

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Works Department

The project or activity identified below 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) : Various Case No: Not Applicable

Location: Montecito Community Plan area in the First Supervisorial District

Project Title: Montecito Flood Control Master Plan, Phase 2

Project Description:

The Montecito Flood Control Master Plan, Phase 2 is a continuation of the Phase 1 plan, focusing on research and development of strategies to improve flood conveyance and debris management for the Montecito area. The Montecito Flood Control Master Plan, Phase 2 involves further data collection, survey, alternatives analysis, and developing concepts for improvements in the lower San Ysidro Creek, which was highlighted in the Phase 1 plan as an area for further investigation. The Montecito Flood Control Master Plan, Phase 2 is a feasibility and planning study and includes data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities.

The above action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Article 18, Statutory Exemptions Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies and CEQA Article 19, Categorical Exemption, Section 15306 (Class 6) Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara Flood Control District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: County of Santa Barbara Flood Control District

Division

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:

CEQA Article 18, Statutory Exemptions Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies and CEQA Article 19, Categorical Exemption, Section 15306 (Class 6) Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities.

Reasons to support exemption findings:

The Montecito Flood Control Master Plan, Phase 2 is a data and information gathering tool in support of developing a strategy for stream improvements, flood conveyance and debris management. The Board has not approved, funded, or adopted any future actions as this study is for planning and evaluation purposes only. The Montecito Flood Control Master Plan, Phase 2 does not result in a disturbance to any environmental resource. Therefore, the above listed exemptions apply to this action.

Should the District in the future pursue any specific creek improvement activity identified in the Montecito Flood Control Master Plan, Phase 2, that activity will undergo separate environmental review consistent

with the requirements of CEQA. The potential environmental impact of any future activity would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

- (a) **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 Montecito Flood Control Master Plan, Phase 2 does not result in a disturbance to any environmental resource; therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (b) **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 Montecito Flood Control Master Plan, Phase 2 does not result in a disturbance to any environmental resource. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (c) **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 Montecito Flood Control Master Plan, Phase 2 does not result in a disturbance to any environmental resource; therefore, this exception does not apply

- (d) **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.

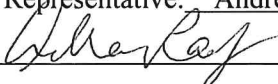
The Montecito Flood Control Master Plan, Phase 2 does not result in a disturbance to any environmental resource; therefore, this exception does not apply

- (e) **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 Montecito Flood Control Master Plan, Phase 2 does not result in a disturbance to any environmental resource; therefore, this exception does not apply

Lead Agency Contact Person: Andrew Raaf Phone #: (805) 722-7250

Department/Division Representative: Andrew Raaf Date: January 30, 2026

Signature: 

Acceptance Date: _____

Upon project approval, this form must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board and posted by the Clerk of the Board for a period of 30 days to begin a 35-day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

Date Filed by County Clerk