

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

2017 FEB 14 AM 9:52

FROM: Maureen Spencer, Santa Barbara County Flood Control

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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: Roadways do not have parcel numbers

Case No. N/A

Location: Santa Ynez, CA

Project Title: Faraday Storm Drain Project

**Project Description:** The County of Santa Barbara is proposing to construct a storm drain system to serve a portion of the Faraday Street neighborhood in the community of Santa Ynez. The purpose of the system is to provide improved drainage pathways for a series of sump-condition cul-de-sacs that have experienced flooding. The Faraday Avenue neighborhood intended to be serviced by this system is bounded by Edison Street, Olive Street, Faraday Street, and Pine Street in the community of Santa Ynez. The project starts at the intersection of Olive and Faraday Streets and extends south to Pine Street, then west to Edison Street, and finally south down Edison Street, discharging into an existing concrete box culvert to Zanja de Cota Creek at the intersection of Edison Street and Tivola Street. Several storm drain laterals will deliver storm water from cul-de-sacs to the west of Faraday Street, between Olive and Pine Streets, to the backbone system.

Pursuant to Section E.11.i of the NPDES Municipal General Permit for Small MS4s, the District considered opportunities for incorporating water quality and habitat enhancement features into the Faraday Storm Drain Project. Overall, the project will reduce erosion and localized flooding that occurs during large storm events. Reducing localized flooding will prevent the introduction of pollutants from individual residences, such as garden chemicals, debris and litter that may become mobilized during the larger events. The natural channel will remain intact through the residential area maintaining the localized infiltration during low rainfall events that don't produce much runoff. Overall the project results in a net benefit to water quality.

The new storm drain will connect to an existing box culvert located at Zanja de Cota Creek without disturbing any habitat. This area was analyzed for opportunities to treat runoff or expand habitat features. Because the box culvert is located within the creek channel itself, removal of the box culvert or any

structural changes would require special environmental permitting, increasing the scope of this project substantially.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Santa Barbara County Flood Control Board of Directors

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Santa Barbara County Flood Control District

**Exempt Status:** (Check one)

- Ministerial  
 Statutory Exemption  
 Categorical Exemption  
 Emergency Project  
 Declared Emergency

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:** CEQA Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land is cited for the construction of the Faraday Storm Drain Project.

**Reasons to support exemption findings:**

The Faraday Storm Drain Project is exempt from CEQA Section 15304 (f) Minor Alterations to Land because:

“Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Examples include, but are not limited to:

(f) Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.”

This project will occur within existing dirt and asphalt roadways. An archaeological records search and impacts assessment was performed in January 2017 by Dudek Inc. in order to ensure there would be no impacts to archaeology. Dudek staff report the following:

An archaeological site records and literature search of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) at the Central Coast Information Center (CCIC) search was conducted on Thursday, January 19, 2017 to identify all recorded archaeological sites and investigations within the Faraday Storm Drain project area. There are no recorded sites within the project area and no previous investigations have been conducted within the project area. Additionally there are no recorded sites and no previous investigations within a 0.5 mile radius around the project area. Based on a review of an aerial photo of the Faraday Storm Drain project area, the project area has been previously impacted by

residential development. The prior residential development would have resulted in ground disturbances to the project area.

Given the absence of any recorded archaeological sites in the Faraday Storm Drain project area and prior residential development that resulted in ground disturbances, the potential for Faraday Storm Drain construction to impact potentially significant archaeological resources is considered low.

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 project will occur within existing roadways outside of any sensitive environment therefore this exception does not apply. The storm drain will tie into an existing concrete box culvert at Zanja de Cota Creek, however construction will not occur within the natural creek bed.

- (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.**

All areas of this project have been previously disturbed, this project will not result in new impacts, and 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.**

This project is being conducted within roadways which have all been previously disturbed and will not result in a significant effect on the environment.

Additionally, an archeological records search and impacts assessment by and

independent consultant ensure there would be no impacts to archeology, 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 is not located along a scenic highway and will not result in damage to any scenic resources 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 parcels covered by this project are not 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 parcels covered by this project are not identified as a historic resource therefore this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jon Frye Phone #: 568-3440

Department/Division Representative: *Marianne J. J. J.* (Date: February 2, 2017)

Acceptance Date: 2/14/2017

Date Filed by County Clerk: 2/14/2017

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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



Faraday Storm Drain Proposed Alignment, Santa Ynez

