

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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

**FROM: Department of Public Works/Engineering 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) 097-371-067 Project No. 900900**

**LOCATION Club House Road area of the Third Supervisorial District.**

**PROJECT TITLE Club House Road Vegetation Removal Project**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION** The project is routine removal of dead and dying trees and branches adjacent to an existing County road for safety and ecological purposes. Based on the recommendations from a certified arborist, 30 dead Monterey pine trees need to be removed and the removal of larger dead branches on approximately 49 trees along Club House Road for approximately 650 yards from Burton Mesa Blvd not to exceed Saint Andrews Way needs to be completed. The trees have been affected by Pitch Canker, a disease affecting much of the survey area caused by the fungus *Fusarium circinatum*. Infected trees appear to have been attacked by engraver beetles, which caused the death of branches, tree tops, and the entire trees creating a safety hazard as the limbs and entire trees are subject to falling in the roadway.

**EXEMPT STATUS:(Check One)**

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

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section 15304: Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees...

Reasons to support exemption findings: The project is a minor alteration of the land and therefore is contemplated by the CEQA exemption under section 15304. The project is the removal of vegetation consisting of dead and dying pine trees which are not a scenic resource due to their advanced state of wood decay. The removal and off site disposal of the dead and dying trees and branches will result in a benefit to the habitat of the Burton Mesa Ecological Reserve natural area. The project will reduce the presence of pitch canker disease, slowing its spread while eliminating a food source of the bark beetle infestation. The area has been surveyed for nesting birds, no raptors and no active nests or nesting behavior was observed during the survey. Further, there are no unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect

  
Morgan M. Jones Department/Division Representative

**December 21, 2010**  
Date

**NOTE:** A copy 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.

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DATE FILE OF COUNTY CLERK