

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

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

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) Right of Way. Project No. N/A

LOCATION: Countywide: All Supervisorial Districts

PROJECT TITLE: FY 2021/2022 Road Maintenance Annual Plan, All Supervisorial Districts

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Santa Barbara County Public works requests the Board adopt the FY 21/22 Road Maintenance Annual Plan (RdMAP). Every year, the Public Works Department prepares the RdMAP outlining the recommended maintenance work for the upcoming fiscal year, including both maintenance operations work plans and capital maintenance.

Public Works' Transportation Division maintains and repairs approximately 1,650 lane miles of roadways and adjacent bike paths, as well as major bridge and culvert structures, curb, gutter, sidewalks curb ramps, traffic signals, and over 9,000 street trees which makes up our Urban Forest. The RdMAP process allows the Department to prioritize needed annual improvements and match this need with limited available funding for road maintenance. This year, the RdMAP programs approximately \$8.3M for pavement preservation and associated hardscape repair, and defers approximately \$6.0M in pavement preservation. The RdMAP also includes approximately \$2.75M of work on bridges, culverts, and traffic devices such as guardrail, signage and striping.

Your Board adopted a list of projects for FY 2020/21 funded by the RMRA on April 6, 2021 as a requirement of the bill. Most of these roads are also reflected in the FY 2021/22 RdMAP. Some minor adjustments were required to match anticipated revenue reductions due to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. The work in the RdMAP reflects the reduced funding and the RMRA project list will be updated at the end of the fiscal year as part of the annual expenditure report to the state.

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(c) Existing Facilities – Class 1 consists 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 use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency’s determination. The types of “existing facilities”, itemized below are not intended to be all inclusive of the types of projects which might fall within Class 1. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. Examples include but are not limited to: (c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety).

Reasons to support exemption findings: Consistent with this exemption, this proposed project involves activities related to the repair and maintenance activities for public highway and street facilities. The project allows for a public safety activity designed to maintain a safe working condition of the roadway facilities as they were constructed. Further, there are no unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect. Therefore, this project can be found to be categorically exempt from CEQA.

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.

- (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 the repair and maintenance of existing facilities to improve public safety. In addition, there are no other identified projects which would contribute to cumulative impacts. Therefore, 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 involves a routine repair projects to maintain safe roadways for the traveling public. The projects will occur at specific locations where there are no sensitive resources located. 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 project does not involve a scenic highway or a project which may result in damage to a scenic resource, removal of trees, rock outcropping or similar resource. 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 locations in the roadway right of way. 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 maintenance locations involved are not identified as a historical resource. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Public Works-Transportation Division, Phone: (805) 568-3064

Department/Division Representative: Morgan M. Jones, Engineering Environmental Project Team Leader.

Acceptance Date: **July 13, 2021**
Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



Morgan Jones

Department Representative

May 26, 2021

Date

NOTE: A copy of this document must be posted with the County's Planning & Development Department at least 6 days prior to consideration of the activity by the decision-makers 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: _____.