

**ATTACHMENT B  
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**TO:** Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** David Billesbach, Planning and Development Department

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.

**Location:** U.S. Route 101, Postmile 40.98

**Project Title:** Arroyo Hondo Bridge Historic Landmark Determination

**Project Description:** Adoption by the Board of Supervisors of a resolution approving the designation of Arroyo Hondo Bridge, located on U.S. Route 101, postmile 40.98, Third Supervisorial District, as a County Historic Landmark, with conditions to be imposed.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section:** Section 15308 [Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of the Environment] of the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** The proposed project, Arroyo Hondo Bridge Landmark Designation, is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15308 [Actions by Regulatory Agencies for the Protection of the Environment] of the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Specifically, Section 15308 exempts actions taken by regulatory agencies to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. The proposed project is a request to designate Arroyo Hondo Bridge as a County Historic Landmark in order to protect and enhance the existing environment.

The proposed project does not involve 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.**

This exception does not apply to Class 8 exemptions.

- (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.**

This exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply, because there is no physical development proposed as a part of the project. Additional designations of bridges as County Historic Landmarks that are developed in conformance with applicable ordinance and policy regulations on similar parcels in the vicinity would not result in a cumulatively significant impact.

- (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.**

This exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply, because there are no unusual circumstances associated with this project or this property. The project is limited to the designation of a bridge as a County Historic Landmark. No physical development is proposed, and there are no anticipated significant effects on the environment.

- (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.**

This exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply, because this project will result in protection of existing scenic resources. The project is located along a portion of U.S. Route 101 designated as a scenic highway. The project site does contain historic resources, and the project is a request to designate the bridge as a County Historic Landmark to protect scenic resources. The project does not include any physical development and will not result in degradation of scenic resources.

**(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.**

This exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply, because the proposed project is not located on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5.

**(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.**

This exception to the categorical exemptions does not apply, because the project does not include any physical development. The project site does contain historic resources, and the project is a request to designate the bridge as a County Historic Landmark to further protect this historic resource. The designation of the bridge as a County Historic Landmark will not result in a substantial adverse change in the significance of the resource.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** David Billesbach

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**Department/Division Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Date:** March 4, 2025

**Acceptance Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Distribution:** Hearing Support Staff

**Date Filed by County Clerk:** \_\_\_\_\_