

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. 820659

LOCATION: Second Supervisorial District

PROJECT TITLE: Construction of Community Development Block Grant, Calle Real Sidewalks

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project is for the construction 8,875 linear feet of new sidewalk designed to meet ADA compliance. The County of Santa Barbara has chosen one specific location for the construction of a new ADA sidewalk under the CDBG grant. This section being funded will cover a 2,600-foot pedestrian path on the north side of Calle Real from El Sueno to Honor Farm Road, which leads to the Sheriff's office, jail, and the Public Works transfer station. This exemption covers

- Approve plans and specifications for the Construction of Community Development Block Grant Calle Real Sidewalks:
- Award the construction contract in the amount of \$616,208.11 to the lowest responsible bidder, Rockwood General Contractors, Inc. (not a local vendor), Post Office Box 1529, Nipomo, California 93444, subject to the provision of documents and certifications, as set forth in the plans and specifications applicable to the project, as required under California Law
- Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached construction contract, which has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and Risk Management, or their authorized representatives
- Authorize the Public Works Director or designee to approve change orders for a contingency amount up to \$43,685.41, plus an additional amount of \$7,500 for supplemental work items for the Community Development Block Grant Calle Real Sidewalks,

This exemption considers all further administrative activities for this project.

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: – 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 an activity related to repair and maintenance activities and minor alterations of existing road facilities. The project allows for a public safety activity designed to maintain a safe working condition of the roadway facilities as they were constructed. 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 repair and maintenance of an existing facility 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 a routine ADA improvement project to maintain safe roadways for the traveling public and pedestrians walking within the County road Right of Way. The project will occur at a specific location where there are no sensitive resources 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 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 maintenance locations involved are 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, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner.

Acceptance Date: **March 17, 2015**

[date of final action on project]

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



Morgan M. Jones

Department Representative

March 9, 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 _____.

Distribution: Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.