

# 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)** N/A County owned Right of Way      **Project No.**    N/A

**LOCATION:** First and Second Supervisorial Districts

**PROJECT TITLE:** Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons in the First and Second Supervisorial Districts, County Project No. 820796.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Public Works requests the Board of Supervisors to approve the plans and specifications, award the construction contract, and approve a budget revision for Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons to the lowest responsible bidder, Xcel Engineering.

On Thursday, January 11, 2024, one (1) bid was opened for the project. Xcel Engineering submitted the only and thus lowest responsible bid in the amount of \$266,561 which is 36% above the Engineer's Estimate. The Project was bid in accordance with the Public Contract Code, which requires the award to go to the lowest responsible bidder. The Department analyzed the bid and determined the lowest bidder is responsible and responsive. Furthermore, the increase over the Engineer's Estimate is largely a result of the increase in material, equipment, and labor costs. This escalation is similar to what is being seen across the construction industry in the area. The Department recommends awarding this contract to Xcel Engineering.

The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) is a core Federal-aid program with the purpose of achieving a significant reduction in traffic collisions and serious injuries on public roads through the installation of traffic control devices. A countywide study on uncontrolled marked crosswalks analyzed traffic collisions, crash potential, and crash rate. The study determined the locations that qualified for the HSIP program. The unincorporated areas of Isla Vista, Summerland, and Montecito contain uncontrolled marked crosswalks with pedestrian warning signs. The proposed project would install pedestrian actuated Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons to accompany the pedestrian warning signs. These flashing beacons would enhance pedestrian conspicuity and increase driver awareness at uncontrolled marked crosswalks. Proposed project will improve overall pedestrian safety. The flashing beacons will be installed at the following locations:

Isla Vista;

Camino Pescadero at Cervantes Road  
Camino del Sur between Abrego Road and Sueno Road  
Embarcadero del Mar at Madrid Road  
Embarcadero del Mar at Seville Road  
Embarcadero del Norte at Seville Road  
Embarcadero del Norte at Madrid Road

Summerland:

Lillie Avenue at Hollister Street, Colville Street, Olive Street, & Greenwell Ave

Montecito:

Hot Springs Road at School House Road

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
- X** 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, the proposed project involves a in change parking designations as an effective method for improving traffic safety and circulation. Parking regulations and stop controls on public roadways are established based upon safety, sight distance restrictions, necessity and how it relates to the use by the community as a whole. The project allows for a public safety activity designed to maintain a safe traveling condition of the highway facility as it was constructed. Further, there are no unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect. Therefore, the 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 changes to existing pedestrian safety/warning signs on public unincorporated roads. 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 a routine updating of parking regulations on public roads. 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.

- (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 on public roads. 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. In addition, changes in pedestrian safety signs would not involve any structural modifications to existing facilities. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director Public Works

Transportation/Engineering Division, Phone: (805) 568-3064

Department/Division Representative: Kalani Durham, Environmental Coordinator

Acceptance Date: **March 5, 2024**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting

<i>Kalani Durham</i>	February 13, 2024
<b>Kalani Durham</b>	Date
Department Representative	

**NOTE:** A copy of this document must be posted 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 by County Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_.