

**ATTACHMENT B  
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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

**FROM:** Nicole Lieu, Supervising Planner, Planning and Development

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:** Caltrans R.O.W Between Post Miles 47.1 & 47.74      **Case No.:** 23EMP-00000-00010

**Location:** Caltrans R.O.W adjacent to HWY 101 and Gaviota Creek, Between Post Miles 47.1 & 47.74, near the Gaviota Tunnel

**Project Title:** Caltrans Gaviota Scour Repair and Wall

**Project Applicant:** Caltrans

**Project Description:** The project is a request by Caltrans for an Emergency Permit to allow construction of an approximately 550-foot-long secant pile wall and installation of Rock Slope protection (RSP) to repair the revetment and embankment supporting the southbound Highway 101 just South of the Gaviota Tunnel, between Post Miles 47.1 and 47.25. In addition, there are three spot locations of scour damage to existing revetments and embankment support northbound and southbound Highway 101 that need repairs, between Post Miles 47.25 to 47.75. The Emergency Permit is required to repair damage that occurred during the 2023 January winter storms which scoured the creek bank and revetments, jeopardizing the shoulder, lane, and roadbed of southbound Highway 101. Project elements include the following:

- Construct a 550-foot-long secant pile wall extending from the roadbed downslope toward Gaviota Creek to support and protect the southbound HWY 101 travel lane;
- Modify drainage systems to tie-in to the secant wall;
- Repair 3 locations by removing portions failed sackcrete and repairing with Rock Slope Protection (RSP);
- Implement temporary creek diversion and dewatering;
- Apply erosion control and aquatic planting;
- Comply with all measures required by the Army Corps Regional General Permit 63 including measures from RWQCB, US Fish and Wildlife, CDFW. and NOAA for protection water quality, habitat, and sensitive species (such as red-legged frogs and steelhead);
- Conduct approximately 6,500-7,000 CY of excavation for piles and slope repair, and approximately 1,500 CY of temporary fill to support equipment;

- Implement a stormwater control plan;
- Remove and replace the existing concrete median barrier;
- Restore the roadway within the work area and apply overlay material;
- Construct a temporary median detour with traffic control devices, and;
- Reduce traffic to a single lane in the southbound direction during construction activities.

The project is located within the Caltrans right-of-way near the Gaviota Tunnel, between Post Miles 47.1 and 47.74, in the Gaviota area, Third Supervisorial District.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Santa Barbara County

**Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project:** Caltrans

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial  
 Statutory Exemption  
 Categorical Exemption  
 Emergency Project  
 Declared Emergency

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section:** Section 15269(c), Emergency Projects

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15269(c) exempts “specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.” Emergency action is warranted in this case because the 2023 Winter storms which scoured the creek bank and revetments between Gaviota Creek and Highway 101, jeopardizing the shoulder, lane, and roadbed of southbound Highway 101. Therefore, this statutory exemption applies to the proposed project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Nicole Lieu, Supervising Planner

**Phone #:** 805-884-8068

**Department/Division Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Date:** 5/30/2023

**Acceptance Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Distribution:** Hearing Support Staff

**Date Filed by County Clerk:** \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Permit for Caltrans Scour Repair and Wall, Case No. 23EMP-00000-00023

May 30, 2023

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