

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Works Department – Flood Control 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(s) : Various Case No: Not Applicable

Location: Countywide

Project Title: Emergency Response Actions from Impacts of December 2025 and January 2026 Storms.

Project Description:

Severe storms and rain events in early December 2025 and January 2026 resulted in flooding, sedimentation, and debris impacts throughout Santa Barbara County. As a result of the damages and the need to repair and restore drainage facilities, the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District has engaged in emergency response and will continue to implement measures to mitigate the emergency and prevent or mitigate subsequent emergencies during the remaining winter rainy season. The response activities may include, but are not limited to: debris removal, sediment management, channel dredging, creek and channel restoration, beach sediment disposal operations, vegetation management, and other flood control facility repairs and maintenance.

There is not an insignificant chance of additional storms this winter rainy season, and immediate action is required to remove debris from the flood control system in order to create additional capacity in the event of additional storms.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Flood Control District

Exempt Status:

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

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:

Section 15269(c): Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency that does not have a low probability of occurrence. Flood control infrastructure and drainage facilities were impacted by severe weather and must be maintained and repaired to restore flood protection performance. The pending winter and early spring months are likely to bring more periods of intense rainfall.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Andrew Raaf Phone #: (805) 722-7250

Department/Division Representative: Walter Rubalcava Date: January 7, 2026

Signature: 

Acceptance Date: _____

Upon project approval, this form must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board and posted by the Clerk of the Board for a period of 30 days to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenge

Date Filed by County Clerk