

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Community Services Department, Parks Division

LOCATION: Tuckers Grove Park, Santa Barbara, CA

PROJECT TITLE: Tuckers Grove Park Bridge Replacement

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project provides preliminary environmental analysis, topographic survey, hydrologic studies and preliminary civil engineering analysis for replacement of the existing concrete summer crossing with a bridge (wooden/steel structure) over San Antonio Creek, located within Tucker's Grove County Park. The current concrete structure is considered to be a barrier for the steelhead trout. A replacement bridge spanning over the creek would enhance the movement and migration of the steelhead trout along San Antonio Creek and also reduce sediment build up and bank erosion upstream of the summer crossing. The surveys, studies and analyses will be the first step in data collection in order to proceed with the design and potential environmental review and mitigations for the Tuckers Grove Bridge Replacement project.

EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)

- Ministerial
- Statutory
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- No Possibility of Significant Effect

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: Section 15306

Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary):

The proposed action is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15306 [*Data Collection*] of the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CEQA Replacement of Reconstruction exemption at Section 15306 consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

With regard to the proposed project, the exceptions to the Existing Facilities categorical exemption that must be considered 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 in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and official adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

The Section 15306 is a Class 6 Categorical Exemption, therefore this exception is not applicable. The surveys, studies and analyses will be the first step in data collection in order to proceed with the design, environmental review and potential mitigations.

(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.

There are no successive projects of the same type in the same place anticipated for this location. There is no cumulative impact and, 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 Section 15306 is a Class 6 Categorical Exemption, therefore this exception is not applicable.

(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.*

This proposed project is in an existing outdoor recreational facility. There are no state scenic highways in the project area. 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.*

This proposed project is not located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Therefore, it is not located on a hazardous waste site and 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.*

This proposed project does not involve any historical resources. This exception does not apply.

As described above, none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions contained within Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines apply to this project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jill Van Wie Phone: (805) 568-2470

Date filed with Clerk of Board

Jill Van Wie 11/17/22
Department/Division Representative Date

NOTE: A copy of this document must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board.