

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

RECEIVED

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

2024 JUL 10 A 9:37

**FROM: Department of Public Works/Transportation Division**  
(Lead Department/Division)

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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(s):** County ROW.

**LOCATION:** Fourth Supervisorial District.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Clark Ave Medians, Islands, and Trap Lane; County Project No. 862430; Fourth Supervisorial District.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This item is on the agenda to approve the plans and specifications, award the construction contract, and approve a budget revision for public safety and traffic improvements at Clark Ave in Orcutt, CA; location noted in Vicinity Map in Attachment B.

Clark Ave, which has two lanes in both directions, is an east to west arterial road that connects U.S 101 to State Route 135 (S.R. 135) and State Route 1 in the unincorporated area of Orcutt. Clark Ave passes underneath S.R. 135 and has highway access ramps controlled by traffic signals on both sides of the underpass. Two hundred feet west of S.R. 135 ramps is the intersection of Foxenwood Lane which runs north of Clark Ave. Vehicles are not allowed to make lefts into or out of Foxenwood Lane from Clark Avenue due to a row of channelizers that are installed across the centerline of Clark Avenue at this intersection (Figure 1 and 2). The westbound lanes of Clark Avenue west of Foxenwood Lane merge into one lane.

The proposed project would remove the existing merge lane by converting the westbound #1 (fast) lane, east of S.R. 135, into a left turn trap lane forcing vehicles in this lane to turn left onto southbound S.R. 135. The proposed project would, also, remove the existing channelizers at Foxenwood Lane, and install a raised concrete median (Figure 3) to allow eastbound vehicles on Clark Ave to turn left onto northbound Foxenwood Lane, while continuing to prevent southbound vehicles on Foxenwood Lane from turning left onto eastbound Clark Ave. The final part of the proposed project would install a pedestrian refuge island (Figure 4) at the westerly crosswalk of the signalized intersection of Clark Ave and S.R. 135 southbound ramps. The pedestrian refuge island will increase pedestrian safety by providing a protected area in the middle of the road reducing the pedestrian's exposure to vehicles, and enhancing visibility of the crossing. Traffic signs and pavement markings would be included as needed to accommodate the new left turn trap lane, median, and pedestrian refuge island.



Figure 1: Clark Avenue, Orcutt CA: at the intersection with Norris Street, looking east (existing channelizers and merge lane)



Figure 2: Clark Avenue (Intersection with State Route 135 southbound off ramp and State Route 135 southbound on ramp), looking west



Figure 3: Example of a concrete raised median with a left turn pocket



Figure 4: Example of a Pedestrian Refugee Island at an intersection

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Public Works Transportation Division

**Exempt Status:** (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption {15301 (c)}
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:** 15301: Class 1, consisting of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use for (c) existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities.

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** The proposed project would remove the existing merge lane by converting the westbound #1 (fast) lane, east of S.R. 135, into a left turn trap lane forcing vehicles in this lane to turn left onto southbound S.R. 135. The proposed project would, also, remove the existing channelizers at Foxenwood Lane, and install a raised concrete median (Figure 3) to allow eastbound vehicles on Clark Ave to turn left onto northbound Foxenwood Lane, while continuing to prevent southbound vehicles on Foxenwood Lane from turning left onto eastbound Clark Ave. The final part of the proposed project would install a pedestrian refuge island (Figure 4) at the westerly crosswalk of the signalized intersection of Clark Ave and S.R. 135 southbound ramps. The pedestrian refuge island will increase pedestrian safety by providing a protected area in the middle of the road reducing the pedestrian's exposure to vehicles, and enhancing visibility of the crossing. Traffic signs and pavement markings would be included as needed to accommodate the new left turn trap lane, median, and pedestrian refuge island.

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.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 is a Class 1 exemption; therefore, this exception does not apply as this area is not in a mapped environmentally sensitive habitat area or in an officially mapped area of severe geologic hazard or officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic area.

- (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 project involves medians, islands, and trap lane improvements on existing public road. There are no other projects proposed in the same area, thus this exception does not apply.

- (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.

The project does not involve and is not located in any wetland or an officially designated environmentally sensitive habitat area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard. Therefore, there are no unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect on the environment and 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 project does not involve a scenic highway or a project which may result in damage to a scenic resource, rock outcropping or similar resources. 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.

There are no hazardous wastes site or permitted facilities are located in the area. 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 site involved is not identified as a historical resource. The project area was reviewed and it was determined there are no cultural or historical resources in the project area. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Mostafa Estaji, Deputy Director, Public Works-Transportation Division, Phone: (805) 568-3064.

Department/Division Representative: Kalani Durham, Engineering Environmental Planner/Coordinator.

Acceptance Date: **July 9, 2024**

<u>Kalani Durham</u>		<u>June 18, 2024</u>
<b>Kalani Durham</b>	Department Representative	Date

**NOTE:** 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 by County Clerk: 7/10/24

# ATTACHMENT B: VICINITY MAP

Orcutt, CA



Crestwood Court

Bethany Ln

Orcutt Rd

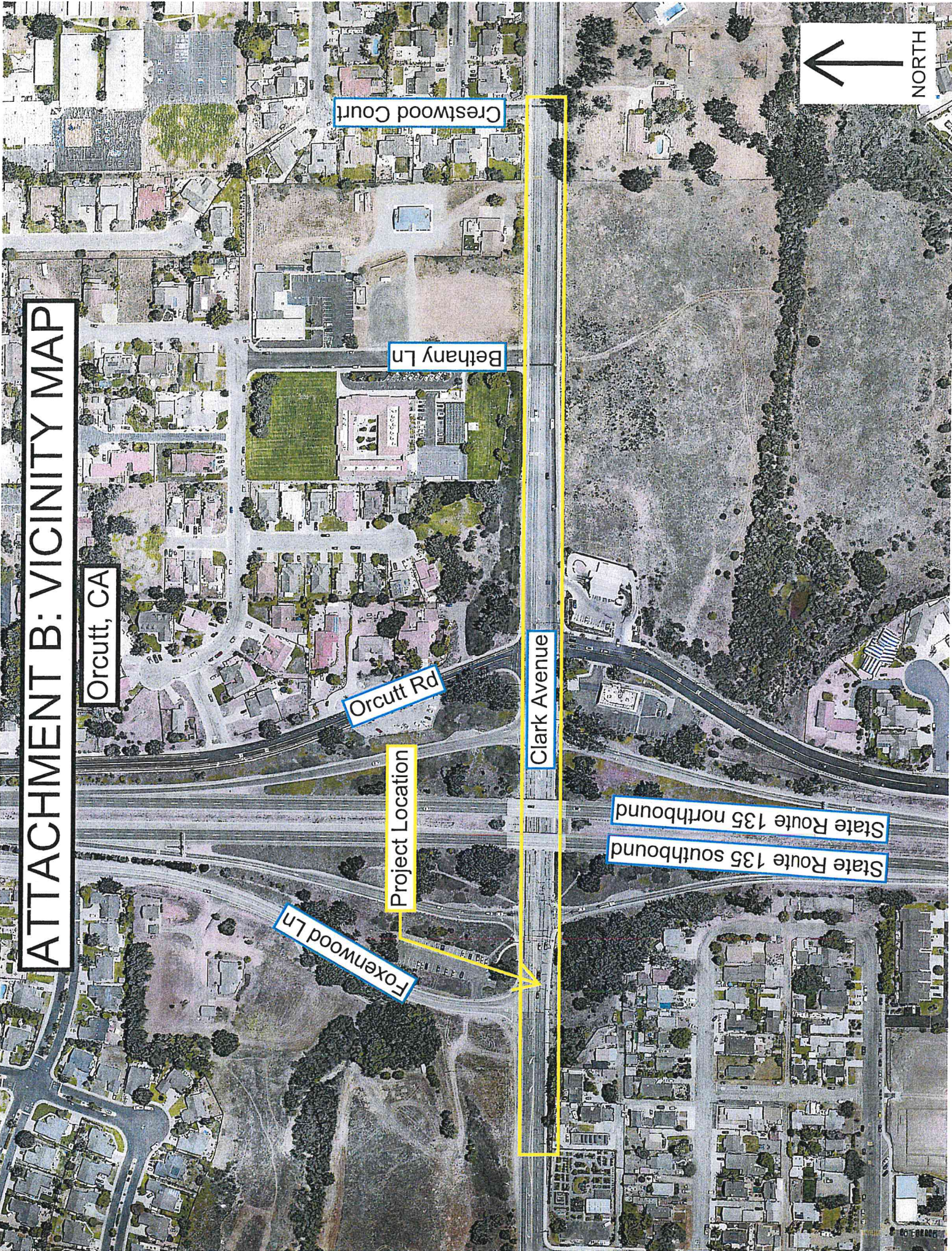
Clark Avenue

Project Location

State Route 135 northbound

State Route 135 southbound

Foxenwood Ln



# Journal Entry

Document Number: JE - 0267412  
 Document Description: Processingfee-Notice of Exemp BDL 862430 Clark Ave Median  
 Post On: 6/24/2024  
 Batch ID: 2919717  
 Created On: 6/24/2024 10:00:30 AM  
 Created By: Lori Griffin-Lynch

## References

Audit Trail: 06/24/24 Cash Type: I - Interfund

## Accounting

Fund	Dept	GL Acct	LI Acct	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Prog	OLUnit	Proj	Act	Area	Equip	Depositor	Description
0015	054	2810	7650	50.00		2110	0100	900900	1001				Processingfee-Notice of Exemp BDL 862430 Clark Ave
0015		0110			50.00								Processing Fee for Notice of Exemption
0001		0110		50.00									Processing Fee for Notice of Exemption
0001	012	2710	5746		50.00	4020							Processing Fee for Notice of Exemption
				<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>								

## Signatures

Signed By: Lori Griffin-Lynch  
 Approval Level: 054-Public Works  
 Department/Agency-Fund Group: 054-Public Works  
 Signed On: 6/24/2024 11:04:17 AM  
 Valid: Y

A-54-1



one COUNTY one FUTURE

# 2023 CEQA Transmittal Memorandum

County of Santa Barbara - Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

105 E. Anapamu St. Room 407 • Santa Barbara • CA • 93101

(805) 568-2240

Complete this form when filing a Notice of Determination (Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, Environmental Impact Report) or Notice of Exemption.

A scanned copy of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Receipt, Transmittal Memorandum and the CEQA filing including the date/time of posting will be emailed to the Lead Agency and Project Applicant. If you would like a return copy, please submit an extra copy along with a pre-addressed, stamped envelope.

Contact Person <b>Yanette Luna</b>		Phone <b>805-568-3094</b>	
Lead Agency <b>Dept. of Public Works - Transportation</b>		Lead Agency Email <b>yluna@countyofsb.org</b>	
Project Title <b>Clark Ave Medians, Islands, and Trap Lane; County Project No. 862430; Fourth Supervisorial District</b>			
Project Applicant <b>Hammer Lazaro</b>	Email <b>hlazaro@countyofsb.org</b>	Phone <b>805-803-8970</b>	
Project Applicant Address <b>620 W Foster Road</b>	City <b>Santa Maria</b>	State <b>CA</b>	Zip <b>93455</b>

### DOCUMENT BEING FILED:

- Notice of Determination - Environmental Impact Report (EIR) .....
- 2023 Filing Fee .....\$3,839.25
  - Previously Paid (must attach receipt) ..... \$0.00
  - No Effect Determination (must be attached)..... \$0.00
- Environmental Filing Fees will be collected *only* for projects that are approved. The Applicant must attest to the following:
- This project has been approved. Date of Approval: Click or tap to enter a date.

- Notice of Determination - Negative Declaration (ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).....
- 2023 Filing Fee ..... \$2,764.00
  - Previously Paid (must attach receipt) ..... \$0.00
  - No Effect Determination (must be attached)..... \$0.00
- Environmental Filing Fees will be collected *only* for projects that are approved. The Applicant must attest to the following:
- This project has been approved. Date of Approval: Click or tap to enter a date.

Notice of Exemption.....\$0.00

County Administrative Handling Fee (required for all filings, effective 7/19/18) .....\$50.00

TOTAL: \$ 50.00

### PAYMENT METHOD: ALL APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF FILING

- Cash       Credit       Check # \_\_\_\_\_       Journal Entry # 0267412
- In person only      In FIN send to 'COB CEQA' in CEO Dept





State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2024 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/24) Previously DFG 753.5a

[Print](#) [StartOver](#) [Save](#)

RECEIPT NUMBER:  
 42 — 07/10/2024 — 169  
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY Dept. of Public Works - Transportation	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL yluna@countyofsb.org	DATE 07/10/2024
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Santa Barbara		DOCUMENT NUMBER

PROJECT TITLE

Clark Ave Medians, Islands, and Trap Lane; County Project No. 862430; Fourth Supervisorial District

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME Hammer Lazaro	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL hlazaro@countyofsb.org	PHONE NUMBER (805) 803-8970
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 620 W. Foster Rd	CITY Santa Maria	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 93455

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

- Local Public Agency  
  School District  
  Other Special District  
  State Agency  
  Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

- |   |            |    |      |
|---|------------|----|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)  | \$4,051.25 | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)                                   | \$2,916.75 | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW | \$1,377.25 | \$ | 0.00 |

- Exempt from fee  
 Notice of Exemption (attach)  
 CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)  
 Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

- |   |          |    |       |
|---|----------|----|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) | \$850.00 | \$ | 0.00  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee   |          | \$ | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |          | \$ |       |

PAYMENT METHOD:

- Cash  
  Credit  
  Check  
  Other  
 TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE <b>X</b> <i>Katherine Douglas</i>	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Katherine Douglas, Deputy Clerk
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