

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
(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) 107-510-021 Project No. N/A

LOCATION: The project is located on Valley Drive between Via Santa Maria and Kit Way. Please see the attached map, labeled "Exhibit 1", for exact location.

PROJECT TITLE: Mud Lake Siphon Improvement Project, Phase II

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Mud Lake Siphon Improvement Project, Phase II, will consist of replacing the existing, deteriorated, siphon line that outlets from the Mud Lake Basin, a Flood Control retention basin facility, with a new gravity line to be installed by the Horizontal Directional Drilling method, a trenchless technology. The new gravity line will be 12 inches in diameter and extend approximately 1300 feet north of the basin, within Valley Drive, with approximately the last 200 feet being placed in an open cut and cover operation. A new manhole and gate valve within Valley Drive are also proposed. These improvements will allow Flood Control Maintenance staff to more effectively manage the Mud Lake Basin facility.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
 Statutory Exemption
 Categorical Exemption {15301, 15304}
 Emergency Project
 Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:

CEQA Guideline Section 15301 (d): 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.

CEQA Guideline Section 15304 (f): Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees...

Reasons to support exemption findings: Consistent with this exemption, this proposed project does not occur on land with a slope of more than ten percent. The project involves minor trenching and backfilling where the

surface is restored and is not located in any wetland or an officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard. 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 15304 is a Class 4 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 is the repair of an existing facility and consists of minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored in an existing public road to install a new gravity line. There are no other projects proposed in the 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 is the repair of an existing facility and not located in any wetland or an officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard. 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 sites within the project reach. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

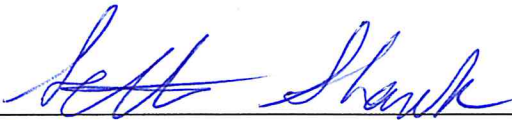
(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Mud Lake Basin and Valley Drive are not identified as historical resources. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Tom Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, Phone: (805) 568-3436

Department/Division Representative: Seth Shank, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner,

Acceptance Date: _____



June 2, 2014

Seth Shank

Department Representative

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 with Planning & Development _____.

Distribution: Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.

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