

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**

**FROM: Department of Public Works – Transportation Division**  
(Lead Department/Division)

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, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

**APN(s): N/A**      **Case No.: 23STM1**

**LOCATION:** Various Supervisorial Districts

**PROJECT TITLE:** Public Works Director’s Report on Emergency Response Actions from 2023 Impacts of Flooding and Storms and Continuation of Emergency Actions

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** In response to the January 4 and January 9, 2023 storm events, a Local Emergency was declared by the Director of Emergency Services on January 9, 2023 and Board Resolution 23-5. A Proclamation of a State of Emergency was issued by the Governor on January 4, 2023. A Federal Declaration of Emergency (EM3591-CA) and ultimately a Federally Declared Disaster (DR 4683) was made by the President on January 14, 2023. Transportation engineering, maintenance, construction, and permits staff began assessing damage on January 9, 2023 and immediately began initiating emergency contracts to: perform debris removal and implement emergency protective measures and repairs to establish emergency access; to regain access to isolated residents; and to protect existing transportation facilities and property. The Public Works Transportation Division Operation Center initiated the above referenced emergency, Federally compliant force-account contracts through the Emergency Operations Center. An Incident Command Form 213 was submitted to request that the emergency contracts be executed. The County’s Purchasing Agent secured these contracts under County Code Section 2-43, Emergency Purchases. These are Not to Exceed Contracts based on Task Orders. Task Orders describing scope of work, estimated costs, and location for identified damage sites are issued to the contractor. This exemption considers all further administrative activities for this project such as Award of Contracts and the Statement of Final Quantities.

**EXEMPT STATUS : (Check One)**

- Ministerial
- Statutory [Sec. 15269]
- Categorical Exemption [Sec. 15301]
- Emergency Project
- No Possibility of Significant Effect [Sec. 15061(b, 3)]

**Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section:** 15269. Emergency Projects, (c) Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency and (d) Projects undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to maintain, repair, or restore an existing highway damaged by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide, provided that the project is initiated within one year of the damage occurring. This exemption does not apply to

highways designated as official state scenic highways, nor any project undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to expand or widen a highway damaged by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide.

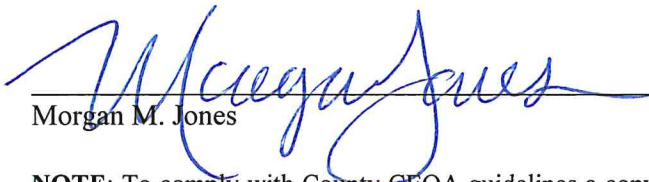
**Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary):** The exemption from CEQA is granted by the Legislature by Statute as the following emergency projects are exempt from the requirements of CEQA. Projects undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to maintain, repair, or restore an existing highway damaged by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide, provided that the project is initiated within one year of the damage occurring. Therefore, the project is contemplated by the CEQA exemption under section 15269. Further, there are no unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director Public Works Transportation/Engineering Division, Phone: (805) 568-3064

Department Representative: Morgan M. Jones, Engineering Environmental Project Team Leader

Acceptance Date: **February 28, 2023**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



Morgan M. Jones

February 6, 2023

Date

**NOTE:** To comply with County CEQA guidelines 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 with Clerk of Board \_\_\_\_\_