

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department of Public Works/Transportation Division
(Lead Department/Division)

Based on a preliminary review of the project the following activity is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 (Pub. Res. Code Section 21000 et seq.), as defined in the State CEQA Guidelines and County Revised CEQA Guidelines.

APN(s) Varies Project No. 820764

LOCATION: 105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407, Santa Barbara, CA

PROJECT TITLE: Road Repairs for Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Disaster, First Supervisorial District, County Project No. 820764

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

On February 11, 2020, the County Board of Supervisors dedicated \$10.1 million toward restoring haul routes and roads within the Montecito community and surrounding area that were damaged due to the January 9, 2018 debris flow and emergency response. The funds recently were received as part of the County's litigation settlement with Southern California Edison and will address 64 proposed road sections that are of highest priority to be restored to pre-debris flow conditions.

These projects will rehabilitate and preserve approximately 50 lane miles of County maintained roads. Locations are included on the attached street list (Attachment B). Approximately 64 sections of roadways will be either be milled to a specific and designated depth, and then new pavement will be constructed on top of the remaining structural section or sections of roadways will receive Cape Seal treatment. The roads will then receive striping and pavement markings as a final step.

This exemption considers all future administrative activities for this project such as Award of Contract and Statement of Final Quantities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Public Works Transportation Division

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
 Statutory Exemption
 Categorical Exemption {15301(c)}
 Emergency Project
 Declared Emergency

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Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15301(c) Existing Facilities – consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use, including but not limited to: (c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety and other alterations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes), except where the activity will involve removal of a scenic resource including a stand of trees, a rock outcropping, or a historic building.

Reasons to support exemption findings: Consistent with this exemption, the proposed project involves the repairs of existing roadway are necessary to maintain the safe traveling condition of the highway facility as it was constructed. Further, there are no unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect. Therefore, the project can be found to be categorically exempt from CEQA.

There is no substantial evidence that there are unusual circumstances (including future activities) resulting in (or which might reasonably result in) significant impacts which threaten the environment. The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

- (a) **Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 is a Class 1 exemption; therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (b) **Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.**

The project involves a repair to roadways in Montecito at 55 proposed road sections that are of highest priority to be restored to pre-debris flow conditions. In addition, there are no other identified projects which would contribute to cumulative impacts. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (c) **Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.**

The roadway repairs are in previously disturbed areas of existing roadway. The roadway repairs will have no impact on the environment. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (d) **Scenic Highways.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

The project does not involve a scenic highway or a project which may result in damage to a scenic resource, removal of trees, rock outcropping or similar resource.

- (e) **Hazardous Waste Sites.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

There are no hazardous wastes site locations on public roads. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (f) **Historical Resources.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The roadways involved are not identified as a historical resource. In addition, the adopting of the resolution would not involve any structural modifications to existing facilities. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director Public Works Transportation/Engineering Division, Phone: (805) 568-3064

Department/Division Representative: Morgan M. Jones, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner.

Acceptance Date: **March 24, 2020**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



Morgan M. Jones

Department Representative

March 2, 2020

Date

NOTE: A copy of this document must be posted with the County's Planning & Development Department at least 6 days prior to consideration of the activity by the decision-makers to comply with County CEQA guidelines and a copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

Distribution: Date filed with Planning & Development MAR 09 2020

Distribution: Date Filed by County Clerk: SB COUNTY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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