

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Works Department – Flood Control District

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN(s) : 061-231-001, 061-231-002, 061-231-003, 061-231-004; 061-092-014 Case No: N/A

Location: Santa Barbara, CA

Project Title: Cieneguitas Channel Emergency Repair Project

Project Description:

Severe storms and rain events in early February 2024 resulted in flooding, sedimentation, and debris impacts throughout Santa Barbara County. The State of California proclaimed a state of emergency for eight counties, including Santa Barbara County, on February 4, 2024 for severe weather impacts. On February 4, 2024, Santa Barbara County proclaimed a local emergency.

During the storms, a concrete-lined portion of Cieneguitas Channel upstream of Modoc Road was substantially damaged during the storms, resulting in collapse of portions of the concrete panels, erosion of the banks and adjacent properties, and constriction of drainage at Modoc Road Bridge due to debris accumulation in the channel.

The Santa Barbara County Flood Control District performed an emergency repair in February 2024, comprised of debris removal and placement of large rock on the eroded banks. This interim repair was installed during the February 2024 emergency response in order to protect the bank from further damage during the continuing rainy season. A more complete, durable emergency repair was not possible until later in the year when water flows have receded. In late summer/early fall 2024, the Flood Control District will update the channel with a more permanent, durable emergency repair to return the channel to the pre-damage conditions.

The channel repair will consist of removing the rock and re-building the damaged area, approximately 300 linear feet, to match the dimensions and configuration of the channel prior to the 2024 flood damage. The failed and degraded concrete panels will be replaced with new concrete. There are no anticipated environmental impacts associated with the project because it involves in-kind replacement of the failed concrete and banks within the same project footprint. Flood Control District environmental compliance monitors and a cultural / Native American resources monitor will oversee installation of the repairs.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Flood Control District

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:

Section 15269(c): Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency that does not have a low probability of occurrence. The State of California proclaimed a state of emergency for eight counties, including Santa Barbara County, on February 4, 2024. On February 4, 2024, Santa Barbara County proclaimed a local emergency due to powerful storms beginning January 31, 2024. There is not an insignificant chance of additional storms as winter rainy season approaches, and immediate action is required to repair the damaged infrastructure.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Andrew Raaf Phone #: (805) 722-7250

Department/Division Representative: Andrew Raaf Date: August 12, 2024

Signature: 

Acceptance Date: _____

Upon project approval, this form must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board and posted by the Clerk of the Board for a period of 30 days to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenge

Date Filed by County Clerk