

# Attachment B

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Clerk of the Board of Directors  
FROM: Laguna County Sanitation 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(s): None Case No.: Not Applicable

Location: Laguna County Sanitation District service area, Orcutt and unincorporated Santa Maria

Project Title: Root Eradication

**Project Description:** The proposed action involves the eradication of roots that have grown into the existing sewer lines. The scope of works consist of treatment over 13 miles of the 125 mile sewer system.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Laguna County Sanitation District Board of Directors

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Barbara County Public Works Department

**Exempt Status:** (Check one)

Ministerial

Emergency Project

Statutory Exemption

Declared Emergency

Categorical Exemption

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: CCR Section 15301 (b) "Existing Facilities" pertaining to maintenance of existing publicly-owned structures and facilities used to provide sewerage services.

Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary): The clearing of roots from the sewer system is intended to prevent a sewer line clogs and overflows to protect health and safety of the public.

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.

A Class 1 exemption is applicable to this project so 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 activity would occur on existing sewer transmission facilities (pipes and manholes) and could be repeated over time as needed. However, the activity does not add capacity and is strictly to reduce pipe damage, reduce clogs and prevent sewer overflows, and therefore there are no cumulative impacts.

(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 activity is intended to reduce impacts to the environment and 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 activity is short term and is located in street or sewer easements and therefore, this exception does not apply.

(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.

The activity does not involve a hazardous waste site, and 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 activity does not involve excavation and no historical resources are anticipated to be disturbed. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Martin Wilder, Utilities Manager Phone #: (805) 739-8755

Department/Division Representative: Martin Wilder Date: October 18, 2016

Acceptance Date:

Date Filed at Planning and Development:

Date Filed by County Clerk:

Note: A copy of this form must be posted at P&D 6 days prior to a decision on the project. Upon approval, this form must be filed with the 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.