

## 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) Right of Way. Project No. 862373**

**LOCATION:** Second Districts

**PROJECT TITLE:** Safe Routes to School Tatum Multi-Use Trail Project; Second Supervisorial District

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This project covers approximately 1,300 linear feet of pathway and drainage improvements. The project will replace an existing uneven dirt pathway with an all-weather trail designed to accommodate pedestrian and bicyclist traffic between sections of San Simeon Drive that have no vehicle connection. This project will improve the informal pathway across the Tatum Property linking the surrounding neighborhoods to San Marcos High School and El Camino Elementary School. The project will also address poor drainage that causes flooding on the trail, making it impassable during rainfall events, and during purges of a nearby pump station. This project fits within the larger Eastern Goleta Valley plan to increase walkability and bicycle accessibility in the area. This exemption considers all further administrative activities for this project.

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(c) Existing Facilities – "...consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, including but 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), except where the activity will involve removal of a scenic resource including a stand of trees, a rock outcropping, or an historic building.

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** Consistent with this exemption, this proposed project involves an activity related to the repair and maintenance activities for an existing pedestrian pathway. The project allows for a public safety activities designed to increase the safety of school children and pedestrian traffic on an existing facility. 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.

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 repair and maintenance of an existing pedestrian pathway 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 repair safety improvements to an existing facility for 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 in the residential roadway right of way. 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 roadways involved are not identified as a historical resource. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

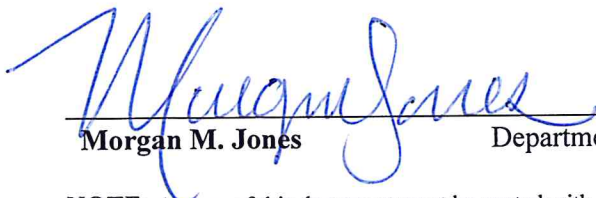
Lead Agency Contact Person: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Public Works-Transportation Division, Phone: (805) 568-3064

Department/Division Representative: Morgan M. Jones, Senior Engineering Environmental Planner,

Acceptance Date: **March 18, 2014**

[date of final action on project]

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



**Morgan M. Jones**

Department Representative

March 6, 2014

Date

**NOTE:** A copy of this document must be posted with the County's Planning & Development Department 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 with Planning & Development \_\_\_\_\_.

Distribution: Date Filed by County Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_.