

ATTACHMENT 3: NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Willow Brown, Planning & Development Department

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: County Right-of-Way west of and adjacent to 075-131-013

Case Nos.: 22DVP-00000-00023 and 22CDP-00000-00146

Location: Public right-of-way for Camino Majorca, south of property at 6897 Trigo Road along Camino Majorca, Goleta Community Plan Area, 3rd Supervisorial District

Project Title: Verizon Wireless at Camino Majorca

Project Applicant: Tricia Knight, agent for Verizon Wireless

Project Description:

The project is a request for a Tier 2(a) Director-level Development Plan and associated Coastal Development Permit to allow the construction and use of an unmanned telecommunications facility to increase wireless capacity in the west Isla Vista area. The project includes construction of an unmanned wireless facility on an existing 44-foot wood utility pole that includes attaching:

- One omni-directional canister antenna, measuring two feet in height and 14.6” in diameter, attached to the end of the antenna support bracket mounted at 28.8 feet above grade;
- One #2203, one #8843, and one #4449 radio unit installed within a 19.7” wide x 70” long shroud affixed to the side of the utility pole at 12’-3” above grade; and
- One new Verizon fiber line connected to the utility pole at 21’-4” above grade.

The proposed attachments will not increase the height of the utility pole. The project also proposes to relocate three existing communication lines that are mounted on the utility pole. The existing lines are between 22’-4” and 34’-8” above grade. The relocated lines will be between 22’-4” and 36’-8” above grade. Power for the telecommunications equipment will be supplied from two new 24” x 36” handholes located adjacent to the utility pole. The facility will be located in the right-of-way adjacent to Assessor Parcel No. 075-131-013, addressed as 6897 Trigo Road in the Goleta Community Plan area, Second Supervisorial District.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Tricia Knight, agent for Verizon Wireless

Exempt Status:

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

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: State CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 [New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures]

Reasons to support exemption findings:

The proposed project is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15303 [New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures] of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Section 15303 exempts construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. Given that the proposed project is for the installation of a new small cell wireless facility on an existing 44-foot wooden pole in the County Right-of-Way, it is exempt pursuant to Section 15303.

The proposed project does not involve 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 in 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.**

This exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply because the proposed facility is located entirely on an existing utility pole in the public right-of-way. The wood utility pole is completely devoid of vegetation and no sensitive environmental habitat is located at or adjacent to the project site.

- (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.**

This exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply because the proposed project is for an unmanned “small cell” telecommunications facility attached to an existing wood utility pole in the public right-of-way.

A Radio Frequency Engineer submitted a statement as part of the project application which concluded that the proposed project will operate within the applicable Federal Communications Commission (FCC) limit. Any future telecommunications facility on the site would be analyzed for potential environmental impacts, and all future facilities would also be required to meet FCC radio frequency emission limits. Similar development in the same place over time, developed in conformance with the applicable ordinance, policy and FCC regulations would not result in a cumulatively significant impact. County requests for collocation of telecommunication projects, where feasible, reduces cumulative effects (visual, land disturbances, etc.).

- (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.**

This exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply because the proposed telecommunications equipment would be mounted onto an existing utility pole in the public right-of-way for Camino Majorca. There are no unusual circumstances that would cause the project to have a significant effect on the environment. In addition, as stated above, the RF emissions generated from the proposed project would be within the FCC emissions limits, and therefore would not have a significant effect.

- (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.**

This exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply because project is not located within or within viewing distance of a Scenic Highway. The facility will be located over a mile from highway 101, the closest highway.

- (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.**

This exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply because the project site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (hazardous and toxic waste sites). In addition, there is no evidence of historic or current use or disposal of hazardous or toxic materials on the project site.

- (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.**

This exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply because the project will not impact a historical resource. The proposed facility will be located in a County Right-of-

Verizon Wireless at Camino Majorca, Case Nos. 22DVP-00000-00023 & 22CDP-00000-00146

Hearing Date: March 5, 2024

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Way on an existing utility pole, and no historical structures will be impacted by the proposed project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Willow Brown

Phone #: (805) 568-2040 **Department/Division Representative:** _____

Date: 2/21/24

Acceptance Date: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____