

**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

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

**FROM:** Kylie Sanchez, Planner, Planning & Development

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:** 007-020-061                      **Case No.:** 23EMP-00016

**Location:** 2300 Bella Vista Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

**Project Title:** Freston Emergency Permit

**Project Applicant:** Thomas Freston

**Project Description:** The proposed project is for the replacement and reinforcement of an existing concrete swale and asphalt concrete driveway. The driveway segment to be replaced and reinforced is located near the west property line and will be approximately 140 feet long. The concrete swale to be replaced and reinforced is located near the existing residence and will be approximately 190 feet long. The driveway and swale will each be reinforced by a secant pile wall embedded below grade a minimum of 27 feet. A 4.5-foot-tall retaining wall will be above grade over the secant pile wall reinforcing the swale. All visible portions of the retaining wall will be finished using earth-tone colors, textures, and materials. The 2023 winter storms damaged the existing driveway, resulting in numerous erosion issues and surficial slope failures of the steep slopes on the subject parcel. The slopes are at risk of further failure, threatening to cut off access to the parcel. Grading for the road replacement will include approximately 20 cubic yards of cut and 20 cubic yards of fill. No trees are proposed for removal. The work is expected to be completed within 5 months of permit issuance. The parcel will continue to be served by an existing onsite well, a septic system, and the Montecito Fire Protection District. Access will continue to be provided off of Bella Vista Drive. The property is a 40-acre parcel zoned RMZ-40 and shown as Assessor's Parcel Number 007-020-061, located at 2300 Bella Vista Drive in the Montecito Community Plan area, First Supervisorial District.

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

**Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project:** Jennifer Siemens

**Exempt Status:**  
\_\_\_\_\_ Ministerial

Project Name, Case No.

Date

Attachment C – 2

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

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section:** Section 15269(c), Emergency Projects

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15269(c) exempts “specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.” Emergency action is warranted in this case because the January and March 2023 storms damaged the existing driveway, resulting in numerous erosion issues and surficial slope failures of the steep slopes on the subject parcel. The slopes are at risk of further failure, threatening to cut off access to the parcel. Therefore, this statutory exemption applies to the proposed project.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Kylie Sanchez, Planner

**Phone #:** (805) 568-2507      **Department/Division Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** November 21, 2023

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

**Distribution:** Hearing Support Staff

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