

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: State Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account List of Projects Fiscal Year 2025-26; All Supervisorial Districts

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This item is on the agenda to fulfill requirements for Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account (RMRA) funding as provided by Senate Bill 1 by adopting a list of proposed projects.

Pursuant to Section 2034 of the Streets and Highways Code (SHC), each year, the County must submit a list of proposed RMRA-funded projects to the California Transportation Commission to be eligible for RMRA fund apportionment. The list of projects must be adopted by Board resolution, and must include:

- A description and the location of each proposed project;
- A proposed schedule for the project's completion; and
- An estimated useful life of the improvement.

The County's fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 proposed project list is included as Exhibit 1 to the Resolution (Attachment A). This list assumes an estimated \$10.5M in RMRA apportioned to the County for deferred maintenance in FY 2025-26 (based on an estimate provided by the California State Association of Counties in January 2025), and also includes planned work to be completed with General Fund and other road maintenance funding.

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 basic road maintenance, rehabilitation, and critical safety projects on local public streets and roads system. Activities include pavement maintenance, guardrail and traffic device upgrades and replacements, sidewalk infills and repairs, bridge maintenance, and drainage work. 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 a resolution that is adopted annually establishing a list of projects for fiscal year 2025-26 funded by the State’s Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017. 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 resolution that is adopted annually is a procedural element of the funding component

required to maintain existing public road facilities. The adopting of a resolution will have no impact on the environment.

- (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 roadways involved are not identified as a historical resource. The adoption of the Resolution would not involve any structural modifications to existing facilities. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

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

Department/Division Representative: Kalani Durham, Environmental Planner/Coordinator,

Acceptance Date: **April 1, 2025**
Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting

Kalani Durham February 26, 2025
Kalani Durham Department Representative Date

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

Journal Entry

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References

Audit Trail: 02/27/25 Cash Type: I - Interfund

Accounting

Fund	Dept	GL Acct	LI Acct	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Prog	OUnit	Proj	Act	Area	Equip	Depositor	Description
0015	054	2810	7650	50.00		2110	0100	900900	1001				Processfee-NOE-2025-04-01 RMRA Projects 25/26
0015		0110			50.00								Processfee-Notice of Exemption
0001		0110		50.00									Processfee-Notice of Exemption
0001	012	2710	5746		50.00	4020							Processfee-Notice of Exemption
			Total	100.00	100.00								

Signatures

Signed By	Approval Level	Department/Agency-Fund Group	Signed On	Valid
Lori Griffin-Lynch		054-Public Works	2/27/2025 10:24:13 AM	Y