

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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

**FROM:** Juan M. Beltranena, Santa Barbara County Parks

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:** 113-020-021

**Location:** 6530 Main Street, Guadalupe

**Project Title:** Guadalupe Dunes Road Restoration

**Project Description:**

The proposed project is to allow restoration of an approximately 2,300 foot long road segment that would reconnect the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes County Park entrance road to the Guadalupe Dunes public parking lot. The new road segment would replace a section of the prior road which failed during the winter storms of 2011, and would be located no more than 200 feet south of the washed out road. The road would be approximately 18 feet wide and would be paved with asphalt on top of compacted road base. The project would include approximately 1,612 cubic yards of road base fill and approximately 576 cubic yards of cut and 1,568 cubic yards of fill for road contouring. Construction of the road would occur between October 1<sup>st</sup> and the last day of February in order to avoid the breeding season for California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover. Surveys for California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover would be conducted by a USFWS-approved biologist prior to construction. The biologist would monitor all phases of construction and conduct training for construction staff. No removal of sensitive plants is anticipated. In the event of unanticipated vegetation removal, replanting would occur at a ratio of three to one for each plant removed under the direction of a biologist. Construction staging for the project will occur on existing paved areas within the Park. The road will be aligned within areas least used by sensitive bird species and would be located 100 feet away from wetland vegetation associated with the Santa Maria River inlet on-site. The road alignment design will avoid impacts to archeological resources and construction will be monitored by a County-approved archeologist and Native American representative.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara  
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Juan Beltranena, Santa Barbara County Parks

**Exempt Status:** (Check one)

Ministerial

- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:** 15269(d)

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** CEQA Section 15269(d) exempts, “*Projects undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to maintain, repair, or restore an existing highway damaged by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide, provided that the project is within the existing right of way of that highway and is initiated within one year of the damage occurring. This exemption does not apply to highways designated as official state scenic highways, nor any project undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to expand or widen a highway damaged by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide.*” The proposed project meets these criteria because it would involve construction of a road segment to replace a section of an existing road which failed due to flooding and land subsidence less than a year ago during the winter storms of 2011. The project would be undertaken and approved by the County of Santa Barbara and construction of the road would occur under the direction of the County of Santa Barbara. The road segment would be located entirely on County-owned property south of the failed portion of the road in an area with no designated road right-of-way. The new road segment would be located as close as possible and no more than 200 feet from the original alignment of the washed out road, while avoiding both sensitive resources and the area subject to erosion from the Santa Maria River. The project is proposed solely for the purposes of replacing the failed road segment and is not a widening or expansion project. The failed road segment was approximately 20 feet wide and the new road segment would be approximately 18 feet wide. The road is not a designated state scenic highway.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Juan M. Beltranena Phone #: (805) 568-2470

Department/Division Representative:  Date: 12/12/2011

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

distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Project file (when P&D permit is required)  
Date Filed by County Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_.