

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) N/A Project No. 862427

LOCATION: North Refugio Road

PROJECT TITLE: North Refugio Road Trail Restoration Phase 1; County Project No. 862427; Third Supervisorial District

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Request for the Board to approve the Plans and Specifications, and award the construction contract for the North Refugio Road Trail Restoration Phase 1; County Project No. 862427; Third Supervisorial District to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, Main Line Engineering. North Refugio Road Trail Restoration project. On Friday, October 7, 2022, five (5) bids were opened for the project. Main Line Engineering submitted the lowest responsible bid of \$229,600, which is 6.3% below the Engineer's Estimate. The second lowest bid is 3.9% above the Engineer's Estimate.

The project is located on North Refugio Road in Santa Ynez and includes the installation of over 2,400 linear feet pathway, compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), along the Eastern portion of North Refugio Road from Stadium Drive to Deer Trail Lane. On the Western side of North Refugio Road from SR-246 to Deer Trail Lane, an informal horse trail will be installed. Both of these trails will create a buffer zone from the roadway to separate pedestrian and equestrian riders from traffic. These trails are included in the Santa Ynez Community Plan. Construction will begin in December of 2022 and completed by January 2022. Traffic control will be provided as necessary and delays are anticipated to be less than 10 minutes. Public Works will notify emergency response services and use construction area signs to notify the traveling public.

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. 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 existing 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 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.

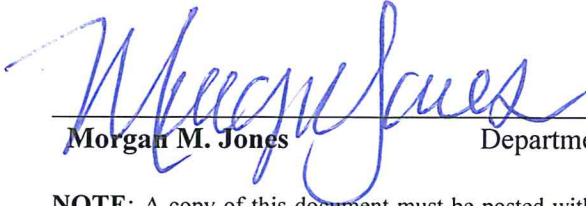
The roadway involved is not identified as a historical resource. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

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

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

Acceptance Date: **November 1, 2022**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



Morgan M. Jones

Department Representative

October 11, 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: _____.