

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tatiana Cruz, Planner

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: 009-070-039

Case No.: 24EMP-00003

Location: 337 Hot Springs Road, Santa Barbara, CA

Project Title: Wolf Trust Slope Repair and Retaining Walls

Project Applicant: Wolf, Richard 2003 Trust 9/17/03

Project Agent: Mark Lloyd

Project Description: *The proposed project is for construction of an upper and lower soldier pile retaining wall totaling 160-ft.-long and varying from 6-ft. to 8-ft. in height. The proposed retaining walls will repair and stabilize slope failure and erosion resulting from the 2023 and 2024 winter rainstorms adjacent to the existing single-family dwelling and outdoor HVAC equipment area. The 2023 and 2024 winter rainstorms damaged the slope at the south and eastern property line resulting in failure of the steep slopes and erosion of the existing retaining wall and slope face. The slopes are at risk of further failure, jeopardizing the existing development on the parcel, including the existing single-family dwelling, equipment, and 24-in. diameter-at-breast-height Oak tree (*Quercus agrifolia*) at the top of the steep slope. The proposed retaining walls will be located partly within the required 10-ft. interior lot setback and will be a maximum of 6-ft.-tall, and portions located outside the required interior lot setback areas will be a maximum of 8-ft.-tall. The retaining walls will be a total of 160-linear-ft. in length and will include (19) 24-in.-diameter cast-in-place caissons to support the retaining walls and will extend approximately 17.5-ft. to 26-ft. below grade. The project includes removal of one 4-in. diameter-at-breast-height Oak tree (*Quercus agrifolia*), which is not considered a protected specimen due to its small size. Proposed grading is approximately 60-cubic-yards of cut for installation of the (19) caissons, 200-cubic-yards of fill, and no export. Retaining wall construction is proposed pursuant to structural engineering plans prepared by Doyle-Morgan Structural Engineering Inc., dated March 8, 2024. The parcel will continue to be served by the Montecito Water District, the Montecito Sanitary District and the Montecito Fire Department. Access will continue to be provided off Hot Springs Road. The property is a 1.02-acre parcel zoned 2-E-1 and shown as Assessor's Parcel Number 009-070-039, located at 337 Hot Springs Road in the Montecito Community Plan Area, First Supervisorial District.*

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project: Wolf, Richard 2003 Trust 9/17/03

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: The proposed project is statutorily exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15269 [Emergency Projects] of the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Section 15269 exempts “specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.” The project is for 6 to 8-ft.-tall retaining walls totaling 160-ft.-long designed to stabilize slope failure and erosion that occurred on the residentially-zoned property following the 2023 and 2024 winter rainstorms, and threatens damage to the existing single-family dwelling and outdoor HVAC equipment. The project site is at risk of further catastrophic slope failure, and is therefore exempt under CEQA Section 15269.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Tatiana Cruz

Phone #: 805-568-2082

Department/Division Representative: 

Date: April 23, 2024

Acceptance Date: May 7, 2024

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____