

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SBCFC&WCD)

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(s) : N/A; Public Alley Right-of-Way (ROW) Case No. N/A

Location: Isla Vista, CA. Within Public Alley ROW between Camino Corto and Camino Del Sur running from Pasado Road south three blocks to Del Playa, and then west to the Escondido Pass Road ROW where the storm drain turns to the south and empties into the Pacific Ocean. Refer to Exhibit 1 Attached.

Project Title: Isla Vista Storm Drain Improvement Project

Project Description: The existing Islas Vista Storm Drain system was constructed in the late 1950s and modified in 1967. During large to moderate sized storm events the areas along the edges of the street become inundated with water, which can reach depths of over 2 feet. In 2014, the Public Works Department conducted an analysis of the storm drain system and concluded that the pipes and catch basins are significantly undersized and that the system needs to be enlarged in order to meet current design standards.

This project consists of installing approximately 1,000 linear feet of new storm drain pipe, ranging from 18 inches to 42 inches in diameter, and new catch basins. The improved storm drain system is being designed to accept and convey a 100-year storm event. All portions of the project will be constructed within paved roadways or pathways along the same route as the existing system. The portion of the storm drain from the beach outlet upstream approximately 145' will be repaired using trenchless technology. Four non-native eucalyptus trees on private property adjacent to the alley ROW will be removed. These eucalyptus trees are not scenic trees or roosting areas for monarch butterflies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: SBCFC&WCD

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: SBCFCWCD

Exempt Status: (Check one)

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

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301(b) Existing Facilities and 15304 (f) Minor Alterations to Land.

Reasons to support exemption findings

CEQA Guidelines Section 14 CCR 15304 (f) Minor Alterations to Land with minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored, states that a project is exempt from CEQA: if it 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.

This project will occur within existing hardscape (roadway, and pathways). While four trees will be removed, these trees are non-native eucalyptus trees adjacent to a home and alley ROW which are not mature scenic trees nor are they roosting areas for monarch butterflies.

CEQA Guideline Section 14 CCR 15301(b) Existing Facilities of both investor and publicly-owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services; This exemption is for projects that consist 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 use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination

Consistent with this exemption, this proposed project involves the maintenance and repair of an existing storm drain system located within existing road and alley ROW. Further, 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.

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 and the project will not occur within a sensitive environment 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 maintenance and repair of an existing storm drain system which will not result in an expansion of the system 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.**

The project occurs within existing road and alley ROW within non-sensitive areas. 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 scenic 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 associated with this project. 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 Isla Vista Storm Drain is not identified as a historical resource and the project will not cause substantial adverse changes to the structure. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Maureen Spencer Phone #: (805) 568-3437

Department/Division Representative: Maureen Spencer Date: December 2, 2015

Signature: Maureen Spencer

Acceptance Date: _____

Note: A copy of this form must be posted at P&D 6 days prior to a decision on the project. Upon project approval, this form must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board and posted by the Clerk of the Board for a period of 30 days to begin a 35 day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

distribution: Hearing Support Staff
Project file (when P&D permit is required)

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____

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