

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 (Pub. Res. Code Section 21000 et seq.), as defined in the State CEQA Guidelines and County Revised CEQA Guidelines.

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

LOCATION: First Supervisorial District

PROJECT TITLE: Adopting Parking Restrictions During Red Flag Warnings; First Supervisorial District

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This item is on the agenda as directed by your Board to establish parking restrictions near the Hot Springs Trailhead during Red Flag Warnings. A Red Flag Warning is when critical fire weather conditions are either occurring or will shortly. In collaboration with the Montecito Fire Department, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, and Santa Barbara County Community Services Department, Public Works recommends the proposed restrictions to improve safety and circulation for the public.

Pursuant to Santa Barbara County Code 23-11, and as permitted by California Vehicle Code Sections 22507 and 22651(n), the Board of Supervisors is authorized to designate portions of roads and highways under its jurisdiction as no parking-tow away zones. Public Works recommends that your Board adopt the proposed parking restrictions in the First Supervisorial District (Vicinity Map #1). These "No Parking-Tow Away During Red Flag Warning" zones are to address safety issues with emergency access and pedestrian safety near the Hot Springs Trailhead during high fire danger. Public Works recommends that your Board adopt by resolution the following "No Parking-Tow Away During Red Flag Warning" zones:

East Mountain Drive - First Supervisorial District

- On East Mountain Drive from a point 335 feet west of the centerline of Ashley Road to the centerline of Hot Springs Road.

Riven Rock Road - First Supervisorial District

- On Riven Rock Road from a point 385 feet south of the centerline of East Mountain Drive to the centerline of East Mountain Drive.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Public Works Transportation Division

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- ☐ Ministerial
☐ Statutory Exemption
☒ 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: Consistent with this exemption, the proposed project involves a change in parking restrictions during Red Flag Warnings. These "No Parking-Tow Away During Red Flag Warning" zones are to address safety issues with emergency access and pedestrian safety near the Hot Springs Trailhead in the event of high fire danger. There are no unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect. Therefore, the project can be found to be categorically exempt from CEQA.

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 adopting a resolution to establish parking restrictions during Red Flag Warnings on existing public roads. In addition, there are no other identified projects which would contribute to cumulative 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 resolution proposes updating parking restrictions in the event of Reg Flag Warnings to improve public safety and emergency access during response on existing public roads. 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 resources.

- (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.**

There are no hazardous waste sites or permitted facilities located on public roads. 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 roadways involved are not identified as a historical resource. In addition, changes in roadway parking regulations would not involve any structural modifications to existing facilities. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Mostafa Estaji, Deputy Director, Public Works-Transportation Division, Phone: (805) 568-3064.

Department/Division Representative: Kalani Durham, Engineering Environmental Planner/Coordinator.

Acceptance Date: **May 6, 2025**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting

Kalani Durham

Kalani Durham

Department Representative

4/16/2025

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: _____.