

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department, Transportation 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): 107-013-001, 107-013-002, 107-013-003, 107-021-001, 107-021-002, 107-022-001, and 107-022-002

Project No. County Project No. 820662

LOCATION: On Lakeview Road between Dixie Lee St and Lakeview Court, Orcutt, CA, located in the Fourth Supervisorial District

Project Title: Lakeview Road Sidewalk Improvements; County Project No. 820662; Fourth Supervisorial District

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This item is on the Board agenda to approve the plans and specifications, and award the construction contract for the Lakeview Road Sidewalk Improvements; County Project No. 820662; in the Fourth Supervisorial District to the lowest responsible bidder, Taylor Jane Construction LP.

Lakeview Road is a main thoroughfare in the unincorporated community of Orcutt, CA. There is sidewalk on the south side of Lakeview Road from the Orcutt Road to 207' west of Linda Lee Drive and from Lakeview Court to South Bradley Road. The proposed project is the first phase of two to connect the sidewalk. Phase 1 will complete 585' out of 1462' missing sidewalk. The proposed project includes the construction of sidewalk infill, ADA-compliant curb ramps at each intersection, curb and gutter, block gravity walls, and a retaining wall on the south side of Lakeview Road from Dixie Lee Dr to Lakeview Court. This project, additionally, will upgrade driveways to comply with ADA requirements. These improvements will enhance the safety of pedestrians on this roadway. Phase 2 will be completed when additional funding is available.

On Thursday, November 9, 2023, five (5) bids were opened for the project. Taylor Jane Construction LP submitted the lowest responsible bid in the amount of \$396,470 which is 3.5% below the Engineer's Estimate. The second lowest bid is 16.0% above the Engineer's Estimate.

The Project was bid in accordance with the Public Contract Code, which requires the award to go to the lowest responsible bidder. The Department analyzed the bid and determined the lowest bidder is responsible and responsive. The Department recommends awarding this contract to Taylor Jane Construction LP.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department, Transportation Division

Exempt Status: (Check One)

Ministerial

Statutory Exemption

Categorical Exemption {15301(c)}

Emergency Project

Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15301(c) Existing Facilities – Class 1 consists 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. The types of “existing facilities” itemized below are not intended to be all inclusive of the types of projects which might fall within Class 1. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. Examples include but are not limited to: (c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety).

Reasons to support exemption findings: Consistent with this exemption, the proposed project involves a change in parking designations, stop controls and one-way roadway as an effective method for improving traffic safety and circulation. Such are established based upon safety, sight distance restrictions, necessity and how it relates to the use by the community as a whole. The project allows for a public safety activity designed to maintain a safe traveling condition of the highway facility as it was constructed. Further, there are no unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect. Therefore, the 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 15301 is a Class 1 exemption; 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 the minor alteration and maintenance of existing public roadways to improve public safety. In addition, 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 involves routine alteration to maintain safe public roadways for pedestrians and the traveling public. The project will occur where no sensitive resources are located. 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, Deputy Director Public Works Transportation/Engineering Division, Phone: (805) 568-3064

Department/Division Representative: Kalani Durham, Environmental Coordinator

Acceptance Date: **January 23, 2024**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting

Kalani Durham

December 14, 2023

Kalani Durham

Department Representative

Date

NOTE: A copy of this document must be posted 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 by County Clerk: _____.