

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. 900900

LOCATION: Lillie Ave in the Community of Summerland

PROJECT TITLE: Lillie Ave Street Lights, Southern California Edison License Agreement

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This proposed project is a request for the Board to approve and authorize the Chair to execute the First Amendment to the License Agreement with Southern California Edison Company, and to additionally allow the installation of flower baskets on streetlights and electric poles on Lillie Ave in the town of Summerland. The Department received a request from the Summerland Citizens Association (SCA) to mount flower baskets and add other flags, in addition to American flag, on SCE streetlights and poles. This item is on the agenda to amend the License Agreement with Southern California Edison Company (SCE) to allow flower baskets to be installed on streetlights and electric poles on Lillie Ave in the town of Summerland. This exemption considers all further administrative activities for this project such as Authority to Advertise, Award of Contract and Statement of Final Quantities.

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 a minor alteration within an existing public road facility. The project allows for the installation of flower baskets on streetlights and the electric poles along the roadway improve safety by increasing driver awareness. 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 alteration and maintenance of an existing roadway facility with installation of flower baskets on streetlights and the electric poles on Lillie Ave to improve safety and awareness. Beautification efforts along roadways can improve safety by increasing driver awareness. Additionally, 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 routine alteration of existing facilities to improve the aesthetics of the roadway enhances the overall visual appeal of the surroundings. The project proposes to transform an otherwise mundane stretch of road into a more visually

pleasing and enjoyable experience for the traveling public. The project will occur where no sensitive resources are 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, rock outcropping or similar resource. The installation of flower baskets on streetlights and electric poles is a form of beautification and by incorporating beauty along roadways offers numerous benefits, including visual appeal, improved mental well-being, enhanced safety, environmental advantages, economic development, and community engagement. 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 residential roadway right of way. The proposed project is a method of beautifying roadways that can have positive economic impacts on surrounding areas. Aesthetically pleasing roads and landscapes attract tourists, enhance the appeal of commercial areas, and can lead to increased business opportunities and property values. By creating an inviting and visually appealing environment, communities can stimulate economic growth and development. 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.**

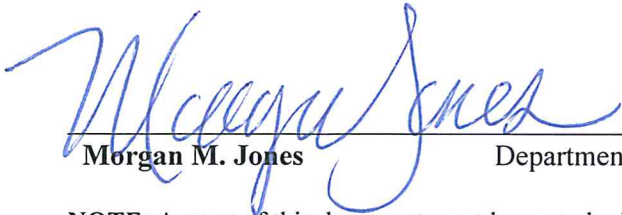
The roadway involved is not identified as a historical resource. The proposed project aims to create a more aesthetically pleasing roadway to help instill a sense of pride and ownership with the local community. When roadways and their surroundings being cared for and beautified, it promotes a sense of community engagement and encourages individuals to take pride in their neighborhood. 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 Program Business Leader.

Acceptance Date: **June 27, 2023**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



Morgan M. Jones

Department Representative

June 5, 2023

Date

NOTE: A copy of this document must be posted 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: _____.