

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, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN(s): N/A **Case No.:** N/A

LOCATION: Third Supervisorial District in the Cebada Canyon area.

PROJECT TITLE: County Service Area No. 41, Cebada Canyon Road Maintenance Assessments for Fiscal Year 2018/2019

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project is a request of the Board of Supervisor to consider an increase to the benefit assessment for County Service Area No. 41 (CSA 41). CSA 41 was established in FY 1984/85 to assess property owners of 51 parcels to finance road related repair, maintenance and improvements on roads in the Rancho Santa Rita subdivision outside the City of Lompoc in the unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County. A Road Committee made up of 5 elected members to represent the 51 parcel owners. The Road Committee serves as a liaison between the landowners and the County in matters relating to the development and maintenance of roads within CSA 41.

Public Works requests that the Board assesses the fiscal year benefit assessment rates for FY 2018/19. Fiscal Year 2018-19 assessments range from about \$478 to \$983 per parcel. Property owners are assessed based on factors that included the distance of road used to access each property.

Santa Barbara County's fee resolution identifies a funding source to finance maintenance on specific roads in the Cebada Canyon area, for County Service Area No. 41. The Board of Supervisors manages the implementation of services funded through the benefit assessment tax. The road maintenance and repair for County Service Area No. 41 is funded through a benefit assessment. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors must annually adopt the benefit assessment rates in order to assess them on the tax roll.

EXEMPT STATUS :(Check One)

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☒ Statutory
- ☐ Categorical Exemption [Sec. 15301]
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☐ No Possibility of Significant Effect [Sec. 15061(b, 3)]

Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section: 15273 (a) (1). Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges.
CEQA does not apply to the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, or other charges by public agencies which the public agency finds are for the purpose of meeting operating expenses.

Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary): The exemption from CEQA is granted by the Legislature by statute as this administrative action involves the modification and structuring of charges. The proposed benefit assessment will be used for meeting operational expenses incurred to maintain specific roads in the Cebada Canyon area in unincorporated Santa Barbara County and within County Service Area No. 41. Therefore, the project is contemplated by the CEQA exemption under section 15273. Further, there are no unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect.

As part of this action, and based upon the facts and analysis set forth in the engineers report, oral and written testimony during the public hearing on this matter on May 1, 2018 and on June 19, 2018 at the Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board will adopt the specific finding pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15273, subsection (c), as follows:

1. The amendment of the fee resolution for Cebada Canyon Service Area 41 is to meet the operational expenses of the Public Works Department.

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

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

Acceptance Date: **May 1, 2018 & June 19, 2018**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting


Morgan M. Jones

April 5, 2018
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:

POSTED
APR 12 2018
SB County
Planning and Development

Date filed with Planning & Development

Date filed with Clerk of Board