

# 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):** NA

**LOCATION:** All Supervisorial Districts

**PROJECT TITLE:** Measure A Five-Year Program of Projects for Fiscal Years 2025-2026 through 2029-2030; All Supervisorial Districts

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This item is on the agenda to Adopt the Measure A Local Program of Projects in Santa Barbara County. The fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 Program of Projects includes a funding allocation of \$9.8 million based on a Board policy from the March 14, 2023 hearing on Transportation operations funds.

In keeping with your Board's adopted resolution supporting the maintenance of existing infrastructure as the highest priority for Measure A funding, approximately \$7.5 million dollars of Measure A funds will be allocated for corrective maintenance, maintenance of the County's urban forest, and traffic operations (Attachment E). The remainder of the funding is used for Americans with Disabilities Act improvements, safety projects, grant matches, capital projects, transit, education and outreach, and alternative transportation improvements.

Measure A funds are distributed regionally amongst local agencies through the Ordinance and Investment Plan Investment which implements needed road repair, traffic relief, and transportation safety projects in Santa Barbara County. Although roadway maintenance needs are generally tied to the number of lane miles agencies have, Measure A Local Streets and Roads funds are distributed by population under the Investment Plan. These formulas can only be changed by the Santa Barbara County Association of Government (SBCAG) with a supermajority. Distribution requirements of the Measure A Ordinance and Investment Plan also include additional constraints for the County:

- 1) Funds are distributed separately between north and south County based on formulas in the investment plan. These funds must be spent in their respective areas of the County.
- 2) Approximately 11% is taken off the top of the south County portion and goes directly to MTD for transit.
- 3) 10% of Measure A funding is spent on Alternative Transportation in both the north and south County.

Attachment E shows the funding breakdown for the Measure A Program of Projects for FY 2025-2026 through FY 2029-2030. This Program of Projects is revised annually based on revenue projections.

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
- X Categorical Exemption {15301 (c)}
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:** 15301: Class 1, consisting 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 existing or former use for (c) existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities.

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** The project involves entering into a cooperative agreement with Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) to receive Measure A Local Program of Projects in Santa Barbara County. This funding allocation of \$9.8 million based on a Board policy from the March 14, 2023 hearing on Transportation operations funds. Approximately \$7.5 million dollars of Measure A funds will support maintenance of existing infrastructure and be allocated for corrective maintenance, maintenance of the County's urban forest, and traffic operations.

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 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 the reconfiguration of public parking stalls in existing public road. There are no other projects proposed in the same 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 and is not located in any wetland or an officially designated environmentally sensitive habitat area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard. Therefore, there are no unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect on the environment and 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, rock outcropping or similar 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.**

There are no hazardous waste sites or permitted facilities located in the area. 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 site involved is not identified as a historical resource. The project area was reviewed and it was determined there are no cultural or historical resources in the project area. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Mostafa Estaji, Deputy Director, Public Works-Transportation Division, Phone: (805) 568-3064

Department/Division Representative: Kalani Durham, Engineering Environmental Planner/Coordinator.

Acceptance Date: **March 18, 2025**

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u><i>Kalani Durham</i></u> | <u>3/6/2025</u>           |
| <b>Kalani Durham</b>        | Department Representative |
|                             | Date                      |

**NOTE:** 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 by County Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_.