

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

**FROM:** Maureen Spencer, Santa Barbara County Flood Control

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 Improvement Project; Cedar Street Drainage Addition

**Project Description:** The County of Santa Barbara is proposing to construct two drop inlet structures at the intersection of Faraday Street and Cedar Street in Santa Ynez. This project is supplemental to the Faraday Storm Drain Improvements Project completed in 2018 and is within the area encompassed by the original project. There is a low point on Faraday Street where it intersects Cedar Street. Storm water runoff erodes the gravel shoulders of both Faraday and Cedar Streets and leave ruts. This project will construct two drop inlets at this intersection to collect these waters. The storm drain pipes from the new inlet structures will connect to the recently constructed Faraday Storm Drain Project. This project will alleviate flooding and roadway shoulder erosion at this location.

**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 Improvement, Cedar Street Drainage 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 for the initial Faraday Storm Drain Improvement Project in January 2017 by Dudek Inc. in order to ensure there would be no impacts to archaeology. Dudek staff reported 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 construction at the intersection of Faraday and Cedar Streets 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 the existing Faraday Storm Drain.

**(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 Representative Mawson Jones Date: September 27, 2019

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