

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: Various Locations in the First, Second, Third and Fourth Supervisorial Districts

PROJECT TITLE: Speed Limits on Various Roads in the First, Second, Third & Fourth Supervisorial Districts

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Consider and approve the adoption (first and second readings) of an Ordinance amending Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 23, Sections 23-15.4, 23-15.5, 23-15.6, 23-15.7 and 23-15.8, pertaining to speed limits on Romero Canyon Road and Jameson Lane South in the unincorporated Montecito area of the First Supervisorial District; Refugio Road in the unincorporated Santa Ynez area of the Third Supervisorial District; Clark Avenue and Rice Ranch Road in the unincorporated Orcutt area of the Fourth Supervisorial District

The Santa Barbara County Traffic Engineering Committee (TEC) reviewed the speed zones requiring an E&TS update at their meeting on November 20, 2019. The following are their recommendations by location:

FIRST DISTRICT

- Remove the existing speed limit of 30 mph and allow for the application of the 25 mph prima facie speed limit in residence districts from State Route 192 to Camino Del Rosario and the Basic Speed Law from Camino Del Rosario to Lilac Drive.
- Establish a speed limit of 30 mph on Jameson Lane South from Eucalyptus Lane to Posilipo Lane.

THIRD DISTRICT

- Raise the speed limit from 35 mph to 40 mph on Refugio Road from State Route 246 to Deer Trail Lane (south).
- Extend the existing 45 mph speed limit on Refugio Road to the north establishing the speed limit of 45 mph on Refugio Road from Country Road to Fancy Hill Court.

FOURTH DISTRICT

- Raise the speed limit from 40 mph to 45 mph on Clark Avenue from State Route 1 to a point 1000 feet west of Broadway.
- Lower the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph on Clark Avenue from a point 1000 feet west of Broadway to a point 350 feet west of Broadway.
- Establish a speed limit of 50 mph on Rice Ranch Road from Orcutt Rd to Lorraine Avenue.

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 the changing of speed limit designations as an effective method for improving traffic safety and circulation. Speed limits 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 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 speed limit 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, Senior Engineering Environmental
Planner,

Acceptance Date: **March 24 (set hearing) April 7, (first reading) and (second reading) on
April 21, 2020**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



Morgan M. Jones

Department Representative

February 24, 2020

Date

NOTE: A copy of this document must be posted with the County's Planning & Development Department at least 6 days prior to consideration of the activity by the decision-makers to comply with County CEQA guidelines and a copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

POSTED

FEB 25 2020

SB County

Planning and Development

Distribution: Date filed with Planning & Development _____

Distribution: Date Filed by County Clerk: _____