

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
 P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
 County of: San Bernardino
 222 West Hospitality Lane
 San Bernardino, CA 92415

From: (Public Agency): City of Rialto
150 S Palm Ave
Rialto, CA 92376
 (Address)

Project Title: Rialto Baseline Median Project

Project Applicant: Rialto, San Bernardino County, CA

Project Location - Specific:
Along Baseline Road between North Lilac Avenue and Meridian Avenue in Rialto, CA.

Project Location - City: Rialto Project Location - County: San Bernardino

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

A Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Cycle 8 application was submitted by the City of Rialto to improve motorist and pedestrian safety traveling along Baseline Road between North Lilac Avenue and Meridian Avenue to ingress/egress on the north and south properties. The proposed Project will consist of the following activities along Baseline Road between North Lilac Avenue and Meridian Avenue:
 1. Install 640 linear feet (LF) of fence along existing raised median between North Lilac Avenue and North Willow Avenue; 2. Install new raised medians between North Willow Avenue and Meridian Avenue (excluding a 300-foot gap between Acacia Avenue and Eucalyptus Avenue); 3. Perform striping between North Willow Avenue and Meridian Avenue; and 4. Reconstruct or retrofit designated curb ramps to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Rialto

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Rialto

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1, Section 15301 and Class 4, Section 15304
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

None of the exceptions specified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply. See Attachment A.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Daniel Casey Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 909-820-2525 x.2075

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: [Signature] Date: 11-8-2021 Title: Senior Planner

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
 Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Rialto Baseline Median Project Notice of Exemption (NOE)

The City of Rialto (City), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has proposed the Rialto Baseline Median Project, which proposes to improve motorist and pedestrian safety traveling along Baseline Road between North Lilac Avenue and Meridian Avenue to ingress/egress on the north and south properties (Project).

Project Location:

The Project would occur on Baseline Road between North Lilac Avenue and Meridian Avenue in Rialto, California. The proposed Project will occur entirely within the existing public rights-of-way.

Existing Conditions:

On October 20, 2016, City staff submitted a grant application for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Cycle 8 from the Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (FSTIP) to improve safety for motorists and pedestrians traveling along Baseline Road trying to ingress/egress the properties on both the north and the south side of Baseline Road between Willow Avenue and Meridian Avenue.

Baseline Road is classified as a Major Arterial in the City's General Plan, with two travel lanes in each direction, a posted speed limit of 40 MPH, and a painted center median. All of the properties fronting the subject portion of Baseline Road between Willow Avenue and Sycamore Avenue are zoned commercial with uncontrolled left-turn access provided from the middle two-way left-turn lane along with controlled left-turn access at signalized locations. There are four schools within one mile of this segment of Baseline Road (Frisbie Middle School, Myers Elementary, Henry Elementary and Bemis Elementary School) and more than 15 businesses that provide employment and services to City residents.

Description of Project:

The proposed Project will consist of the following activities along Baseline Road between North Lilac Avenue and Meridian Avenue:

1. Install 640 linear feet (LF) of fence along existing raised median between North Lilac Avenue and North Willow Avenue
2. Install new raised medians between North Willow Avenue and Meridian Avenue (excluding a 300-foot gap between Acacia Avenue and Eucalyptus Avenue)
3. Perform striping between North Willow Avenue and Meridian Avenue
4. Reconstruct or retrofit designated curb ramps to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA)

Applicability of Exempt Status:

The following are findings to support a Class 1 Categorical Exemption (Existing Facilities).

15300.2. Exceptions

- (a) Location.** The Project would occur entirely within the existing public rights-of-way on Baseline Road between North Lilac Avenue and Meridian Avenue. Thus, the Project site is heavily developed and previously disturbed. There are no designated critical environmental resources or hazardous materials sites within the Project site boundaries. Therefore, the Project would have

no impact, or impacts would be less than significant, with respect to the environmental issues. This exception does not apply to the Project.

- (b) Cumulative Impact.** As further discussed below under (c) Significant Effect, the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment, including those due to unusual circumstances. The potential for cumulative impacts occurs when the independent impacts of the Proposed Project are combined with the impact of related projects in proximity to the Project such that impacts occur that are greater than the impacts of the Project alone. As discussed above, it has been determined that the Project would have no impact or less than significant impacts with respect to the environmental issues. Where the Project would have no impact or a less than significant impact, it would not contribute to cumulative impacts. The Project is only for highway improvement activities and not growth-inducing; thus, it would not contribute to the cumulative effects of population growth. This exception does not apply to the Project.
- (c) Significant Effect.** The Project involves installing fence; installing new raised medians; performing striping; and reconstructing or retrofitting curb ramps within existing public rights-of-way. As a result of the Project activities, the Project would have no impacts or less than significant impacts with respect to the environmental issues. The Project activities would be beneficial to improve the access and safety in the site and its surroundings. None of the impacts on the environment, due to the implementation of the Project, will be significant or will require mitigation measures. Therefore, this exception does not apply to the Project.
- (d) Scenic Highways.** The Project activities would result in the highway improvements to improve the access and safety and would not directly or indirectly affect an officially designated scenic highway or scenic resources near a scenic highway. Therefore, this exception does not apply to the Project.
- (e) Hazardous Waste Sites.** The Proposed Project site has not been identified as a hazardous waste site pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (DTSC 2021; SWRCB 2021). Therefore, this exception does not apply to this Project.
- (f) Historical Resources.** The Project activities include installing fence; installing new raised medians; performing striping; and reconstructing or retrofitting curb ramps. The Project is located in an existing public right-of-way and will not include any construction or modification of buildings or structures of historical significance. Thus, this exception does not apply to the Project.

15301. Existing Facilities (Class 1)

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 existing or former use. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of use.

The City proposes minor alterations along an existing public roadway, Baseline Road, to improve motorist and pedestrian safety while traveling through the Project site. The entire Project would occur within the public rights-of-way along Baseline Road and would not expand use of the Project site, which would continue to function as a Major Arterial in the City following completion of the Project.

The following are findings to support a Class 4 Categorical Exemption (Minor Alterations to Land).

15300.2. Exceptions

- (a) Location.** The Project would occur entirely within the existing public rights-of-way on Baseline Road between North Lilac Avenue and Meridian Avenue. Thus, the Project site is heavily developed and previously disturbed. There are no designated critical environmental resources or hazardous materials sites within the Project site boundaries. Therefore, the Project would have no impact, or impacts would be less than significant, with respect to the environmental issues. This exception does not apply to the Project.
- (b) Cumulative Impact.** As further discussed below under (c) Significant Effect, the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment, including those due to unusual circumstances. The potential for cumulative impacts occurs when the independent impacts of the Proposed Project are combined with the impact of related projects in proximity to the Project such that impacts occur that are greater than the impacts of the Project alone. As discussed above, it has been determined that the Project would have no impact or less than significant impacts with respect to the environmental issues. Where the Project would have no impact or a less than significant impact, it would not contribute to cumulative impacts. The Project is only for highway improvement activities and not growth-inducing; thus, it would not contribute to the cumulative effects of population growth. This exception does not apply to the Project.
- (c) Significant Effect.** The Project involves installing fence; installing new raised medians; performing striping; and reconstructing or retrofitting curb ramps within existing public rights-of-way. As a result of the Project activities, the Project would have no impacts or less than significant impacts with respect to the environmental issues. The Project activities would be beneficial to improve the access and safety in the site and its surroundings. None of the impacts on the environment, due to the implementation of the Project, will be significant or will require mitigation measures. Therefore, this exception does not apply to the Project.
- (d) Scenic Highways.** The Project activities would result in the highway improvements to improve the access and safety and would not directly or indirectly affect an officially designated scenic highway or scenic resources near a scenic highway. Therefore, this exception does not apply to the Project.
- (e) Hazardous Waste Sites.** The Proposed Project site has not been identified as a hazardous waste site pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (DTSC 2021; SWRCB 2021). Therefore, this exception does not apply to this Project.
- (f) Historical Resources.** The Project activities include installing fence; installing new raised medians; performing striping; and reconstructing or retrofitting curb ramps. The Project is located in an existing public right-of-way and will not include any construction or modification of buildings or structures of historical significance. Thus, this exception does not apply to the Project.

15034. Minor Alterations to Land (Class 4)

Class 4 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.

The City proposes minor alterations along an existing public roadway, Baseline Road, to improve motorist and pedestrian safety while traveling through the Project site. The entire Project would occur within the public rights-of-way along Baseline Road and would not require the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

References:

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

- 2021 EnviroStor Database. Accessed August 2021. Available online at:
<https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=rialto%2C+ca>

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

- 2021 Geotracker Database. Accessed August 2021. Available online at:
<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=rialto%2C+ca>