

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) 107-790-074, 107-800-015, State Right of Way **Project No.** 862381

LOCATION: Union Valley Parkway (UVP) and Woodmere Road, Santa Maria Valley Area, in the Fourth Supervisorial District

PROJECT TITLE: Construction of UVP/Woodmere Barrier Wall Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This proposed project includes all of the following items:

- Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board to execute a Project Cooperative Agreement with the Santa Maria Creekside Homeowners Association.

Project Cooperative Agreement

Public Works and the Santa Maria Creekside Association have been working towards an agreement to deliver a barrier wall project to complete the UVP/US 101 interchange project. The interchange project completed sound walls adjacent to homes in the unincorporated area only where required by regimented protocols. This left gaps in the wall that the proposed project will fill to make a continuous barrier between the freeway and adjacent homes. COUNTY and ASSOCIATION have developed an agreement to deliver and to maintain this project.

- Authorize the Director of Public Works to advertise for bids to construct UVP/Woodmere Barrier Wall Project: County Project No. 862381

UVP/US 101 Barrier Wall

This barrier wall would be constructed along a short segment of UVP and adjacent to the southbound UVP/US 101 interchange on-ramp. It is estimated the wall would be 4 to 8 feet tall and 800 feet long. The wall is proposed to be of masonry block construction and located on what is currently State of California right-of-way. The project would be built on a retaining wall foundation. After construction the barrier wall excess land described in the Cooperation Agreement will be transferred from the State to the County and then from the County to the Association.

Woodmere Barrier Wall

The "Woodmere barrier" consists of three segmented barriers walls that will fill gaps in an existing berm system paralleling U.S. 101. The barriers will be constructed between Woodmere Drive and U.S. 101, in between existing berms. The estimated

height of the Woodmere is estimated to be between 5-7 feet tall. The cumulative length of the three barriers walls is approximately 600 feet.

- This exemption considers all further administrative activities for this project such as 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 a public safety feature designed to reduced highway noise to nearby by residences and pedestrians. 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 existing roadways 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 routine alteration to maintain safe roadways for pedestrians and 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, 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 residential roadway right of way. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

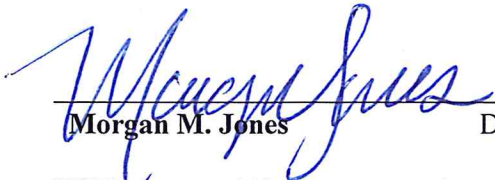
- (f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.**

The roadways 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, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner,

Acceptance Date: **August 30, 2016**
Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



Morgan M. Jones

Department Representative

Date

June 10, 2016

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 with Planning & Development _____.

Distribution: Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.