

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) 153-270-009, 153-270-013, 153-270-015, 153-270-016, and 153-270-028.

Project No. N/A

LOCATION: Tunnel Trail and Tunnel Road, located in the unincorporated community of Mission Canyon.

PROJECT TITLE: Mission Canyon Trailhead Improvements Funding Agreement with Southern California Edison, First Supervisorial District

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This item is to authorize a Funding Agreement (Agreement) with Southern California Edison (SCE) for Mission Canyon Trailhead Improvements. SCE will voluntarily pay the County of Santa Barbara Public Works Transportation Department \$214,200 for improvements at and around Tunnel Trail trailhead.

Below are the four County Projects proposed under the Agreement:

Project #	Description
County Project #1	Improve parking area above 1404 Tunnel Rd. Paving, striping and limited retaining or curb structure on canyon side of the parking spaces. Possible addition of one or two parking spaces.
County Project #2	Pedestrian safety. On East side of road, prune and maintain brush back to fence line. Starting above the gabion wall located about 75 feet below driveway to 1440 Tunnel, where slope allows, move fence out to create pedestrian path. From driveway at 1440, continuing up to Orange Grove Ave, regrade, move rocks and adapt drainage to create a pathway. Possible alternate in this area is use of timber walkway.
County Project #3	Eliminate Parking above 1340 Tunnel Rd. Eliminate 1 or 2 parking spaces to include retention structures to improve marginal spaces into full parking, as well as improve/add one or two spaces on opposite side of the street.
County Project #4	Create parking where possible.

Paving, diagonal striping, possibly curb at the existing parking area about 200 feet past the hairpin turn at 1297 Tunnel Rd. Possible addition of two parking spaces.

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 a minor alteration and maintenance within an existing public road and trail facility for public safety. 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 minor alteration and maintenance of existing pedestrian trails and roadways 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 alteration to maintain safe roadways and trails for pedestrians and 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 roadway involved is 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: Kalani Durham, Environmental Coordinator

Acceptance Date: **December 12, 2023**
Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting

Kalani Durham

November 14, 2023

Kalani Durham

Department Representative

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: _____.