

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Santa Barbara County Flood Control District and Water Conservation District

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: 037-245-012, 037-245-020

Case No.: NA

Location: Santa Barbara County

Project Title: Lower Mission Creek Reach 2B-2 Debris Rack Repair

Project Description: During record storm flows in 2023, the metal debris rack of the Lower Mission Creek Reach 2B-2 bypass channel was destroyed when large amounts of debris accumulated on the rack and caused it to fail. This project will replace the rack with an updated design to address potential weak points and avoid future failure. The rack size and functionality will remain the same and will involve no expansion of former use.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Statutory Exemption
- ☒ Categorical Exemption
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☐ Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Article 19, Categorical Exemption, Section 15301 – Existing Facilities. Class 1 consists of the operation, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

Reasons to support exemption findings: The key consideration for Class 1 Exemption 15301 for Existing Facilities is whether the activity involves negligible or no expansion of use. The debris rack is an existing component of the stormwater bypass facility that is regularly managed and maintained for flood control purposes. The activity would not expand the size or change the use of the facility.

There are no scenic highways, hazardous waste sites, historical resources, or designated resources of critical concern or officially adopted. There are no unusual circumstances that

conclude a reasonable possibility that the activity would have a significant effect or cumulative impact on the environment pursuant to Section 15300.2.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Walter Rubalcava Phone #: 805-568-3436

Department/Division Representative: Seth Shank

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Seth Shank", written over a horizontal line.

Date: May 29, 2025

NOTE: A copy of this document must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35-day statute of limitations on legal challenges.