

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Supervisor Das Williams, First District Supervisor

Based on a preliminary review of the project the following activity is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 (Pub. Res. Code Section 21000 et seq.). as defined in the State CEQA Guidelines and County Revised CEQA Guidelines.

APN(s): N/A County owned Right of Way Project No. N/A

LOCATION: Hot Springs Road and Riven Road Rd in Montecito, CA, located in the First Supervisorial District

Project Title: Adding Stop Control (all-way stop) on Hot Springs Road at the intersection with Riven Rock Road in the First Supervisorial District

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Converting an existing one-way stop intersection to an all-way (three-way) stop intersection through the installation of new poles, stop signs, and striping to an existing roadway (Hot Springs Road).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department, Transportation Division

Exempt Status: (Check One)

Ministerial

Statutory Exemption

X Categorical Exemption {15301(c)}

 Emergency Project

 Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15301(c) Existing Facilities – Class 1

consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency’s determination. The types of “existing facilities” itemized below are not intended to be all inclusive of the types of projects which might fall within Class 1. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. Examples include but are not limited to: (c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety).

Reasons to support exemption findings: The project includes minor alterations to Hot Springs Road, an existing County roadway. The installation of signage and striping is consistent with routine maintenance and operation of public roadways. All signage and striping will be consistent with the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Therefore, the project can be found to be categorically exempt from CEQA.

Additionally, there is no substantial evidence that there are unusual circumstances (including future activities) resulting in (or which might reasonably result in) significant impacts which threaten the environment. The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

- (a) **Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 is a Class 1 exemption; therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (b) **Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.**

The project involves an operational change to an existing public road. The project does not increase capacity and would not cumulatively contribute to traffic impacts. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (c) **Significant Effect.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

The project involves routine operation and maintenance activities within a public roadway. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (d) **Scenic Highways.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

The project does not involve a scenic highway or a project which may result in damage to a scenic resource, removal of trees, rock outcropping or similar resource.

- (e) **Hazardous Waste Sites.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

The project is fully within public right-of-way and there are no hazardous wastes sites in the project limits. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (f) **Historical Resources.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The project includes minor alterations to existing public roadways. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director Public Works
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Department/Division Representative: Mark Friedlander, Mobility Manager

Acceptance Date: **January 23, 2024**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



Mark Friedlander

Department Representative

January 16, 2023

Date

NOTE: A copy of this document must be posted at least 6 days prior to consideration of the activity by the decision-makers to comply with County CEQA guidelines and a copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

Distribution: Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.