

ATTACHMENT 2: CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ciara Ristig, Planning and 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: 081-130-054, 081-130-072, 081-270-011 and Caltrans Right of Way
Case No.: 19DVP-00000-00034, 19CUP-00000-00054, 19CDP-00000-00133

Location: US 101 near Postmile 45.5 (PM 45.5), Gaviota

Project Title: Caltrans Gaviota Culvert Replacement Project

Project Applicant: Caltrans

Project Description: Denial of the following permit request:

The project is a request to authorize the replacement of an existing culvert off US Highway 101 in the Cañada del Barro drainage on the Gaviota Coast that has excessive cracking, spalling, and moderate scour behind and underneath the existing left inlet wingwall. The existing culvert is a 6' x 6' reinforced concrete box (RCB) and 72-inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) drainage facility and would be replaced with a 72-inch alternative pipe culvert. The new culvert alignment would be located just west of the existing culvert alignment off US 101 near Postmile 45.5 (PM 45.5). The existing culvert would be filled with grout and abandoned in place.

The replacement culvert would be approximately 506 feet long and would include Rock Slope Protection (RSP), an endwall and wingwalls at the outlet, and a headwall at the inlet. The existing local road and sink hole above the inlet would also be repaired. Temporary access roads are proposed during construction. Grading includes approximately 4,610 cubic yards of cut and 5,050 cubic yards of fill, with an approximate total area disturbed by grading of 40,200 square feet. The maximum vertical height of the cut and fill slopes is 30 feet.

As part of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) prepared and adopted by Caltrans, mitigation measures were applied to reduce impacts to biological resources to less than significant. The design of the culvert and proposed mitigation has been carefully developed with input provided from the California Coastal Commission, US Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and California State Parks. The proposed and required ratios for compensatory mitigation are: a 3:1 ratio for temporary and permanent impacts to ESH, including native riparian habitat, coastal streams, and coastal scrub habitat, and a 4:1 ratio for temporary and permanent impacts to coastal wetlands. Caltrans is proposing a total of 7.02 acres of mitigation, which is 1.912 more than the 5.108 acres required per the Gaviota Coast Plan. Both onsite and offsite mitigation (at Refugio Creek) is proposed. Areas impacted temporarily due

to construction will be restored on site. Offsite mitigation is required to compensate for permanent impacts, since the site consists of a steep drainage course and valley surrounding Cañada del Barro, which limits the opportunity to completely mitigate for affected habitats onsite.

Caltrans would monitor and maintain the onsite mitigation areas for five years after planting. Maintenance of the offsite areas will be funded by Caltrans and implemented by South Coast Habitat Restoration. Performance standards for both onsite and offsite mitigation efforts are identified in Attachment 6, pages 22-23.

This project is located on three parcels zoned REC (APN No. 081-130-054, 081-130-072, 081-270-011), and CalTrans Right of Way (zoned TC) off Highway 101 in the Gaviota Coast Plan area, Third Supervisorial District.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Barbara County

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption(s)
- Emergency Project

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15270 [Projects Which Are Disapproved]

Reasons to Support Exemption Findings: The proposed project is statutorily exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15270 [Projects Which Are Disapproved]. Section 15270 states that “CEQA does not apply to projects which a public agency rejects or disapproves.” The project is recommended for disapproval and therefore CEQA Section 15270 applies.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Ciara Ristig, Planner **Phone No.:** (805) 568-2077

Department/Division Representative: _____ **Date:** _____

Acceptance Date: _____

Note: A copy of this form must be posted at P&D six days prior to a decision on the project. 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 challenges.

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____