

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kathleen Volpi, Planner, Development Review

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: Hollister Ranch Road, near 88 Hollister Ranch Road **Case No.:** 23EMP-00011

Location: Hollister Ranch Road ROW, near 88 Hollister Ranch Road

Project Title: Hollister Ranch Owner's Association – Emergency Permit

Project Applicant: Hollister Ranch Owner's Association (HROA)

Project Description: The proposed project is a request by Hollister Ranch Owner's Association (HROA) to allow for an Emergency Permit for the demolition of an existing failed bottomless arch corrugated metal pipe culvert and the construction of an approximately 21-foot wide x 70-foot long prefabricated steel girder single-span bridge founded on cast-in place concrete spread footings, appurtenant abutments, and associated channel restoration along Santa Anita Creek. A 14-foot-wide temporary access road will be constructed along an alignment upstream of the existing road, using earth fill material surfaced with base rock. Project elements include the following:

- Perform sensitive species surveys.
- Install dewatering system to maintain creek channel dry during all phases of project.
- Install temporary access road with culvert to allow for dewatering and potential low flows to pass.
- Demolish the existing culvert and concrete abutments.
- Excavate for new bridge abutments/wingwalls.
- Form rebar and pour concrete for new abutments/wingwalls.
- Regrade creek channel to allow for fish passage.
- Backfill abutments/wingwalls.
- Place rock slope protection for abutments/wingwalls and install willow stakes.
- Set new bridge and rails.
- Build new road approaches to match bridge elevation and lay asphalt.
- Remove temporary access road and dewatering from creek.
- Install erosion control measures.
- Revegetate project site with native riparian plantings.

Grading will include approximately 1,325 cubic yards of cut and 168 cubic yards of fill. The project is located on the Hollister Ranch Access Road near 88 Hollister Ranch Road, in the Gaviota Coast Plan area, Third Supervisorial District.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project: Eva Turenchalk of Turenchalk Planning Services

Exempt Status:

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

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section: Section 15269(c), Emergency Projects

Reasons to support exemption findings: *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15269(c) exempts “specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.” Emergency action is warranted in this case because the 2023 Winter storms caused the Santa Anita Creek to jump its banks and scour the side of Hollister Ranch Road to the east of the existing culvert crossing. A portion of the culvert’s concrete footing collapsed, causing the pipe to deform and the road to partially collapse. Repair of the creek crossing is necessary to be completed in less time than normally required during standard permit processing to ensure continued access to existing residential development. Therefore, this statutory exemption applies to the proposed project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Kathleen Volpi

Phone #: 805-568-2033

Department/Division Representative: Kathleen Volpi

Date: 7/28/2023

Acceptance Date: _____

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____