

## ATTACHMENT B: NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

**FROM:** Kylie Brown, Planner, Planning & Development

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:** 113-020-021

**Case No.:** 23EMP-00004

**Location:** 6350 West Main Street, Guadalupe

**Project Title:** Guadalupe Dunes Road Repair Emergency Permit

**Project Applicant:** County of Santa Barbara

**Project Description:** The proposed project is for the replacement of a 600-foot-long segment of an existing road and the repair of a 1,400-foot-long segment of the roadway. The replaced segment will be shifted a maximum of 25 feet southeast from where the road was previously located. The repair will include the repair of an existing drainage ditch along the road and the installation of 9 new culverts. The portion of the road to be replaced was destroyed and the portion to be repaired was damaged during the January 2023 storm event. The road replacement and repair will reconnect the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes County Park entrance road to the Guadalupe Dunes public parking lot. The road will be approximately 18 feet wide and will be paved with asphalt on top of compacted road base. Temporary construction impacts will span up to 15 feet from the edge of the roadway. A qualified biologist will conduct a survey for California least tern and western snowy plover prior to construction. The biologist will monitor all construction activities and provide training for construction staff. A qualified archaeologist will conduct a pedestrian survey prior to commencement of construction and will monitor all construction activities.

The project constitutes an emergency because the damaged road is the only access road to the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes County Park. March 1 through September 31 is the established nesting season for the western snowy plover. The Santa Barbara County Parks Division staff requires access to the park to be able to protect the western snowy plover nesting habitat. Additionally, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department requires access to monitor water quality, as well as several agencies and non-government organizations, such as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, accessing the area for data collection. Collected data may indicate the need for water quality and safety warnings or actions by the County. The road is also used by emergency services, such as the Santa Barbara County Fire and Sheriff Departments, and

provides coastal access to the nearby communities. Therefore, emergency action is warranted and necessary.

Grading for the road replacement will include approximately 420 cubic yards of road base fill and approximately 150 cubic yards of cut and 408 cubic yards of fill for road contouring. Grading for the road repair will include approximately 1,380 cubic yards of road base fill and 5,200 cubic yards of excavation of flood spoils. No trees are proposed for removal. No removal of sensitive plants is anticipated. In the event of unanticipated removal of native vegetation, replanting would occur at a ratio of three to one for each plant removed, under the direction of a biologist. Staging and construction areas will be located on existing paved areas within the Park to avoid vehicle and foot traffic on vegetated dunes. The work is expected to be completed within 30 days of permit issuance. The parcel will continue to be served by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department. Access will continue to be provided off of West Main Street. The property is a 488-acre parcel zoned RES-320 and shown as Assessor's Parcel Number 113-020-021, located at 6350 West Main Street in the Guadalupe area, Fifth Supervisorial District.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** County of Santa Barbara

**Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project:** County of Santa Barbara Public Works Transportation Division

**Exempt Status:**

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

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section:** Section 15269(c), Emergency Projects

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15269(c) exempts “specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.” Emergency action is warranted in this case because the 2023 storm event destroyed the existing access road connecting the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes County Park entrance road to the Guadalupe Dunes public parking lot. Access to the park is required to protect critical bird habitats, to monitor water quality, and for use by emergency services. Therefore, this statutory exemption applies to the proposed project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Kylie Brown, Planner

**Phone #:** (805) 568-2507      **Department/Division Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** July 6, 2023

Guadalupe Dunes County Park Road Repair  
Case No. 23EMP-00004  
July 2023  
Attachment C – 3

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

**Distribution:** Hearing Support Staff

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