
3331 N 1st Street, Building B
San Jose, CA 95134

SUBJECT: BART Extension Project
SCH# 2002022004

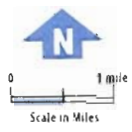
The Notice of Preparation for the BART Extension Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Report was circulated July 2006. Inadvertently, the referenced Exhibit 1 was not included. This exhibit is provided on the back of this transmittal. The comment period on the Notice of Preparation has been extended until September 7, 2006 to provide sufficient review time. If you have any questions, please contact me at (408) 321-5789.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom W. Fitzwater', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas W. Fitzwater, AICP
Manager, Environmental Resources Planning

J:\Tom Folder\SVRT SEIR\NOP exhibit ltr. 832006.doc



Legend 1:

- Proposed Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) Train Station
- Future BART Station Location
- Proposed BART Station
- BART Intermodal Transfer Center
- Existing & Future Key VTA Light Rail Transit (LRT) Stations
- Caltrain Station
- ACE or Caltrain Intermodal Transfer Center
- San Jose International Airport People Mover
- BART Extension to Warm Springs

Legend 2:

- At Grade (Surface/Ground Level)
- Retained Fill or Aerial
- Retained Cut (Trench)
- Downtown San Jose BART Tunnel
- Alignment Design Option
- Proposed BART Operations & Maintenance Facility

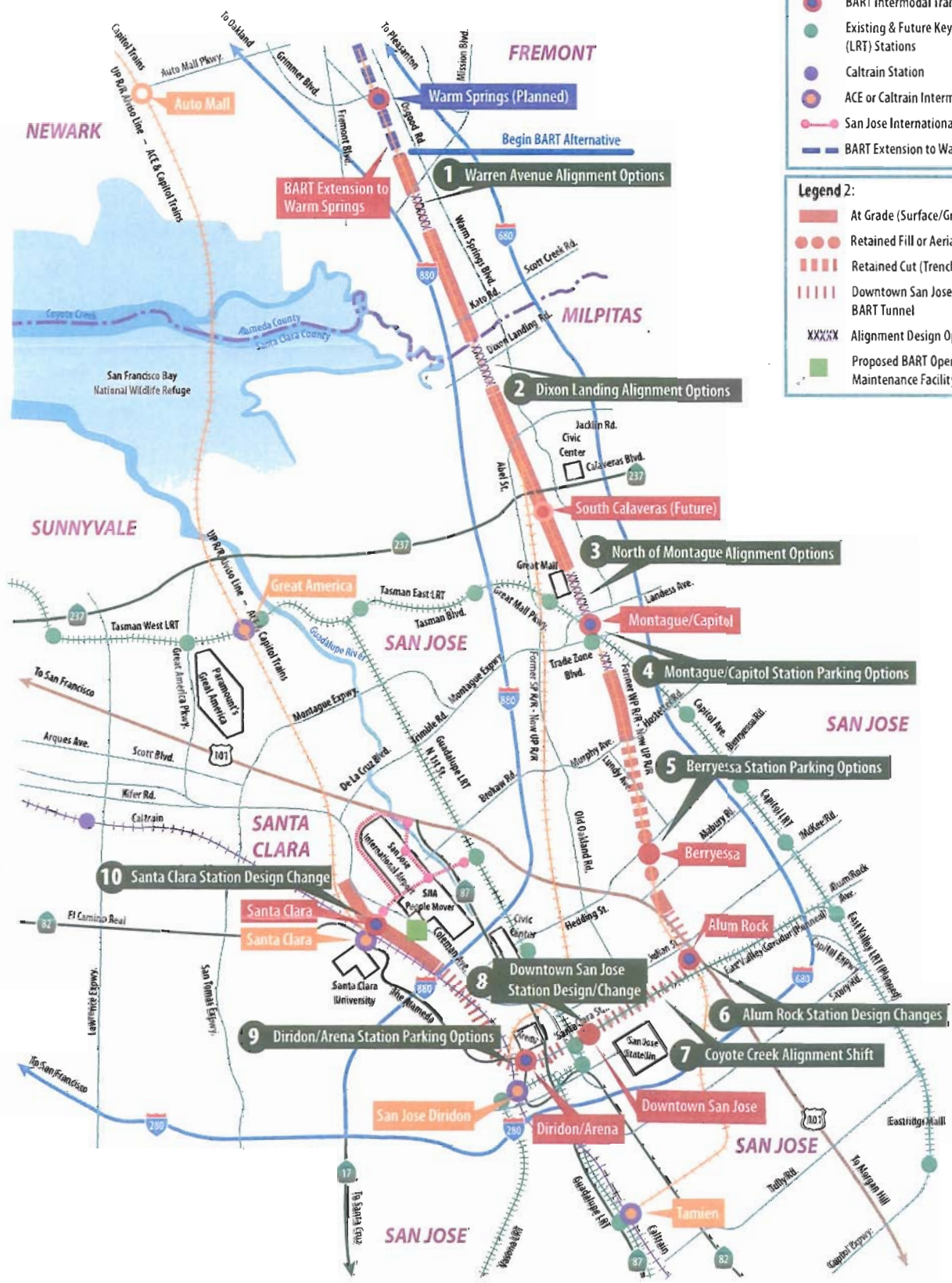


EXHIBIT I. MAJOR PROJECT CHANGES SINCE FEIR
NUMBERED 1 - 10



NOTICE OF PREPARATION

July 21, 2006

To:

From:

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Environmental Planning
3331 N 1st Street, Building B
San Jose, CA 95134

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) will be the Lead Agency and will prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (Draft SEIR) for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. The Draft SEIR will supplement the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) that was certified by the VTA Board of Directors on December 9, 2004. Your agency will need to use the FEIR and SEIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, overview, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study [] is [x] is not attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to Tom Fitzwater at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: BART Extension Project (formerly named the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Corridor -- BART Extension to Milpitas, San Jose and Santa Clara)

Project Applicant, if any: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

Project Description: See attachment

Date: 7/21/2006

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Name: Thomas W. Fitzwater, AICP
Title: Environmental Resources Planning Manager
Telephone: (408) 321-5789

Reference: California Cod of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Section 15082(a), 15103, 15375

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION
ATTACHMENT**

**Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report
BART Extension Project**

Lead Agency: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The BART Extension Project, formerly named the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Corridor (SVRTC) Project, consists of a 16.1-mile extension of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system from the planned Warm Springs Station in Fremont through Milpitas and San Jose to Santa Clara. See Exhibit 1.

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) intends to prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (Draft SEIR) for the BART Extension Project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Draft SEIR will evaluate the proposed project design changes and changes to the regulatory and environmental settings that have occurred since the certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) in December 2004. Generally, the changes include: (1) vertical and horizontal alignment changes; (2) station consolidation in Downtown San Jose; (3) revised station designs and configurations; (4) additional project information; (5) changes in the existing project setting; (6) revised forecast year of 2030; and (7) project schedule changes.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS BACKGROUND

In February 2002, VTA initiated the environmental process by conducting scoping meetings for the SVRTC Project. In March 2004, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/DEIR) was released for public review in accordance with state and federal law. The FEIR was certified by the VTA Board of Directors on December 9, 2004. Following certification of the FEIR, project design continued through the preliminary engineering phase. Alterations and refinements to the project were proposed to reduce environmental concerns, improve operations, incorporate new data, or reduce costs. These proposed changes to the certified project have made it necessary to prepare a SEIR.

The federal environmental document, the DEIS, continues to be processed separately and is scheduled to be completed in 2008.

PROBABLE EFFECTS

The purpose of the SEIR is to fully disclose the environmental consequences of the proposed changes described above. The SEIR will explore the extent to which the changes result in environmental impacts and will discuss actions to reduce or eliminate such impacts. Environmental issues to be examined in the SEIR include: the physical environment (air quality; biological resources and wetlands; electromagnetic fields; energy; geology, soils, and seismicity; hazardous materials; noise and vibration; utilities; visual quality and aesthetics; water resources, water quality, and floodplains); the social environment (community services and facilities; land use; security and system safety; socioeconomics); transportation and transit, including parking, pedestrians, bicycles, and traffic; and cultural and historic

resources. Impacts resulting from the project and setting changes will be identified for both the long-term operation of the project and the construction period. The proposed evaluation criteria include transportation, environmental, social, and economic measures, as required by current state (CEQA) environmental laws. To ensure that the full range of issues are addressed and all significant impacts identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning these issues should be directed to VTA as noted below.

COMMENT DUE DATE:

Written scoping comments must be received no later than 30 days after receipt of this notice and must be faxed to (408) 321-5787 or sent to:

VTA

Thomas W. Fitzwater, Environmental Resources Planning Manager
3331 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95134-1927

SCOPING MEETINGS:

Scoping will continue through correspondence and discussions with interested persons; organizations; federal, state and local agencies; and through public meetings. Public scoping meetings will be held on:

August 8, 2006, Tuesday, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Milpitas Community Center, Main Auditorium, 457 E. Calaveras Boulevard in Milpitas, CA

August 14, 2006, Monday, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the City of Santa Clara Police Department, Community Meeting Room, 601 El Camino Real in Santa Clara, CA;

August 15, 2006, Tuesday, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Portuguese Community Center, Meeting Room, 1115 E. Santa Clara Street in San Jose, CA.

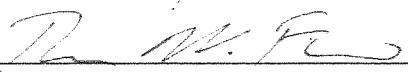
August 21, 2006, Monday, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the City of San Jose City Hall, Committee Meeting Rooms W 118 and 119, 200 E. Santa Clara Street in San Jose, CA.

The modifications to the project design and changes to the regulatory and environmental settings will be presented at these meetings. Scoping material will be available at the meetings. The buildings used for the scoping meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities. Any individual who requires special assistance, such as a sign language interpreter, to participate in a scoping meeting should contact VTA Community Outreach at (408) 321-7575 or TDD only at (408) 321-2330.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Thomas Fitzwater, VTA, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95134-1927, phone (408) 321-5789, fax (408) 321-5787. Mr. Fitzwater should also be contacted to be placed on the project mailing list and to receive additional information about the project. People with special needs should contact VTA Community Outreach at (408) 321-7575 or TDD only at (408) 321-2330.

Issued on: July 21, 2006.



Thomas W. Fitzwater, AICP
Environmental Resources Planning Manager