

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, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN(s): N/A Case No.: N/A

LOCATION: Third Supervisorial District in the Cebada Canyon area.

PROJECT TITLE: Cebada Canyon Road Maintenance District Fee Resolution

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Public Works requests that your Board maintain the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014/15 benefit assessment rates for FY 2015/16, which will average \$465.00 per parcel and will generate approximately \$23,704 in revenues. Santa Barbara County's fee resolution identifies a funding source to finance maintenance on specific roads in the Cebada Canyon area, for County Service Area No. 41. The Board of Supervisors manages the implementation of services funded through the benefit assessment tax. The road maintenance and repair for County Service Area No. 41 is funded through a benefit assessment. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors must annually adopt the benefit assessment rates in order to assess them on the tax roll.

EXEMPT STATUS :(Check One)

- Ministerial
- Statutory
- Categorical Exemption [Sec. 15301]
- Emergency Project
- No Possibility of Significant Effect [Sec. 15061(b, 3)]

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: 15273 (a) (1). Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges.

CEQA does not apply to the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, or other charges by public agencies which the public agency finds are for the purpose of meeting operating expenses.

Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary): The exemption from CEQA is granted by the Legislature by statute as this administrative action involves the modification and structuring of charges. The proposed benefit assessment will be used for meeting operational expenses incurred to maintain specific roads in the Cebada Canyon area in unincorporated Santa Barbara County and within County Service Area No. 41. Therefore, the project is contemplated by the CEQA exemption under section 15273. Further, there are no unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect.

As part of this action, and based upon the facts and analysis set forth in the agenda sheet and during the public hearing on this matter on July 7, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board will adopt the specific finding pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15273, subsection (c), as follows:

1. The amendment of the fee resolution for Cebada Canyon Service Area 41 is to meet the operational expenses of the Public Works Department.

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

Department Representative: Morgan M. Jones, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner

Acceptance Date: **July 7, 2015**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



Morgan M. Jones

June 23, 2015

Date

NOTE: A copy of this document must be posted with the County's Planning & Development Department at least 6 days prior to consideration of the activity by the decision-makers to comply with County CEQA guidelines and a copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

Distribution:

Date filed with Planning & Development

Date filed with Clerk of Board