

VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT ARTICLE 3
PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE PROGRAM

FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016
PROJECT APPLICATION

I. Project Name and Funding Request

a. Applicant Agency:	City of Simi Valley
b. Funds Requested:	\$50,000
c. Project Title:	Arroyo Simi Bike Path Phase 3
d. Project Summary (100 words):	Design and construct phase 3 of the Arroyo Simi Greenway bicycle/pedestrian mixed use facility. Phase 3 includes paving a Class 1 trail on the south side of the Arroyo Simi between Madera Road and Fifth Street, and a spur that takes patrons south directly to Sinaloa Middle School. The project also includes a bridge to cross users to the north side of the Arroyo Simi near Fifth Street so that they can utilize the existing safe undercrossing of the intersection of First Street and Los Angeles Avenue. Note that Phase 3 is a large project with various approved funding sources as shown later in this application.

e. Project Type (*select one*):

☐ Comprehensive Pedestrian/Bicycle Plan
☐ Bicycle Safety Education
☒ Capital: Pedestrian and/or Bicycle facility
☐ Capital: Bicycle facility only

III. Clear and Complete Proposal

Please complete section III.a. for all project types:

- a. Describe the project elements. For capital projects indicate location, length, scope, size or extent.

This Phase 3 project is a new Class 1 bicycle/pedestrian path along the south side of the Arroyo Simi for a distance of 0.91 miles from Madera Road to approximately Fifth Street, and an additional 0.36-mile Class 1 spur on the west side of the channel that is adjacent to Fifth Street and Sinaloa Middle School. Also included is a bicycle/pedestrian bridge over the Arroyo Simi to connect to an existing grade-separated undercrossing at the intersection of Los Angeles Avenue and First Street. The installation of related fencing, gates, landscaping, and interpretive exhibits are all part of this project.

Please complete section III.b. for Comprehensive Plan projects only:

- b. Check one: ☐ New Plan
☐ Update to existing plan

Date of previous plan:

c. Funding and Local Cash Match

Enter total project cost, totaling funds from all
sources, here: \$ 1,380,000

Funds requested:	\$50,000
Local match provided:	\$1,330,000
Local match percentage:	2,660 % (note that this is using the formula below... $1,330,000/50,000 \times 100$. (Not sure the previous percentage makes any sense, but by my own calculation the proposed Article 3 money would be 3.6% of the total project funds, and 96.4% would be other/local matching funds)

To calculate local match percentage, divide Local match by Funds Requested e.g.:

$$\frac{\text{Local match provided}}{\text{Funds requested}} = \text{percentage match}$$

*When a local match is provided by the applicant, the local match % must be used at each dollar is spent on the project.

d. Please provide the total mileage of Class I pathway miles in your jurisdiction: 12 miles.

IV. Meets Evaluation Objectives

Please complete section - SAFETY

- a.
- How will the proposed project affect safety at existing facilities or improve safety by building new facilities? When describing the project conditions, include any accident statistics and describe how the project will correct or improve the situation.
 - How will the project be maintained?

Phase 3 provides a critical link that completes a 4.75-mile bike trail along the south side of the Arroyo Simi that will be used exclusively by bicyclists and pedestrians. The project provides a safer and more desirable environment in which to recreate or commute, and therefore it has the potential to attract users from nearby facilities where bikes and pedestrians share the road with higher speed vehicles.

Analysis of Simi Valley Police Department records for the two-mile radius surrounding the center of the Phase 3 project indicates there were 70 bicycle accidents and 51 pedestrian accidents in this area over the last five-year period. It is expected that a more desirable off-street facility will reduce the number of collisions because some bicyclists and pedestrians will use the exclusive bike/pedestrian trail instead of commuting on streets in locations that have high speeds and curb lanes that are too narrow for striped bike lanes.

Upon completion of the project, the new facility will be owned and maintained by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. The District receives the annual Article 3 maintenance money passed through from the City of Simi Valley as well as their own budget to maintain the Class 1 facilities along the Arroyo Simi.

b. *Please complete section – TRAFFIC GENERATORS*

- Please describe how the project connects to transit stops, train stations, schools, senior centers, work sites and other major traffic generators.
- Please describe how the project encourages multi-modal transit use.
- How will project benefit transit-dependent areas?

The new spur/lateral route along Fifth Street between Los Angeles Avenue and Royal Avenue provides a new connection to the Greenway that will serve an additional area of the City – the lower income residential neighborhood to the south. Attached photos illustrate the current narrow bike and pedestrian route along Fifth Street towards Sinaloa Middle School. The 0.36-mile section of new paved trail will provide a safe route that will encourage parents to allow their students to walk and bicycle to school. In addition, this connector provides convenient access to the Easy Street industrial and office business zone located to the north of the Greenway, and will encourage residents to the south to bicycle or walk to work.

Simi Valley has a population of approximately 126,000. Any person that lives or works in Simi Valley who has the ability to walk or ride a bicycle is a possible user of this facility. Phase 3 increases access to the Greenway, and thereby provides additional access to bus transit stops throughout the City, the Metrolink Station, three Community Parks, seven Neighborhood Parks, and many schools. An online survey conducted in conjunction with the **City of Simi Valley Bicycle Master Plan** (2008) indicated that 6,700 Simi Valley commuters had a commute time of nine minutes or less, but only 900 of those actually walked or biked to their destination. Potentially, an additional 5,800 commuters may be convinced to walk or bicycle to their destination. It is estimated that the Greenway is close enough to a large percentage of those residents to make it a viable alternative as access is improved.

This Phase 3 project directly connects the Greenway to Sinaloa Middle School by constructing a new trail spur and trail entry that connects to Los Angeles Avenue, then utilizes an existing 0.13-mile on-street bike route along Fifth Street, then constructs a new 0.36-mile paved bike and pedestrian trail along Fifth Street that leads directly to Sinaloa Middle School on Royal Avenue. Additionally, Phase 3 includes construction of a new trail entry at the northern end of the school property and a new trail entry at the southern end of the school property. Sinaloa Middle School is not currently served by any bicycle facility. Phase 3 will increase the use of other connections served by the Greenway as a whole, including the transit facilities and parks listed in the previous paragraph, several other schools north and south of the Greenway, and employment centers along the route, particularly the retail and commercial centers on Los Angeles Ave and industrial areas located near Tapo Canyon Road and Royal Ave.

Please complete section – PROJECT READINESS

- c.
- When will the project be implemented?
 - Have past funds been spent? If not, why not? Please refer to claimant's annual TDA Article 3 audit for details.
 - Can the project be partially funded or divided into phases? If yes, describe the different parts or how the project could be phased, and the cost associated with each phase:

This Phase 3 project is a component of an approved Active Transportation project that has deadlines from the State. Design is scheduled for July to December of 2015 and construction will be completed by the end of 2016.

All past funds have been spent, except for the funds that are tied to a larger Prop 84

California River Parkways grant/project that is being administered by the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. That project is also scheduled for 2016.

Since this application is a component of a much larger project, partial funding is possible but would potentially leave the overall project short of current estimated costs, resulting in a scaled back facility. Phasing for this project is not likely possible since there are stringent requirements from the ATP grant program to have the project completed.

d. *Please complete section – MISSING LINK AND CONNECTIVITY*

- Describe if other agencies are involved in the project and their role.
- Does the project connect with facilities within a city, or with another area and/or regional facilities?
- Please describe if or how the project fills in a “missing link” identified in the Countywide Bicycle Plan?
-

This Phase 3 project involves several other agencies. The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District was a co-applicant on the ATP grant application. The Watershed Protection District is directly involved in the approval process and has supported this project. Letters of support were received from the Simi Valley Unified School District, Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, Rancho Simi Trailblazers, and Ventura County Watershed Protection District.

This project directly closes a gap in the Arroyo Simi Greenway south-side trail, despite this gap not being directly identified in the Countywide Bicycle Plan. Although 8 miles of trail is in place along the northern side of the Arroyo Simi, the southern side borders more of the City's residential neighborhoods, parks, schools and business centers. As a result, the **Arroyo Simi Greenway Specific Plan** recommended that the primary trail should be relocated to the south side of the Arroyo. As shown on the Vicinity Map, the Phase 3 project joins the two new trail sections being constructed in Phase 2 (a 1.04-mile section between Erringer Road and First Street, and a 0.63-mile section of trail between Madera Road and Stargaze Place) and will result in a continuous 4.75-mile length of trail from Stargaze Place on the west, eastward to Sequoia Avenue.

Phase 3 also enables students and other patrons to cross the Arroyo using a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge being installed just west of First Street. This will save commuters time by creating a more direct path to the school or business or any other destination located along the heavily commercial area which is adjacent to the Arroyo.

e. *Please complete section – SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS*

- Please specify if a local match is being provided.
- Please describe how the project improves accessibility to the area.
- Please describe if there are special environmental advantages to the project.
- Please describe the degree of public support for the project.

A local match is being provided. The components of the existing funding that represent the local match are as follows:

City of Simi Valley: \$66,500

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District: \$66,500

Active Transportation Program State Grant: \$1,197,000

Total local match for this Article 3 application: \$1,330,000

Note that although this project was originally approved in the ATP process for \$1,330,000, updated estimates have identified a shortfall of \$50,000 to complete all of the components. Of particular concern is a shortfall in the design component that is scheduled for July to December 2015. Approval of this Article 3 funding will provide enough additional funding to complete the design/construction of the project.

The project improves accessibility to the area by directly connecting Sinaloa Middle School to the Arroyo Simi Greenway and by connecting this area to all the things that the Arroyo Greenway currently connects to including the Metrolink Station, many bus stop locations, other nearby schools, the Rancho Simi Community Park, Rancho Santa Susana Community Park. Another way accessibility is enhanced with this project is by providing a smooth paved surface where a current dirt/decomposed granite trail exists, making it accessible for persons in wheelchairs.

This project and all of the future projects along the Arroyo Simi are environmentally conscious projects, with the goal being to preserve and enhance the plant and wildlife habitat that exists in the Arroyo. This project includes interpretive exhibits regarding the Arroyo Simi Greenway environment.

The **Arroyo Simi Greenway Specific Plan** was completed as a result of the cooperative efforts of the City of Simi Valley, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, and Simi Valley Unified School District. Over a six-year period, elected representatives serving on the **Arroyo Simi Ad Hoc Committee** met initially to develop the **Arroyo Simi Greenway Visioning Study**, then ultimately the **Arroyo Simi Greenway Specific Plan**. The goal was to develop a plan that would capture the imagination of the community and could be implemented in a practical and fiscally responsible fashion.

During the **Visioning Study** and **Specific Plan** design and approval process, Simi Valley residents of all cultures and income levels were encouraged to attend four Ad Hoc Committee meetings, three Public Design Workshops, eight Neighborhood Council meetings, three Planning Commission meetings, and a City Council meeting.

At each of these venues, community members provided input on the various concepts, and their input was incorporated into the final document. Input was also solicited from local bicyclists, the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Rancho Simi Trail Blazers, and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

In addition to posting fliers on City and Park District property and in local businesses prior to the meetings to encourage public attendance and participation, booths were set up at the Simi Valley Street Fair and Living Green Expo, a presentation was made to the Sustainable Simi Valley Committee, and a month-long display was set up at the Simi Valley Public Library. The City has a dedicated page for the Greenway project on its website (<http://www.simivalley.org/index.aspx?page=443>), and the Park District and City regularly issue press releases for publication in local newspapers to notify residents regarding the project.

Additionally, City of Simi Valley Council Member Steve Sojka and Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board Member Elaine Freeman have made several joint PowerPoint presentations explaining the Arroyo Simi Greenway project to community groups including the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis, Republican Women, Simi Valley Community Council, and others groups. A PDF of this PowerPoint is available on the Park District's website (<http://www.rsrd.org/park/newparkprojects/arroyosimigreenway/arroyosimi.pdf>).

Following are 8 pages depicting existing and proposed improvements and descriptions of this Phase 3 Arroyo Simi Project.

- f. Project is consistent with local or regional plans (*add lines, if necessary*):

Type of Plan:	Name of Plan, page (if applicable)
i. County or City facilities plan	(See item iv. below)
ii. Circulation element of general plan	Simi Valley General Plan, pages 5-17, 5-18, chapter 6 regarding the environment and chapter 7 regarding parks and recreation.
iii. <i>Ventura County Comprehensive Bicycle Plan</i>	Yes, it is consistent with the County Plan, because the County plan is a compilation of the City Bicycle Master Plans (see Item iv. below)
iv. Other bicycle, pedestrian, complete streets, or similar plan(s):	Simi Valley Bicycle Master Plan page 9
v.	
vi.	

VIII. Project Contact Information
Please complete section VIII. for all project types:

Primary Contact
Name and Title:

Jim Brunner
Principal Engineer/Traffic

Applicant agency and
address:

City of Simi Valley
2929 Tapo Canyon Road
Simi Valley, CA 93063

Telephone:

(805) 583-6794

e-mail address:

jbrunner@simivalley.org

Secondary Contact
Name and Title:

Ron Fuchiwaki
Director of Public Works

Telephone:

(805) 583-6808

e-mail:

rfuchiwaki@simivalley.org

VCTC TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT (TDA) CLAIM FORM
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES CLAIMS
ARTICLE 3 / PUC 99233.3

Fiscal Year: 2015/16

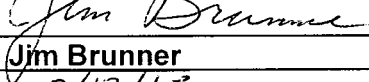
Date: 03/12/15

Claimant: City of Simi Valley
Address: 2929 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, CA 93063

Contact Person: Jim Brunner
Title: Principal Engineer/Traffic
Telephone #: (805) 583-6794 Fax #: (805) 583-6300
E-Mail: jbrunner@simivalley.org

REQUESTED PAYMENT:	AMOUNT
Article 3 Funds Requested	\$ <u>50,000</u>

Claimant acknowledges that payment by the County Auditor of an allocation made by Ventura County Transportation Commission is subject to such monies being on hand and available for distribution and to the provision that such monies be used only in accordance with the terms of the allocation instruction issued by the Ventura County Transportation Commission and in accordance with applicable State regulations.

Authorizing Signature: 
Print Name and Title: Jim Brunner
Date: 3/12/15

**TDA ARTICLE 3 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES CLAIMS
FINANCIAL REPORTING FORM**

Claimant: City of Simi Valley Date: 3/12/15

TDA ARTICLE 3 REVENUES & EXPENSES OF CLAIMANT

		FY 14/15 Estimated	FY 15/16 Requested
<u>Revenues</u>			
1	Article 3 Revenues	\$78,000	\$50,000
2	Interest		
3	Refunds		
4	Total		
		\$78,000	\$50,000
<u>Expenditures</u>			
5	Construction	\$78,000	\$50,000
6	Maintenance		
7	Planning		
<u>Balance</u>			
8	Excess of Revenue over expenditures (subtract Lines 5, 6 & 7 from Line 4)	0	0
<u>Fund Balance</u>			
9	Beginning of Year	\$78,000	\$50,000
10	End of Year	0	0

ProjectName: Phase 3 of the Arroyo Simi Greenway

Description: Design and construct a new Class 1 bicycle path on the south side of the Arroyo Simi from Madera Road to Fifth Street, and from Sinaloa Middle School to the Arroyo Simi

Project Revenue Budget:

TDA Article 3 Bike/Ped	\$ <u>50,000</u>
TDA Article 8 Local Streets	\$ <u></u>
Other (specify) \$66,500 City Funds, \$66,500 Park District Funds, \$1,197,000 Active Transportation Program (ATP) Funds	\$ <u>1,330,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ <u>1,380,000</u>

**STANDARD ASSURANCES
FOR BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN CLAIMANTS**

Claimant City of Simi Valley Fiscal Year: 2015/2016

CLAIMANT ASSURANCE: (Initial below)

Initial mm

90-DAY ANNUAL REPORT

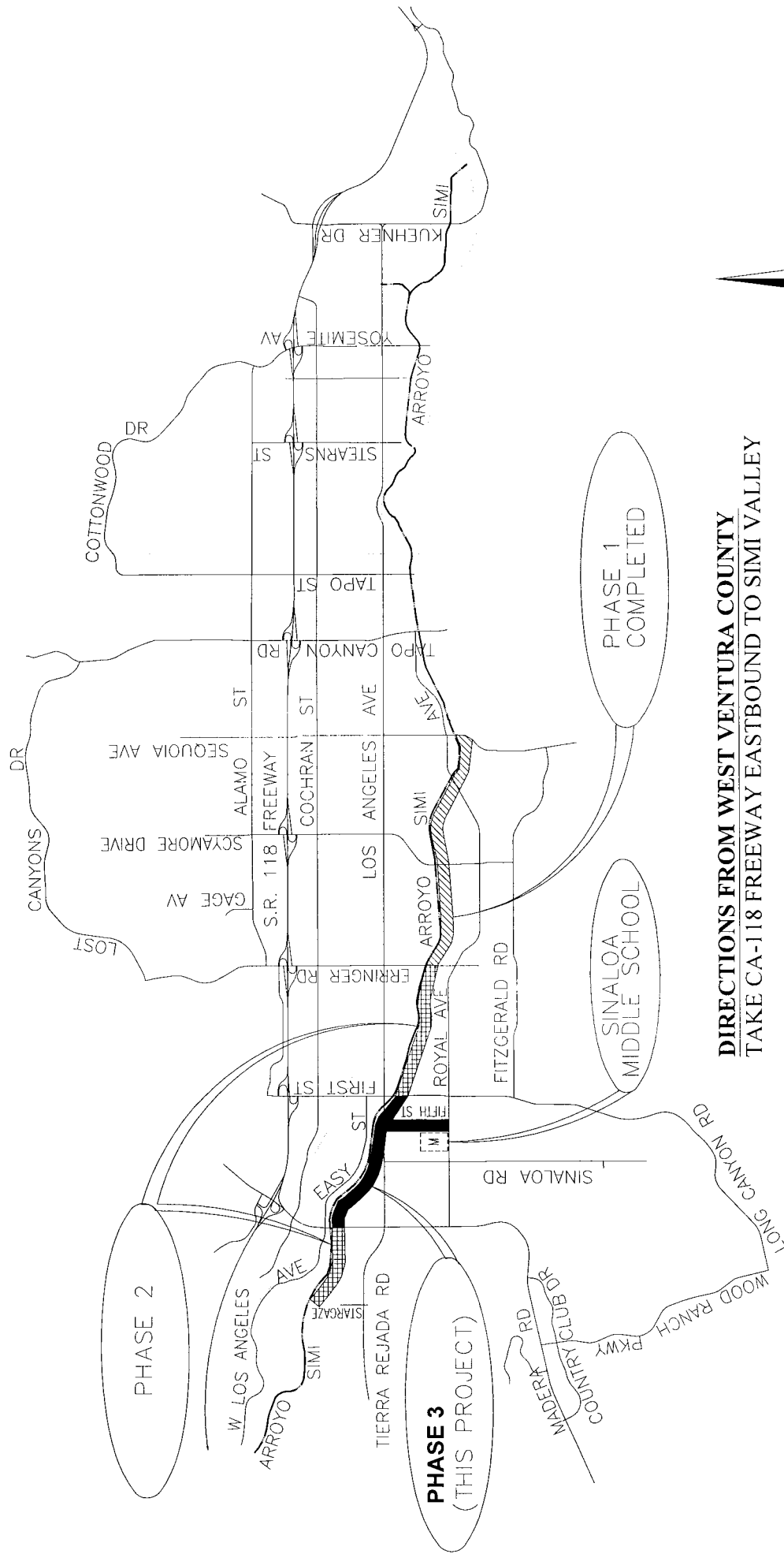
Claimant certifies that it has submitted a State Controller's report in conformance with the uniform system of accounts and reports, to VCTC and to the State Controller, pursuant to PUC 99245, for the prior year (project year minus two). Claimant assures that this report will be completed for the current fiscal year (project year minus one).

The undersigned hereby certifies that the above statement is true and correct.

Maureen McGoldrick
(Authorizing Signature)

Maureen McGoldrick
(Print Name & Title)
Director of Administrative Services

(Note: The resolution does NOT need to accompany the claim; it can be sent later. However, it must be submitted before any Article 3 funds can be allocated)

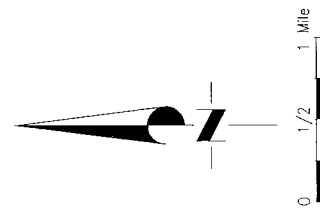


DIRECTIONS FROM WEST VENTURA COUNTY
TAKE CA-118 FREEWAY EASTBOUND TO SIMI VALLEY

TAKE EXIT 22 FOR MADERA ROAD.

TURN RIGHT (SOUTH) ON MADERA ROAD.

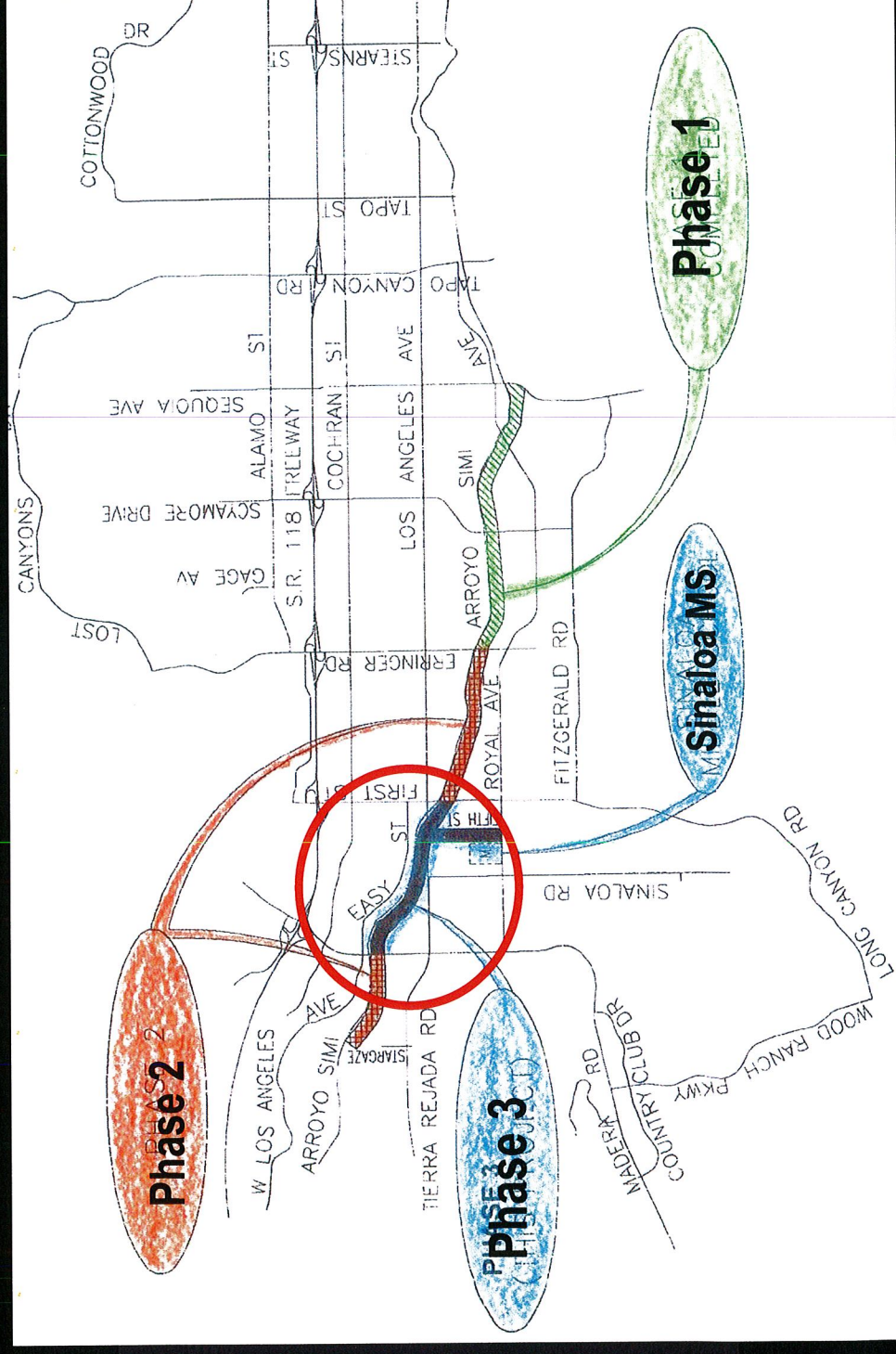
PROJECT LOCATION IS APPROXIMATELY .4 MILE SOUTH, ON SOUTH SIDE OF ARROYO SIMI.



VICINITY MAP

ARROYO SIMI GREENWAY PHASE 3

- Phase 3 includes installation of 0.91 miles of new paved trail on the south side of the Arroyo between Madera Rd. and First St.
- Includes the “missing link” needed to provide a continuous and safe 4.75-mile bicycle and pedestrian trail along the south side of the Arroyo from Stargaze Place to Sequoia Avenue.



- Phase 3 includes constructing a trail spur south along Fifth Street that will connect the bike trail to Sinaloa Middle School.





- The existing southeast trail entry at Madera Road and Easy Street will be replaced with a new trail entrance.



- The uneven decomposed granite surface on the south side will be replaced with new paved trail.



- A pedestrian/bicycle bridge will be installed west of First Street.
- South side trail users will need to cross to the north to continue east across Los Angeles Avenue, but can resume south side trail use at the First Street trail entrance.





- A new trail entry similar to this one will be installed at the entrance to the trail spur at Los Angeles and Fifth Street.
- Safety fencing will be installed along the channel side of the new trail spur.



- The new Fifth Street trail section will intersect with the north end of the Sinaloa Middle School campus, then will continue alongside the campus and end at Royal Avenue.
- A new trail entry will be installed, and safety fencing will be installed on the channel side of the trail.





- The new trail section will terminate at Royal Avenue at the southern end of the Sinaloa Middle School Campus.
- A new trail entry similar to this one will be constructed here.

