

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) Varies County Wide **Project No.** N/A

LOCATION: 105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407, Santa Barbara, CA

PROJECT TITLE: First Amendment to the Measure A Program of Projects for Fiscal Years 2023-2024 through 2027-2028, All Supervisorial Districts

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The voter-approved investment plan for Measure A requires the County to develop two distinct 5-year POPs for your Board's approval annually: one for South County Measure A funds and one for North County Measure A funds. Upon your Board's approval, Public Works will submit the POP 23-28 Amendment to Santa Barbara County Association Governments (SBCAG) for incorporation into their regional plan.

Measure A and the Current Status of County Transportation Infrastructure

The County's approved Five-Year POP includes corrective maintenance and capital improvements to all elements of County owned and maintained transportation assets and programs:

- Roads
- Bridges
- Hardscape and street trees
- Drainage facilities
- Traffic devices and infrastructure (signals, lights, signs, paint, etc.)
- Alternative transportation programs

Measure A funds are distributed by Ordinance and by Board-adopted direction. The Ordinance requires funds to be split between the north and south county, and 10% of funds in each region be used for alternative transportation. In addition, this April your Board approved distributing up to \$7.5M of Measure A to countywide in-house maintenance work. The remaining balance is distributed based on 100% lane miles for central and north county and 25% population/75% lane miles for south county. This amendment to the Measure A POP programs funds in the latter category.

Here are the following sites:

Project	BJE 0009344	BJE 0009348	FY 24-25 Budget	Total
Ortega to Sheffield Bike path	\$ 60,000		\$ 78,247	\$ 138,247
Calle Real shoulder widening		\$ 24,106		\$ 24,106
23STM1 & 23STM2 not-participating costs		\$ 296,806		\$ 296,806
23STM1 & 23STM2 not-participating costs		\$ 150,570		\$ 150,570
Alleyway Improvements in Cuyama		\$ 63,146		\$ 63,146
OTO Streetscape		\$ 347,129		\$ 347,129
Bonita School Bridge		\$ 51,744		\$ 51,744
Total Measure A POP Amendment	\$ 60,000	\$ 1,196,984	\$ 78,247	\$ 1,335,231

The Measure A Five-Year Local POP includes over \$45M dedicated to maintaining the County’s Transportation Infrastructure and services over the five-year period. Of this amount, South County is estimated to receive \$23,884,011 and the North County is estimated to receive \$21,656,721 over the five-year period. \$7.5M of these funds will be budgeted for in-house Maintenance. This action would program \$1,335,231 of Measure A unanticipated revenues received in FY 2022-2023 to projects as shown in Attachment B. Approval of BJE 0009348 will establish appropriations in Fund 0015 Public Works Roads-Operations in the amount of \$510,700, Fund 0016 Public Works Roads-Capital Maintenance in the amount of \$24,100, and Fund 0017 Public Works Roads-Capital Infrastructure in the amount of \$662,500 funded by an operating transfer from the Roads-Measure A Fund in the amount of \$1,197,300. Additionally, on October, 17th 2023 the Board of Supervisors approved BJE 0009344 that established appropriations in the amount of \$60,000 for Sheffield Drive to Ortega Hill Pedestrian and Bicycle Connector that is included in this amendment. The remaining allocation for this project will be budgeted in the FY 2024-2025 Measure A POP.

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 – “...consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, including but 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), except where the activity will involve removal of a scenic resource including a stand of trees, a rock outcropping, or an historic building.

Reasons to support exemption findings: Consistent with this exemption, the proposed project involves the adopting of resolutions which are a critical funding component related to the operation and maintenance of the County roadway facilities. The project is part of a funding mechanism necessary to maintain the 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 a resolution to amend the Measure A Five-Year Local Program of Projects for Fiscal Years 2023-2024 through 2027-2028. 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 resolution that is adopted annually is a procedural element of the funding component required to maintain the roadway facility. The adopting of a resolution will have no impact 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 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, the adopting of the resolution 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: Kalani Durham, Environmental Coordinator

Acceptance Date: November 28, 2023
Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting

<i>Kalani Durham</i>	November 2 2023
Kalani Durham	Department Representative
	Date

NOTE: A copy of this document must be posted with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

Distribution: Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.