

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

**FROM:** Santa Barbara County Flood Control 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:** 105-020-070

**Case No.:** NA

**Location:** Unincorporated (Orcutt), CA

**Project Title:** Orcutt-Solomon Basin Maintenance

**Project Description:** The Orcutt-Solomon Basin is an existing flood control facility that captures, stores, and percolates urban runoff to replenish groundwater while reducing flood risk. In recent years, the basin has experienced maintenance challenges due to inlet blockages from woody debris and sediment buildup within the outlet pipe. To address these issues, the project proposes replacing the existing concrete outlet structure and repairing pipe connections with a more durable, low-maintenance drainage design. The proposed maintenance will include improved debris screening to better capture leaves, branches, and other materials before they reach the outlet. This will help the basin drain more efficiently, reduce maintenance needs, and improve overall system performance during storm events. The maintenance activities at Orcutt-Solomon Basin will be completed in late summer and fall 2026 as part of the Flood Control District's Annual Routine Maintenance Program and the associated permits. Orcutt-Solomon Basin is identified and analyzed as an existing facility within the Annual Routine Maintenance Program.

**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
- No Project


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

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** Orcutt-Solomon Basin is an existing flood control facility. The proposed action involves maintenance, repairs, and minor alterations of some

components of the basin drainage structures which do not expand existing use. Deteriorated concrete and minor drainage and access components would be removed and repaired or replaced in the same general alignment of the existing drainage components and entirely within the perimeter of the existing facility.

The area of the activity is an existing flood control basin with sandy bare soil with some limited weedy vegetation. The activity would be performed in the late summer and fall dry season. There are no particular biological resources or environmentally sensitive resources within the project area. Trees along the southern edge of the property would be protected in-place and would not be disturbed by the activity.

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. There are no scenic highways, hazardous waste sites, historical resources, or designated resources of critical concern or officially adopted that would be affected by the project, pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

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

Department/Division Representative: Matt Griffin Date: May 18, 2026

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

Date Filed by County Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

**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