

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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

**FROM: Department of Public Works/Engineering 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 099-010-049**

**Project No. 863358**

**LOCATION** Harris grade road about 5000 feet south of Highway 135

**PROJECT TITLE** Harris Grade Road HR3

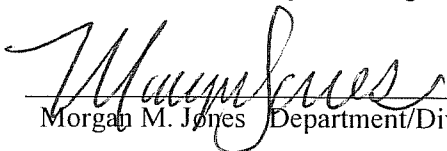
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Re-alignment of the existing roadway to increase the radius of existing curves and increase the recovery zone along roadway, including paved/unpaved 5 ft shoulder. The project will increase the roadway super-elevation to be compatible with the design speed. Currently, the roadway is crowned with minimal super-elevation that is not compatible with the speed at which motorists drive on this roadway segment. Re-contour the existing embankment and removal of 5 mature live oak trees at roadway elevations to allow re-alignment of roadway and increased sight distance visibility.

**EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)**

- Ministerial
- Statutory
- Categorical Exemption**
- Emergency Project
- No Possibility of Significant Effect [Sec. 15061 (b,3)].

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 use beyond that previously existing, 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), except where the activity will involve removal of a scenic resource including a stand of trees, a rock outcropping, or an historic building.

Reasons to support exemption findings: The project is road grading for the purpose of the increasing the traveling public's safety on an existing County maintained road and therefore is contemplated by the CEQA exemption under Section 15301. Further, there are no unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect. Because this is a public road it has been determined to be exempt from the Land Use Development Permit requirements by ordinance, under Section 35.10.040 G (b) of the Land Use Development Code. The project is a repair of a high risk rural road initiated to improve the safety of the traveling public.

  
Morgan M. Jones

Department/Division Representative

September 11, 2009

Date

**NOTE:** A copy must be posted 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 Clerk of Board