

# 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 County owned Right of Way      **Project No.** N/A

**LOCATION:** First, Second and Fourth Supervisorial Districts

**PROJECT TITLE:** Amendment of Speed Limits Specified in County Code Sections 23-15, 23-15.4, 23-15.5, 23-15.6, 23-15.7 and 15.8; First, Second, & Fourth Supervisorial Districts

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The proposed project is an update to the speed limits on several roads within the County. In accordance with changes to the California Vehicle Code (CVC) by the adoption of Assembly Bill 43, the Public Works Department reviewed the County speed zones and prepared an Ordinance to amend the County Code pertaining to speed limits at locations shown below:

## FIRST DISTRICT

- Sterrett Avenue from Duncan Road to Hope Avenue
- Puesta Del Sol Road from Las Encinas Road to City of Santa Barbara

## SECOND DISTRICT

- Sabado Tarde Road from El Embarcadero Road to Camino Corto
- Merida Drive from Tree Farm Lane to south end
- Agana Drive from Patterson Avenue to Merida Drive
- University Drive from Patterson Avenue to San Marcos Road
- Lassen Drive from Hollister Avenue to Santa Ana Drive
- San Simeon Drive from Lassen Drive to San Marcos Road
- Walnut Lane from Santa Paula Avenue to Santa Susana Avenue
- San Marcos Road from Hollister Avenue to Anita Lane
- Rhoads Avenue from La Roda Avenue to Zink Avenue

## FOURTH DISTRICT

- Hillview Road from Lakeview Road to Foster Road
- Foxenwood Drive from Foxenwood Lane to California Boulevard

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, the proposed project involves a in change to vehicle speed limits as an effective method for improving traffic safety and circulation. Speed limit regulations on public roadways are established based upon safety, sight distance restrictions, necessity and how it relates to the use by the community as a whole. The project allows for a public safety activity designed to maintain a safe traveling condition of the highway facility as it was constructed. Further, there are no unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect. Therefore, the 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 changes to speed limits on public roads. 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 updating of vehicle speed limits on public roads. 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.

- (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 on public roads. 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 roadways involved are not identified as a historical resource. In addition, changes in roadway parking regulations would not involve any structural modifications to existing facilities. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

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

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

Acceptance Date: **Set hearing October 11, 2022, First Reading November 1, Second Reading  
November 29, 2022**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



**Morgan M. Jones**

Department Representative

September 15, 2022

Date

**NOTE:** A copy of this document a 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 by County Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_.