

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: First, Second, and Third Supervisorial Districts

PROJECT TITLE: Measure A Safe Routes to School and Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Measure A Bicycle and Pedestrian and Safe Routes to School grant committee awarded the County and its co-sponsors funding for one capital project, two engineering studies, and two programs. This action will amend the agreement to include grants awarded for Cycle 2.

- ***Capital Project***

Tatum Pathway Improvement Project– This project will improve the informal pathway across the Tatum Property linking the surrounding neighborhoods to San Marcos High School and El Camino Elementary School.

- ***Engineering Studies***

Santa Barbara County Pedestrian Master Plan– The County is required to have an ADA transition plan and methods for addressing ADA compliance and pedestrian access. These funds will be used to compile existing information and create a unified strategy for setting priorities and implementation of future projects to address pedestrian facility needs.

Santa Claus Lane Class I Bike Path– Funds from this grant will be used to complete preliminary engineering and environmental analysis to study the feasibility of a bicycle path connection between Santa Claus Lane and Carpinteria Avenue. SBCAG will administer, provide the matching funds, and be responsible for grant deliverables for this regional project.

- ***Co-sponsored Programs***

Co-sponsored programs include those sponsored by the County together with the cities of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, and Goleta. The cities will be responsible for signing a cooperative agreement and overseeing implementation of these programs in their respective jurisdictions.

Safe Routes to School (COAST) – This program will be implemented at schools throughout the South Coast by the Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST). The program includes activities such as helmet fittings, school assemblies, hazard assessment, and incentive programs to help children, schools and parents in the community promote bicycling and walking to school.

This application was co-sponsored by the Cities of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, and Goleta. The County will serve as the contract administrator for the project.

Youth Bicycle Education - This program will be implemented by the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition to provide education programs for grades 6-12 in bicycle riding skills, basic rules of the road and bike maintenance. This application was co-sponsored by the Cities of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, and Goleta. The County will serve as the contract administrator for the project.

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 – "...consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, including but 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), except where the activity will involve removal of a scenic resource including a stand of trees, a rock outcropping, or an historic building.

Reasons to support exemption findings: Consistent with this exemption, this proposed project involves an activity related to the repair and maintenance activities for an existing road facility. The project allows for a public safety activities designed to increase the safety of school children and pedestrian traffic crossing the roadway. Further, 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 the repair and maintenance of an existing roadway to improve public safety. 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 routine repair to maintain a safe roadway for the traveling public. The project will occur where no sensitive resources are located. 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 site locations in the residential 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.

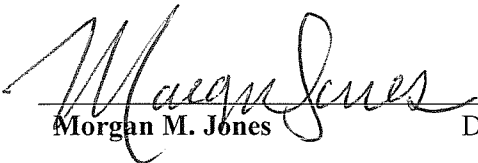
The roadways involved are not identified as a historical resource. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

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

Department/Division Representative: Morgan M. Jones, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner,

Acceptance Date: **May 7, 2013**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting


Morgan M. Jones

Department Representative

April 25, 2013

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: _____.