

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Mark Schleich, Deputy Director Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management

**FROM:** Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management

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:** None

**Case No.:** NA

**Location:** Isla Vista, California (County Service Area 31)

**Project Title:** Isla Vista Streetlight Retrofit

**Project Description:** Within County Service Area 31 (Isla Vista, California), replace existing Southern California Edison high pressure sodium vapor streetlight bulbs with brighter, energy efficient light emitted diode (LED) bulbs to enhance night-time safety and reduce energy demand. The retrofits would occur to existing streetlights in the existing County road right-of-way and would not involve any ground disturbing activities. Some new masts would be added to existing poles. The retrofits would generally occur within the area of Isla Vista between Sabado Tarde on the south and El Colegio Road to the north and Camino Majorca on the west and Ocean Road on east.

CSA 31 manages streetlighting services in Isla Vista. The streetlights are owned and maintained by Southern California Edison, a California Public Utilities regulated entity on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Martin Wilder, Utilities Manager

**Exempt Status:** (Check one)

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

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:** CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c and f), Existing Facilities.

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 exempts the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing or licensing or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of an existing use. Consistent with this exemption, the proposed project involves the minor alteration (replacement) of lamp heads and light bulbs on existing public streetlights with new LED light fixtures and the addition of mast arms to existing poles to reduce energy demand and enhance public area lighting with negligible expansion of the existing use. The lights are located in the existing public right-of-way and would not require any ground disturbance or the removal of any trees or vegetation.

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.

Section 15301 is a Class 1 exemption; therefore, this exception is not applicable.

**(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.

A similar retrofit of lamp heads/bulbs was approved in 2013 in a different area of Isla Vista and the retrofit will be completed in 2014. Both projects would replace lamp heads/bulbs on existing poles and would not involve any ground disturbance or removal of vegetation. Therefore, no cumulative impacts would result. Therefore, this exception is not applicable.

**(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 proposed project involves replacing lamp heads and light bulbs on existing streetlights. The lights are located in the existing public right-of-way and would not require any ground disturbance or the removal of any trees or vegetation. There are no unusual circumstances associated with the project location, design or construction methods that are expected to result in a significant effect on the environment. 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 work area encompasses the community of Isla Vista a developed urban area. The project involves replacing existing lamp heads and light bulbs on existing streetlight fixtures. No designated scenic highways occur within the project area or would be impacted by the project. 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.

The project involves the replacement of lamp heads and light bulbs on existing streetlights. The project would not involve any ground disturbance and would therefore not impact any hazardous waste sites. 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 project involves the replacement of lamp heads and light bulbs on existing streetlights. Since no ground disturbance is required for the installation, no historical resources will be disturbed. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Martin Wilder, Utilities Manager  
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Department/Division Representative: Joddi Leipner Joddi S. Leipner  
Date: June 6, 2014

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

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

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