

# **Appendix A**

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## Notice of Preparation





**NOTICE OF PREPARATION**

January, 30, 2015

**To:**  
Reviewing Agencies and Organizations

**From:**  
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority  
Environmental Programs and Resources  
Management  
3331 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Building B-2  
San Jose, CA 95134

**SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for VTA's BART Silicon Valley – Phase II Extension Project**

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), as the lead agency, will prepare a 3<sup>rd</sup> Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency regarding the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. The 3<sup>rd</sup> SEIR will supplement the Final EIR, the 1<sup>st</sup> Final SEIR, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Final SEIR which were certified by the VTA Board of Directors on December 9, 2004; June 7, 2007; and March 3, 2011, respectively. Your agency will need to use the Final EIR, 1<sup>st</sup> Final SEIR, and 3<sup>rd</sup> SEIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approvals for the project.

The project description, location, overview, and potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the initial study  is  is not attached.

Because of 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 Thomas W. Fitzwater at the address shown above. Please provide the name of a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: VTA's BART Silicon Valley – Phase II Extension Project

Project Applicant, if any: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

Project Description: See attachment

Date: 1/30/2015 Signature: 

Name: Thomas W. Fitzwater

Title: Manager, Environmental Programs and Resources Management

Telephone: (408) 321-5705

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (State CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

## **NOTICE OF PREPARATION**

### **ATTACHMENT**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for VTA's BART Silicon Valley – Phase II Extension Project**

**Lead Agency: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority**

#### **Project Description and Location**

VTA's Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Silicon Valley – Phase II Extension Project (Phase II Project) would be constructed in Santa Clara County. The 6-mile-long Phase II Project would begin at the terminus of the BART Silicon Valley – Phase I Berryessa Extension Project (Phase I Project) (currently under construction and scheduled to be operational in late 2017) south of Mabury Road in the City of San Jose. The Phase II Project would be at grade where it connects to the Phase I Project and then descend into approximately 5-mile-long subway tunnels that continue through downtown San Jose and terminate at grade in the City of Santa Clara near the Santa Clara Caltrain Station (see Figure 1). Four stations are proposed, three in San Jose, the Alum Rock, Downtown San Jose, and Diridon Stations, and one in Santa Clara, the Santa Clara Station. Parking structures are proposed at the Alum Rock and Santa Clara Stations; "kiss-and-ride" (passenger drop-off) facilities are proposed at Alum Rock, Diridon, and Santa Clara Stations. The station facilities would include electrical and ventilation systems as well as communication equipment. A maintenance yard is proposed near the Santa Clara Station.

Several project changes have occurred since the 1<sup>st</sup> SEIR was approved in 2007. In the 2007 1<sup>st</sup> SEIR, the project was a 16-mile-long extension of the BART system from the Warm Springs Station in the City of Fremont to Santa Clara and was called the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Corridor Project (SVRTC Project). The 16-mile-long SVRTC Project is now called the BART Silicon Valley Program. In 2010, VTA decided to construct the BART Silicon Valley Program in phases. The 2<sup>nd</sup> SEIR, approved in 2011, addressed design changes applicable to the Phase I Project only. The Phase I Project consists of the first 10 miles of the BART Silicon Valley Program and is currently under construction and scheduled to open in late 2017. The Phase I Project begins at the future BART Warm Springs Station in the City of Fremont, continues through the Cities of Milpitas and San Jose, and terminates just north of U.S. 101 in San Jose. The Phase I Project followed the former Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) right-of-way (ROW) owned by VTA.

The Phase II Project, the remaining 6 miles of the BART Silicon Valley Program from the terminus of the Phase I Project to Santa Clara, is now being considered for clearance.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> SEIR and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement**

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), VTA intends to prepare a 3<sup>rd</sup> SEIR for the BART Silicon Valley – Phase II Extension Project. The 3<sup>rd</sup> SEIR will be prepared as a joint document with a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) that will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will serve as the federal lead agency.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> SEIR will evaluate the impacts of the proposed Project in light of design changes as well as changes to the regulatory and environmental settings that have occurred since certification of the 1st Final SEIR on June 7, 2007. Generally, the changes include (1) vertical and horizontal alignment changes, (2) revised station designs and configurations, (3) refinements to the design and location of system facilities, (4) changes in the existing conditions and regulatory setting, and (5) project schedule changes.

### **Environmental Process Background**

In February 2002, VTA initiated the environmental process by conducting scoping meetings for the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Corridor (SVRTC) Project. In March 2004, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) was released for public review, in accordance with state and federal law. Following circulation of the Draft EIS/EIR in April 2004, it was determined that the opportunity for securing federal funds at that time was limited. The Final EIR was certified by the VTA Board of Directors on December 9, 2004. Following certification of the Final EIR, design continued. A Draft SEIR was released for public review in January 2007. The Final SEIR was certified by the VTA Board of Directors on June 7, 2007. The federal environmental document, the Environmental Impact Statement, was processed separately. The Draft EIS was released on March 13, 2009. FTA signed the Record of Decision for the Phase I Project on June 24, 2010. In 2011, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Supplemental FEIR was certified by the VTA Board of Directors to address design changes applicable to the Phase I Project. The Phase I Project is under construction, and revenue service is forecast for late 2017. The remaining phase of the BART Silicon Valley Program from the Berryessa area in San Jose to Santa Clara is now being considered for clearance under a combined CEQA/NEPA document.

### **Probable Effects**

The purpose of the 3<sup>rd</sup> SEIR is to disclose the environmental consequences of the proposed Phase II Project. The 3<sup>rd</sup> SEIR will determine the extent to which the Phase II Project, as defined, would result in environmental impacts and discuss actions to reduce or eliminate such impacts. Probable effects to be examined in the 3<sup>rd</sup> SEIR are related to air quality; biological resources and wetlands; community services and facilities; cultural resources; electromagnetic fields; energy; geology, soils, and seismicity; greenhouse gas emissions; hazards/hazardous materials; land use; noise and vibration; safety and security; transportation, including transit, parking, pedestrians, bicycles, and traffic; utilities; visual quality and aesthetics; and water resources, water quality, and floodplains. Impacts resulting from project and setting changes will be identified for both long-term operation of the project and the construction period. To ensure that the full range of issues is addressed and all significant impacts are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties.

**Comment Due Date**

Written scoping comments must be received no later than 30 days after receipt of this notice and sent to:

Thomas W. Fitzwater, Manager, Environmental Programs and Resources Management  
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority  
3331 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95134-1927

They can also be sent via email to BARTphase2EIS-EIR@vta.org.

**Scoping Meetings**

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

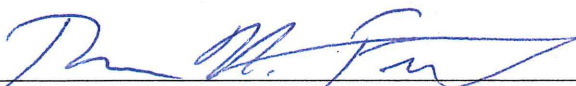
- Thursday, February 12, 2015; 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Santa Clara City Council Chambers, 1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050.  
*(This location is served by VTA Bus, 22, 32, 60, and 522)*
- Tuesday, February 17, 2015; 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at VTA Customer Service Center, 55 West Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95113  
*(This location is served by VTA Bus, 22, 63, 66, 68, 72, 73, 81, 82, 522 and Light Rail)*
- Thursday, February 19, 2015; 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at School of Arts and Culture at Mexican Heritage Plaza, 1700 Alum Rock Ave, San Jose, CA 95116  
*(This location is served by VTA Bus, 22, 23, 77, and 522)*

Project information will be presented at the meetings. Scoping material will be available as well. Persons with disabilities will be able to access the buildings used for the scoping meetings. Individuals who require language translation, American Sign Language, or other assistance are requested to contact VTA Community Outreach at (408) 321-7575, TTY (408) 321-2330, at least five (5) business days before the public information meeting. All meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities.

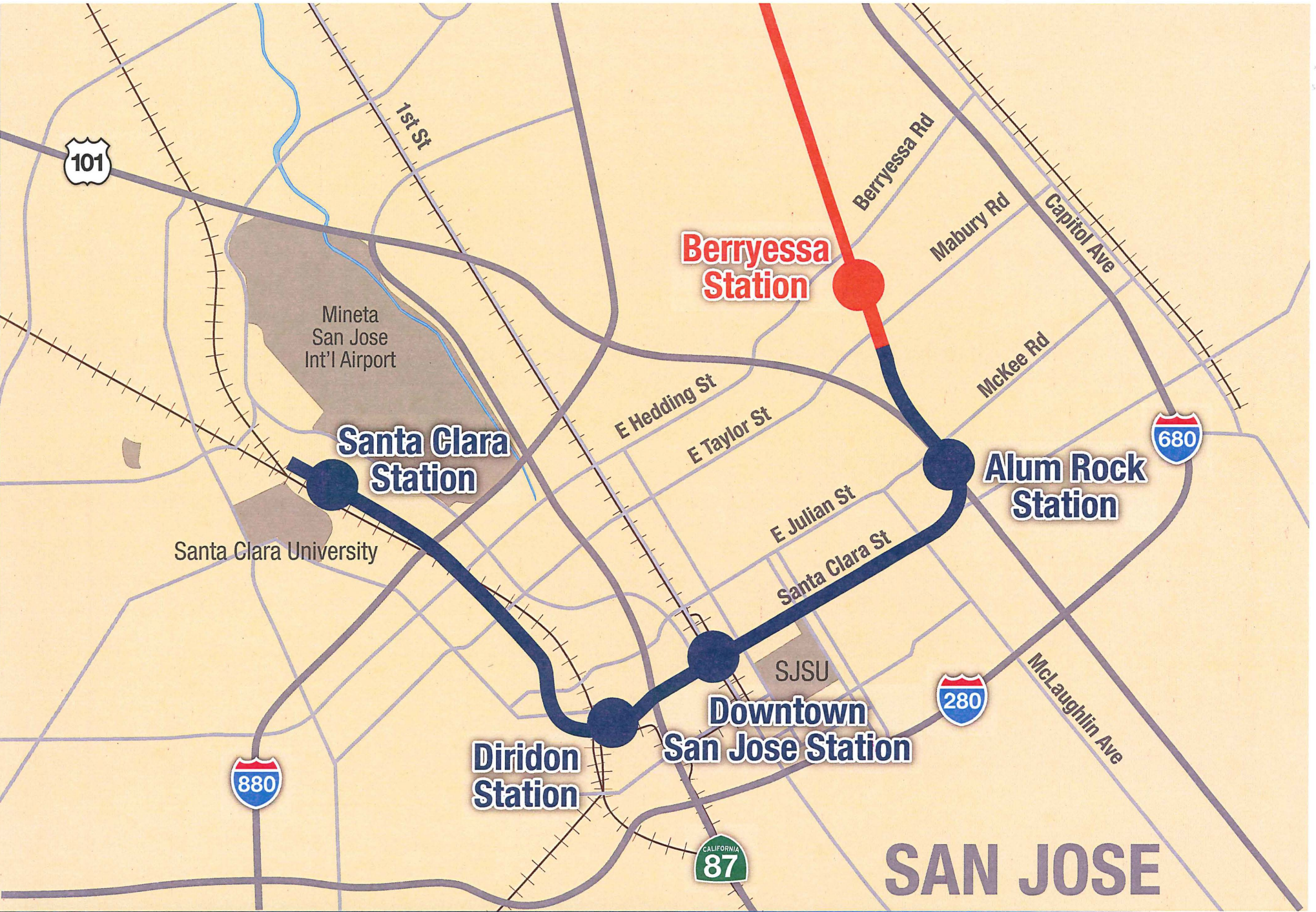
**For Further Information**

Contact Mr. Thomas W. Fitzwater at the address above, at (408) 321-5705, or at BARTphase2EIS-EIR@vta.org to be included on the Project mailing list and receive additional information about the Project.

Issued on: Jan. 30, 2015.

  
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Thomas W. Fitzwater  
Manager, Environmental Programs and Resources Management





VTA's BART Silicon Valley – Phase II Extension Project



