

ATTACHMENT 2: CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Steve Rodriguez, Planning & Development

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: 083-280-024

Case Nos.: 16APL-00000-00022/14LUP-00000-00514

Location: 3927 Jalama Road, Lompoc, CA

Project Title: Signorelli Appeal of the Jimenez Land Use Permit

Project Description:

The project is a Land Use Permit on property zoned Agriculture (AG-II-100) in compliance with Section 35.82.100 of the County Land Use and Development Code to approve “as-built” road repairs and to allow future road maintenance activities as described below.

The project is a request for approval of “as-built” repairs to an existing agricultural road identified as Road Segment 47 on a Comprehensive Ranch Road Grading and Maintenance Plan dated November 1, 2016 (Attachment 4 of this Board Agenda Letter), and the approval of potential future maintenance activities on Road Segment 47. The proposed Comprehensive Ranch Road Grading and Maintenance Plan was prepared by the project Applicant to depict all existing roads on the project site as well as the proposed Road Segment 47 road maintenance area.

Road Segment 47 is a dirt road approximately 200 feet in length that varies from approximately 12 to 16 feet in width. Proposed road maintenance activities would generally involve minor scraping of the dirt road surface to remove vegetation that has grown on the roadway and to remove rocks and dirt that have accumulated on the road. No soil generated by road maintenance activities would be imported or exported, and any rocks encountered during road maintenance activities that are greater than six inches may be stockpiled on the project site for future use on-site. All proposed maintenance activities would occur within the existing footprint of the road segment.

The Comprehensive Ranch Road Grading and Maintenance Plan identifies erosion control measures that would be implemented at the proposed road maintenance site. Proposed erosion control measures include the use of sand bags, straw bales and fiber rolls, and compliance with Grading Ordinance requirements. No grading would take place within the banks of any blue-line creeks.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Manuel Jimenez

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
 Statutory Exemption
 Categorical Exemption
 Emergency Project
 Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 and 15304 - Minor Alterations to Land.

Reasons to support exemption findings: The project consists of the approval of a Land Use Permit that would approve previous road maintenance activities, and would allow potential future road maintenance on an existing ranch road identified as Road Segment 47.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 exempts the repair, maintenance, or minor alterations of existing facilities or topographic features that result in negligible or no expansion of existing use. Proposed road maintenance activities would generally consist of scraping the existing road, which is approximately 200 feet in length, to remove accumulated dirt and rocks, and to remove vegetation that has grown on the roadway surface. The maintenance of the existing road would not change or increase existing agricultural operations conducted on the project site such that there would be an increase in traffic traveling on the project site or on public roads located near the project site. The removal of vegetation (mostly non-native grasses and other weedy and invasive plant species) reduces the potential for vehicles to cause a vegetation fire. Proposed road maintenance activities would not result in changes to existing topographic condition or the installation of any impervious surfaces that could increase storm water runoff rate of flow or volume.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 allows for minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project includes maintenance activities on one existing road segment and the proposed maintenance activities would not require the removal of any trees.

The project site is approximately 2,000 feet west of Jalama Road and approximately 1.25 miles west of Highway 1. Due to distance and intervening topography the proposed road maintenance activities would not be visible from Jalama Road, Highway 1, or other public roads in the project area.

The project would implement proposed erosion control measures including the installation of erosion and sedimentation control fiber rolls, straw bales and sandbag barriers. In addition, all of the roads on the project site are subject to the provisions of an agricultural erosion control permit as required by Grading Ordinance Section 14.9-1. At minimum, an erosion control permit is required to provide the location and details of runoff control, drainage devices, sedimentation basins, revegetation, and other measures of erosion control. The erosion control permit also requires periodic inspections of work completed under the permit. The project would not result in a substantial change to the existing

topography of the project site and would not have the potential to result in significant slope stability impacts. Therefore, the project would be exempt. There is no substantial evidence that there are unusual circumstances, including future activities, resulting in or that might reasonably result in, significant impacts that 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.**

The project would allow potential future maintenance activities on an existing agricultural road segment that is approximately 200 feet in length. Proposed road maintenance activities would not impact designated critical habitat of any species, or result in the development of structures or uses that may be impacted by a mapped or designated hazard.

- (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 would allow potential future maintenance activities on an existing dirt agricultural road segment that is approximately 200 feet in length. Proposed road maintenance activities would generally consist of minor scraping the existing road surface to remove accumulated dirt and rocks, and to remove vegetation that has grown on the roadway surface. Project-specific erosion control measures would be implemented as described by the Comprehensive Ranch Road Grading and Maintenance Plan prepared for the project. Impacts that could result from the proposed road maintenance activities would not be cumulatively considerable, and all roadways on the project site are required to implement the requirements of an approved erosion control permit. The applicant has filed an application (16GRD-00000-00064) to renew an existing erosion control permit. Therefore, the cumulative impact of successive projects of this type in the same place, over time, would not be significant.

- (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.**

There are no unusual circumstances associated with the proposed project where there is a reasonable possibility that the project would have a significant effect on the environment. The existing road that would be maintained serves an existing agricultural operation; would not result in a substantial amount of grading; would implement appropriate erosion control measures; and would be developed pursuant to Grading Ordinance standards.

- (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 proposed project would not be visible from a designated scenic highway. The project would not result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, historic buildings, or rock outcroppings within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. 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 is not located on sites included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. 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.**

No historical resources are located on the subject parcel. The road segment where proposed maintenance activities would occur was surveyed for the presence of cultural resources (Compass Rose, 2015). The survey report was peer reviewed by the County archaeologist, and the report concluded that no cultural resources have been previously recorded within the project property and no cultural resources, either prehistoric or historical, were identified during the field investigation. The proposed project would not result in any substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Steve Rodriguez

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Department/Division Representative: _____ Date: _____

Acceptance Date: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Project file (when P&D permit is required)

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.