

# 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. 820786**

**LOCATION:** Refugio Rd MP 4.0 in the Third Supervisorial District

**PROJECT TITLE:** Alisal Fire Damage Repair Refugio Rd MP 4.0 Retaining Wall

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This proposed project includes the authorization of a contract in the amount of \$387,700 to the second lowest responsible bidder, Beador Construction Company, Inc., 26320 Lester Circle, Corona, CA 92883, subject to the provision of documents and certifications, as set forth in the specifications applicable to the project, as required under California Law. The contract is for the construction of a soldier pile retaining wall to allow for the stabilization of roadway embankment slope and prevents further slope failure. A soldier pile wall allows for the roadway width to be reestablished to the pre-Alisal Fire roadway condition with two 8' travel lanes and 2' shoulders. This exemption considers all further administrative activities for this project such as Authority to Advertise, Award of Contract and Statement of Final Quantities.

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 within an existing public road facility. The project allows for the installation of a public safety feature designed to reduce protect to roadway from rock falls and improve the driving surface. 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 alteration and maintenance of an existing roadway facility with improved driving surface and retaining wall. 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 of an existing facility to maintain and improve roadway facilities 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, 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.**

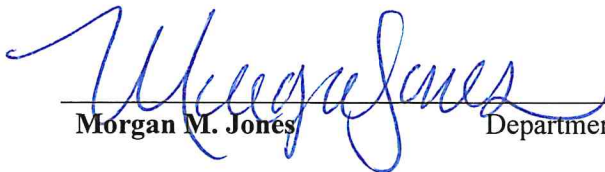
The roadway involved is not identified as a historical resource. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

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

Department/Division Representative: Morgan M. Jones, Engineering Environmental Project Team Leader.

Acceptance Date: **February 28, 2023**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



Morgan M. Jones

Department Representative

February 1, 2022

Date

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