

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Community Services Department, Parks 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, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

LOCATION: Del Playa Drive and Escondido Passageway / Camino del Sur beach accessways, Isla Vista 93117

PROJECT TITLE: Isla Vista Beach Access Stairway Replacements

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project reconstructs two (2) existing beach access stairways in Isla Vista damaged during 2023 and 2024 storms. The replacement stairways will be engineered in accordance with the 100-year coastal plan for improved public safety and continued beach access for public recreational activities. Construction material will remain a mixture of marine grade timber, stainless steel and vertical concrete supports and landings.

EXEMPT STATUS: (Check One)

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Statutory
- ☒ X Categorical Exemption
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☐ No Possibility of Significant Effect

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: Section 15302

Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary):

The proposed action is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15302 [Replacement or Reconstruction] of the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CEQA Replacement of Reconstruction exemption at Section 15302 allows for the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. The proposed reconstruction project will replace the existing two beach access stairways, and hence the project is exempt in accordance with Section 15302.

With regard to the proposed project, the exceptions to the Existing Facilities categorical exemption that must be considered 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 in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and official adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.*

The Section 15302 is a Class 2 Categorical Exemption, therefore this exception is not applicable.

- (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 stairways will be designed in accordance with the 100-year coastal plan, so there are no successive projects of the same type in the same place anticipated for this location. There is no cumulative impact and, 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 Section 15302 is a Class 2 Categorical Exemption, therefore this exception is not applicable.

(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.

This proposed project is in an existing stairway and will be replaced in the same footprint as the existing hence 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.

This proposed project is not located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Therefore, it is not located on a hazardous waste site and 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.

This proposed project does not involve any historical resources. This exception does not apply.

As described above, none of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions contained within Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines apply to this project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jill Van Wie

Phone: (805) 568-2470

8/6/2025

Date filed with Clerk of Board



8/6/2025

Department/Division Representative

Date

NOTE: A copy of this document must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board.