

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): Right of Way **PROJECT NUMBER:** 820797

LOCATION: All Supervisorial Districts

PROJECT TITLE: Midwest Guardrail System Countywide; County Project No. 820797; Second, Fourth, and Fifth Supervisorial District

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) is a core federal-aid program with the purpose of achieving a significant reduction in traffic collisions and serious injuries on public roads by upgrading existing non-compliant guardrail to current engineering standards, Midwest Guardrail System. A countywide study on existing roads with existing guardrail, analyzed traffic collisions, crash potential, and crash rate. The study determined the locations that qualified for the HSIP program. The unincorporated areas of Santa Maria, Orcutt, Lompoc, and Goleta contain road sections with guardrail that is not up to current engineering standards or having a high collision rate. The proposed project would upgrade existing guardrail to current guardrail, *Midwest Guardrail System*. In addition, the project would reconstruct the embankment at each location, providing a stronger foundation for the *Midwest Guardrail System*. The project will include the following six locations:

2nd District Location:

- Las Palmas Dr, 220' north of Las Olas Drive

4th District Location:

- Harris Grade Rd, 14,200' south of State Route 135

5th District Locations:

- Betteravia Rd, 800' southeast of Simas Road
- Dominion Road at Palmer Rd
- Foxen Canyon Rd, 3,800' northwest of Santa Maria Mesa Road
- Foxen Canyon Rd, 1,600' southeast of Dominion Road

This item is on the agenda to approve the plans, specifications, award the construction contract, and approve a budget revision for the *Midwest Guardrail System* Countywide project to the lowest responsible bidder, Central Coast Fence Inc.

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, this proposed project involves activities related to the repair and maintenance activities for public highway and street facilities. The project allows for a public safety activity designed to maintain a safe working condition of the roadway facilities as they were constructed. 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.

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 upgrading existing non-compliant guardrail to current engineering standards to improve public safety. 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 project involves upgrading existing non-compliant guardrail to current engineering standards to improve public safety. The projects will occur at specific locations where there are no sensitive resources located. 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 resource. 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 wastes site locations in the roadway right of way. 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 maintenance locations involved are not identified as a historical resource. 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: **April 21, 2026**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting

Kalani Durham

March 9, 2026

Kalani Durham

Department Representative

Date

NOTE: A copy of this document must be posted 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:

_____.



2026 CEQA Transmittal Memorandum

County of Santa Barbara - Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

105 E. Anapamu St. Room 407 • Santa Barbara • CA • 93101

(805) 568-2240

Complete this form when filing a Notice of Determination (Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, Environmental Impact Report) or Notice of Exemption.			
A scanned copy of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Receipt, Transmittal Memorandum and the CEQA filing, including the date/time of posting will be emailed to the Lead Agency and Project Applicant. If you would like a return copy, please submit an extra copy along with a pre-addressed, stamped envelope.			
Contact Person Emily Ferguson		Phone 805-568-3064	
Lead Agency Public Works Dept Transportation Division		Lead Agency Email ekferguson@countyofsb.org	
Project Title Midwest Guardrail System Countywide			
Project Applicant Hammer Lazaro	Email hlazaro@countyofsb.org	Phone 805-803-8790	
Project Applicant Address 620 Foster Rd	City Santa Maria	State CA	Zip 93455

DOCUMENT BEING FILED:

- Notice of Determination - Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
 - 2026 Filing Fee\$4,227.50
 - Previously Paid (**must attach receipt**) \$0.00
 - No Effect Determination (**must be attached**)..... \$0.00
- Environmental Filing Fees will be collected **only** for projects that are approved. The Applicant must attest to the following:
- This project has been approved. Date of Approval:

- Notice of Determination - Negative Declaration (ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).....
 - 2026 Filing Fee \$3,043.75
 - Previously Paid (**must attach receipt**) \$0.00
 - No Effect Determination (**must be attached**)..... \$0.00
- Environmental Filing Fees will be collected **only** for projects that are approved. The Applicant must attest to the following:
- This project has been approved. Date of Approval:

Notice of Exemption.....\$0.00

County Administrative Handling Fee (**required for all filings, effective 7/19/18**)\$50.00

TOTAL: \$ 50.00

PAYMENT METHOD: ALL APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF FILING

- Cash Credit Check # _____ Journal Entry # JE-1078585
- In person only Ensure Workday status reflects "Posted" prior to filing



Business Process Record: Journal: JE-1078585 on 03/25/2026 for \$100.00 by LORI GRIFFIN-LYNCH

Details and Process

For JE-1078585 - County of Santa Barbara California - 03/25/2026 - Processingfee-Notice of Exemp 2026-04-21 820797 Midwest Guardrail System Countywide
Overall Process Journal: JE-1078585 on 03/25/2026 for \$100.00 by LORI GRIFFIN-LYNCH
Overall Status In Progress
Due Date 03/27/2026

Details

Journal Entry View

Journal JE-1078585 - County of Santa Barbara California - 03/25/2026 - Processingfee-Notice of Exemp 2026-04-21 820797 Midwest Guardrail System Countywide
Journal Number JE-1078585
Status In Progress
Event in Progress Accounting Journal
Budget Check Status Pass

Journal Entry Information

Originated by LORI GRIFFIN-LYNCH
Accounting Date 03/25/2026
Currency USD
Period Mar-FY 2025-26 Actuals (County of Santa Barbara California)
Ledger County of Santa Barbara California : Actuals
Journal Source Manual Journal
Balancing Fund FD-0015 Roads-Operations
Book Code

Journal Entry Details

Memo Processingfee-Notice of Exemp 2026-04-21 820797 Midwest Guardrail System Countywide
External Reference ID
Adjustment Journal No
Create Reversal No
Balanced Yes
Total As-Entered Ledger Debits 100.00
Total As-Entered Ledger Credits 100.00

As Entered

Journal Entry Lines



Business Process Record: Journal: JE-
 1078585 on 03/25/2026 for \$100.00 by LORI
 GRIFFIN-LYNCH

Journal Line	Company	Ledger Account	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Memo	External Reference ID	Spend Category	Revenue Category	Grant	Project Task	Program	Cost Center	*Fund	Additional Worktags	Interworktag Affiliate	Budget Date	Exceptions
Accounting Journal: County of Santa Barbara California - 03/25/2026, 1000:Cash in Treasury, Debit:0, Credit:50 As Entered for Intercompany	County of Santa Barbara California	1000:Cash in Treasury		50.00	Processingfee-Notice of Exemp 2026-04-21 820797 Midwest Guardrail System Countywide						PG-0542110 Management Support	CC-54210 Public Works-Roads	FD-0015 Roads-Operations	Bank Account: z_Claim on Cash	FD-0015 Roads-Operations	03/25/2026	
Accounting Journal: County of Santa Barbara California - 03/25/2026, 7020:Services and Supplies, Debit:50, Credit:0 As Entered for Intercompany	County of Santa Barbara California	7020:Services and Supplies	50.00		Processingfee-Notice of Exemp 2026-04-21 820797 Midwest Guardrail System Countywide		SC-7650 Special Departmental Expense				PG-0542110 Management Support	CC-54210 Public Works-Roads	FD-0015 Roads-Operations	Activity: AC-054228 Overhead/Admin Expense		03/25/2026	
Accounting Journal: County of Santa Barbara California - 03/25/2026, 6300:Charges for Services, Debit:0, Credit:50 As Entered for Intercompany	County of Santa Barbara California	6300:Charges for Services		50.00	Processingfee-Notice of Exemp 2026-04-21 820797 Midwest Guardrail System Countywide			RC-5746 Administrative Revenue			PG-0124020 Clerk of the Board	CC-12000 County Executive	FD-0001 General			03/25/2026	
Accounting Journal: County of Santa Barbara California - 03/25/2026, 1000:Cash in Treasury, Debit:50, Credit:0 As Entered for Intercompany	County of Santa Barbara California	1000:Cash in Treasury	50.00		Processingfee-Notice of Exemp 2026-04-21 820797 Midwest Guardrail System Countywide						PG-0124020 Clerk of the Board	CC-12000 County Executive	FD-0001 General	Bank Account: z_Claim on Cash	FD-0001 General	03/25/2026	

Journal Lines

Journal Line	Company	Ledger Account	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Memo	External Reference ID	Budget Date	Spend Category	Revenue Category	Grant	Project Task	Program	Cost Center	*Fund	Additional Worktags	Interworktag Affiliates	Exceptions
Accounting Journal: County of Santa Barbara California - 03/25/2026, 1000:Cash in Treasury, Debit:50, Credit:0 Activity	County of Santa Barbara California	1000:Cash in Treasury	50.00	0.00	Processingfee-Notice of Exemp 2026-04-21 820797 Midwest Guardrail System Countywide		03/25/2026					PG-0124020 Clerk of the Board	CC-12000 County Executive	FD-0001 General	Bank Account: z_Claim on Cash	Fund Affiliate: FD-0001 General	
Accounting Journal: County of Santa Barbara California - 03/25/2026, 7020:Services and Supplies, Debit:50, Credit:0 Activity	County of Santa Barbara California	7020:Services and Supplies	50.00	0.00	Processingfee-Notice of Exemp 2026-04-21 820797 Midwest Guardrail System Countywide		03/25/2026	SC-7650 Special Departmental Expense				PG-0542110 Management Support	CC-54210 Public Works-Roads	FD-0015 Roads-Operations	Activity: AC-054228 Overhead/Admin Expense		



Business Process Record: Journal: JE-
 1078585 on 03/25/2026 for \$100.00 by LORI
 GRIFFIN-LYNCH

Journal Line	Company	Ledger Account	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Memo	External Reference ID	Budget Date	Spend Category	Revenue Category	Grant	Project Task	Program	Cost Center	*Fund	Additional Worktags	Interworktag Affiliates	Exceptions
Accounting Journal: County of Santa Barbara California - 03/25/2026, 6300:Charges for Services, Debit:0, Credit:50 Activity	County of Santa Barbara California	6300:Charges for Services	0.00	50.00	Processingfee-Notice of Exemp 2026-04-21 820797 Midwest Guardrail System Countywide		03/25/2026		RC-5746 Administrative Revenue			PG-0124020 Clerk of the Board	CC-12000 County Executive	FD-0001 General			
Accounting Journal: County of Santa Barbara California - 03/25/2026, 1000:Cash in Treasury, Debit:0, Credit:50 Activity	County of Santa Barbara California	1000:Cash in Treasury	0.00	50.00	Processingfee-Notice of Exemp 2026-04-21 820797 Midwest Guardrail System Countywide		03/25/2026					PG-0542110 Management Support	CC-54210 Public Works-Roads	FD-0015 Roads-Operations	Bank Account: z_Claim on Cash	Fund Affiliate: FD-0015 Roads-Operations	

Status History

Status	Entered On	Workday Account
Created	03/25/2026 07:52:48.836 PM	lorilyn@countyofsb.org / LORI GRIFFIN-LYNCH
In Progress	03/25/2026 07:52:49.023 PM	lorilyn@countyofsb.org / LORI GRIFFIN-LYNCH
Reserved	03/25/2026 07:52:55.178 PM	wd-support
Created	03/25/2026 07:57:23.426 PM	lorilyn@countyofsb.org / LORI GRIFFIN-LYNCH
In Progress	03/25/2026 07:57:23.570 PM	lorilyn@countyofsb.org / LORI GRIFFIN-LYNCH

Attachment B - 820797 Midwest Guardrail System Countywide Plans SIGNED.pdf

File Name Attachment B - 820797 Midwest Guardrail System Countywide Plans SIGNED.pdf
Content Type application/pdf
Updated By LORI GRIFFIN-LYNCH
Upload Date 03/25/2026 07:52:48 PM
Comment

Attachment D - 820797 Notice of Exemption.pdf

File Name Attachment D - 820797 Notice of Exemption.pdf
Content Type application/pdf
Updated By LORI GRIFFIN-LYNCH
Upload Date 03/25/2026 07:52:48 PM
Comment

CEQA Memo.pdf

File Name CEQA Memo.pdf
Content Type application/pdf
Updated By LORI GRIFFIN-LYNCH
Upload Date 03/25/2026 07:52:48 PM



Business Process Record: Journal: JE-1078585 on 03/25/2026 for \$100.00 by LORI GRIFFIN-LYNCH

Comment	
2026.04.21 - BL Midwest Guardrail System Countywide.docx.pdf	
File Name	2026.04.21 - BL Midwest Guardrail System Countywide.docx.pdf
Content Type	application/pdf
Updated By	LORI GRIFFIN-LYNCH
Upload Date	03/25/2026 07:52:48 PM
Comment	

Process

Process History

Process	Step	Status	Completed On	Due Date	Person (Up to 5)	All Persons	Comment
Accounting Journal Event	Accounting Journal Event	Step Completed	03/25/2026 07:52:49 PM	03/27/2026	LORI GRIFFIN-LYNCH	1	
Accounting Journal Event	Review Journal	Not Required		03/27/2026		0	
Check Budget (Financial)	Check Budget (Financial)	Automatic Complete	03/25/2026 07:52:49 PM	03/27/2026		0	
Check Budget (Financial)	Batch/Job: Run Budget Check	Step Completed	03/25/2026 07:52:55 PM			0	
Check Budget (Financial)	Review Budget Check	Not Required		03/27/2026		0	
Check Budget (Financial)	Review Budget Check	Not Required		03/27/2026		0	
Check Budget (Financial)	Review Budget Check	Not Required		03/27/2026		0	
Check Budget (Financial)	Override Budget Check	Not Required		03/27/2026		0	
Check Budget (Financial)	Service: Reserve Budget in Budget Check	Step Completed	03/25/2026 07:52:55 PM	03/27/2026	Workday Service	1	
Accounting Journal Event	Approval by Cost Center Manager	Withdrawn				0	
Accounting Journal Event	Approval by Cost Center Manager	Withdrawn				0	
Accounting Journal Event	Accounting Journal Event	Submitted	03/25/2026 07:57:23 PM	03/27/2026	LORI GRIFFIN-LYNCH	1	
Accounting Journal Event	Review Journal	Not Required		03/27/2026		0	
Check Budget (Financial)	Check Budget (Financial)	Automatic Complete	03/25/2026 07:57:23 PM	03/27/2026		0	
Check Budget (Financial)	Batch/Job: Run Budget Check	Launched	03/25/2026 07:57:23 PM			0	

Remaining Process

Click on the button below to review remaining process details.