

## 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)** N/a ROW                      **Project No.** N/a

**LOCATION:** Union Valley Parkway Bridge over US 101, Fourth Supervisorial District

**PROJECT TITLE:** Public Art Elements on the US 101/Union Valley Parkway Interchange, Memorandum of Understanding.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate an agreement between the County of Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) for funding for the art element on the US 101/Union Valley Parking Interchange. The artwork will be installed as tile panels on four pilasters on the US 101/Union Valley Parkway bridge. The County will install and maintain the artwork under a Caltrans encroachment permit for a period of 20 years. The County of Santa Barbara will manufacture, install, and maintain the art element, and SBCAG will reimburse the County up to \$15,000 from grant funds.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:                      County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:                      Public Works Department

**Exempt Status:** (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption (15301)
- 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, this proposed project involves an activity related to the repair and maintenance activities for an existing road facility. The execution of the Memorandum of Understanding will have no environmental impact on any resources. Further, there are no unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect. Therefore, this project can be found to be categorically exempt from CEQA.

Since the County's proposed execution of the Agreement will have no environmental impact the project can be found categorically exempt from CEQA under Section 15301.

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 in 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.

There are no other identified projects in the immediate area which would contribute to cumulative impacts of successive projects of this type at this location. 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 execution of the Memorandum of Understanding would not create a reasonable possibility of a significant effect associated with this project. 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 execution of the Memorandum of Understanding would not impact any scenic, historic or similar resources. There are no scenic resources such as a state scenic highway, historic buildings, rock outcroppings or similar resource at the location which may be damaged by the project. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (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 site locations 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 Memorandum of Understanding will have no effect on any identified historical resources. The Memorandum of Understanding would not involve modification or substantial change to any historic or cultural resource. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

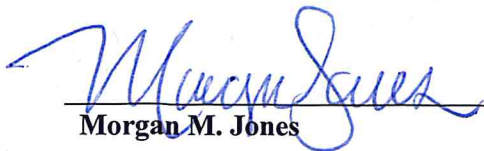
Lead Agency Contact Person: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director Public Works, 805 568-3064

Department/Division Representative: Morgan M. Jones, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner,

Acceptance Date April 22, 2014

[Date of final action on project]

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



Morgan M. Jones

Department Representative

April 7, 2014

Date

**NOTE:** A copy of this document must be posted with the County's Planning & Development Department 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 with Planning & Development

\_\_\_\_\_ Date filed with Clerk of Board