

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management

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: None

Case No.: NA

Location: Isla Vista, California (County Service Area 31), Camino Corto and Estero Road, 3rd Supervisorial District

Project Title: Isla Vista Easement Acquisition and Streetlight Improvements – Camino Corto/Estero Road Street Light Enhancement Project

Project Description: Within County Service Area 31 (Isla Vista, California), acquire a 10 foot wide by approximately 1051.77 foot wide easement (~10,517.5 square feet) along the west side of Camio Corto between El Colegio Road and Abrego Road for the purposes of construction, reconstruction, operation, repair and maintenance of certain public improvements, including public sidewalks and overhead streetlights. Within the easement area install seven new 43 watt LED street lights (70 watt equivalent high pressure sodium vapor [HPSV]) street lights on 17 foot high poles with 6 foot mast arms to replace two existing 100 watt HPSV street lights on 25 foot poles. The poles would be installed along the west side of Camino Corto between El Colegio Road on the north and Abrego Road on the south. The poles would be connected by an underground electrical conduit to be installed in an approximate 2 foot wide by 42 inch deep trench. The project also includes the installation of five additional 54 watt LED (100 watt HPSV equivalent) lights at standard 25 foot mounting heights on the east side of Camino Corto, two between Abrego Road and Estero Road, and three on the north side of Estero Road, all connected by overhead wires. The street lights would be placed approximately three feet behind the existing sidewalk along the west side of Camino Corto, between the sidewalk and curb and gutter on the east side of Camino Corto, and immediately behind the sidewalk on Estero Road. The locations of the lights are shown on Figures 1 and 2. By design, the lights would be fully directional. Along the west side of Camino Corto the lights would be lower in height, lower wattage, and directed toward the sidewalk and street to limit backlighting into the adjacent Camino Corto Open Space. The lights would also be set back over 20 feet from the edge of the open space area. The replacements and additional lights are being installed to enhance public safety.

CSA 31 manages streetlighting services in Isla Vista. The streetlights are owned and maintained by Southern California Edison, a California Public Utilities regulated entity on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara. .

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department, Resource Recovery and Waste Management

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Martin Wilder, Utilities Manager

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
 Statutory Exemption
 Categorical Exemption
 Emergency Project
 Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guidelines Sections 15302(c) and 15303(d), New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.

Reasons to support exemption findings: CEQA Guidelines 15302 exempts replacement of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity. 15302(c) specifically exempts replacement of reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use. CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 exempts the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures and specifically 15303(d) includes as an example water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements.

Consistent with these exemptions, the proposed project involves the removal of two existing 25 foot tall HPSV street lights and the installation of 17 new streetlights along public road rights of way to enhance public safety with negligible expansion of the existing use. Minor ground disturbance to place the poles and underground conduit to accommodate buried electricity service is necessary for some of the streetlights, however the trenching will occur in previously disturbed areas (outside of mapped habitat areas), removal of trees or vegetation is not required and the surface will be restored to its original condition.

Based on review of Planning and Development Department resource maps, two archaeological surveys¹ were conducted in the project area (not related to the current project) and no cultural resources were identified during these surveys.

¹ A Phase Cultural Resource Evaluation for Proposed Improvements Associated with the Camino Corto Park and Open Space Master Plan Isla Vista, California (Wilcoxon, 1996) and A Supplemental Phas 1 Cultural Resources Evaluation for Selected Portions of Goleta Water District's Proposed Reclaimed Water Pipeline Network, Goleta, California (Wilcoxon, 1991).

No hazardous materials sites were found in the immediate project area based on review of the Envirostor and Geotracker databases. The lights would be installed along the west side of Camino Corto which is adjacent to the Camino Corto Open Space. The Del Sol Vernal Pool Preserve is located along the east side of Camino Corto. The preserve is located approximately 80 feet from the proposed lights. The lights along Camino Corto would be lower in height (17 feet versus 25 feet) and wattage (70 watt equivalent [42 watt LED] versus 100 watt) as compared to the existing unshielded, HPSV lights, and will be directed toward the sidewalk and street to limit backlighting into the adjacent Camino Corto Open Space. The lights would also be set back over 20 feet from the edge of the open space further reducing the potential for light intrusion.

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.**

The proposed project would replace existing street lights and add new streetlights in the community of Isla Vista. The street lights would be placed within existing disturbed areas. Twelve of the street lights would be located along the right-of-way of Camino Corto over 20 feet from the boundary of the Camino Corto Open Space and about 80 feet from the boundary of the Del Sol Vernal Pool Preserve both of which areas are identified in the Goleta Community Plan. No direct impacts to these areas would occur from installation of the poles and conduit. The lights along Camino Corto would be lower in height and wattage as compared to the existing HPSV lights, and will directed toward the sidewalk and street to limit backlighting into the adjacent Camino Corto Open Space. The lights would also be set back over 20 feet from the edge of the open space. Therefore, no significant impact a sensitive environmental resource is expected to occur and this exception is not applicable

- (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.**

Isla Vista was developed before streetlighting standards existed. Streetlighting is provided to enhance safety along public roadway corridors. To meet current standards certain improvements to existing streetlights (retrofits from high pressure sodium vapor (HPSV) to light emitting diode (LED) lamps) has been completed. No significant impacts have occurred in association with these retrofits and the current project would infill street lights along existing roadways to enhance safety in those areas and would only involve minor ground disturbance and would return the surface to its original condition. Therefore, no cumulative impacts would result and this exception is not applicable.

(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 proposed project involves adding streetlights to an existing streetlighting system along existing roadways. The street lights would be placed within existing disturbed areas. Twelve of the street lights would be located along the right-of-way of Camino Corto over 20 feet from the boundary of the Camino Corto Open Space and about 80 feet from the boundary of the Del Sol Vernal Pool Preserve both of which areas are identified in the Goleta Community Plan. No direct impacts to these areas would occur from installation of the poles and conduit. The lights along Camino Corto would be lower in height and wattage as compared to the existing HPSV lights, and will directed toward the sidewalk and street to limit backlighting into the adjacent Camino Corto Open Space. The lights would also be set back over 20 feet from the edge of the open space. Minimal and temporary ground disturbance is planned without removal of trees or vegetation and the surface will be restored to its original condition. There are no unusual circumstances associated with the project location, design or construction methods that are expected to result in a significant effect on the environment. 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 work area encompasses the community of Isla Vista, a developed urban area. No designated scenic highways occur within the project area or would be impacted by the project. 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.

The project involves the installation of new streetlights and minimal shallow trench excavation. Based on review of the Envirostor and Geotracker databases, the work is not located on a site listed as a hazardous waste site. 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 project involves the installation of new streetlights and minimal shallow trench excavation along an existing roadway having previously graded and excavated. With the exception of the existing street lights no structures are proposed for removal. No historical resources are anticipated to be disturbed. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Martin Wilder, Utilities Manager
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Department/Division Representative: Joddi Leipner, Sr Eng Env. Planner
_____ Date: August 27, 2014

Acceptance Date: _____

Date Filed at Planning and Development:

Date Filed by County Clerk: