

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 Project No. N/A

LOCATION: Off Clark Avenue, between the Highway 135 off ramp and Foxenwood Lane, Fourth Supervisorial District.

PROJECT TITLE: Old Town Orcutt Gateway Veterans Memorial Public Art Project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Project involves Public Works Department request for support from the Old Town Orcutt Revitalization Association (OTORA) regarding their efforts to install a Veterans Memorial on land owned by Caltrans on East Clark Avenue at the “gateway” to Orcutt. Project contains a flagpole in a 30’ concrete circle with a five sided star and granite columns, new grass areas, new gateway to Orcutt sign, new concrete sidewalks, steps and ADA handicap ramp and new electrical conduit from existing lighting supply.

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
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15304: Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees...

Reasons to support exemption findings: Consistent with this exemption, this proposed project does not occur on land with a slope of more than ten percent. The project involves minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored and is not located in any wetland or an officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard. There are no unusual circumstances which would create

a possibility that there would be a significant effect. Therefore, this 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 15304 is a Class 4 exemption; therefore, this exception does not apply as this area is not in a mapped environmentally sensitive habitat area or in an officially mapped area of severe geologic hazard or officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic area.

- (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 public art, sidewalks and landscaping near and existing park and ride location. There are no other projects proposed in the area, thus 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 does not involve involves is not located in any wetland or an officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard. 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. 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.

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 roadway involved is not identified as a historical resource. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Chris Sneddon, Interim Deputy Director Public Works Transportation/Engineering Division, Phone: (805) 568-3064

Department/Division Representative: Morgan M. Jones, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner,

Acceptance Date: **October 18, 2011**

 _____ September 28, 2011
Morgan M. Jones Department Representative 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.

Distribution: Date filed with Planning & Development _____.

Distribution: Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.