

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**To:** [ ] Office of Planning & Research  
1400 Tenth St., Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** City of Perris, Development Services Dept.  
135 North "D" Street  
Perris, CA 92370-1998

[ X ] County Clerk  
County of Riverside  
2724 Gateway Drive  
Riverside, CA 92501

**Project Title:** I-215 Interchange Project

**Project Location - Specific:** The I-215 Interchange Project site is located in the City of Perris, Riverside County, California. Specifically, the Project site is the existing I-215/Case Road/ State Route 74 (SR-74) Interchange, which is located within the northeast quarter of Section 9 and the northwest quarter of Section 10 in Township 5 South, Range 3 West as shown on the Perris, California 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle map. The Project site is located within existing Caltrans right-of-way. The Project site is surrounded by vacant land and commercial uses to the north, as well as Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), commercial uses to the east, industrial uses to the southwest, and commercial uses to the southeast.

**Project Location - City:** Perris    **County:** Riverside

**Description of Project:** The existing Interstate-215 is a 6-lane highway with three lanes of travel in each direction. The I-215/Case Road/SR-74 Interchange consists of two "diagonal" ramps and two "loop" ramps with the intersections being signalized. Each of the four ramps is a single lane of travel with an 8-foot shoulder on the right side of the travel lane. There are no pedestrian facilities (curb ramps, sidewalks, bicycle lanes) within the project limits. There is an existing drainage culvert structure located beneath the southbound offramp that will not be impacted by the proposed project.

The existing southbound offramp has one through-lane and one free right turn lane with a channelized median. The southbound offramp will be widened up to approximately 16-feet to accommodate two (2) through lanes, a dedicated right-turn lane, and an 8-foot shoulder. The channelized median will be removed, which will improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The existing southbound onramp/SR-74 has one left turn lane and one through lane. The proposed improvements will widen the approach to the intersection approximately seven feet to provide two left-turn lanes, one through lane, and a six-foot bicycle lane.

The existing Bonnie Drive at southbound ramps has a single left-turn lane and a free right turn lane with channelized median. The street will be improved to remove the channelized median and provide one left turn and one right-turn lane. ADA ramps will also be constructed at both the northwest and southwest returns at the intersection. A signal modification will be required at this Bonnie Drive and SR-74 intersection to accommodate the additional widening and bicycle improvements.

The existing SR-74 between the I-215 southbound and northbound onramps contain two-lanes of travel in the eastbound direction with a single lane of travel in the westbound direction and does not have bicycle lanes. The project proposes to maintain said lanes in both eastbound and westbound directions, with additional widening up to eight feet to accommodate 6-foot bicycle lanes on both sides of the highway.

The improvements are needed to ensure the local roadway network will be improved to facilitate better traffic circulation once traffic is realized from the South Perris Industrial Project Site 3. In addition, it will improve traffic operations, safety for pedestrians, and bicyclists.

Additional improvements include regrading of existing slopes, removal of existing pavement sections, grind and overlay pavement rehabilitation, construction of retaining wall and relocation of existing signs. The maximum depths of excavation will be up to 15 feet for the traffic signal poles and the road improvements will require approximately two to three feet of excavation. The proposed improvements are all located within existing Caltrans right-of-way.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** City of Perris

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** City of Perris, Development Services Department - Planning Division.

**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 sec. no.:**  
**Class 1, Existing Facilities Section 15301(c).**
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:
- Other. "Common Sense" Exemption: Section 15061(b)(3)

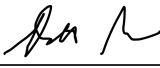
**Reasons why project is exempt:** The proposed project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use...[t]he key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of use." CEQA Guidelines Section 15301. One such type of "existing facility" includes alterations to "[e]xisting highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety). (Section 15301(c).)

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** City of Perris, Development Services Department - Planning Division: Nathan Perez, Senior Planner, (951) 943-5003 Ext 279

**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

[Website Posting of Notice of Exemption in compliance with Section 8(a) of Executive Order N-54-20, dated April 22, 2020]

Signature:  Date: March 4, 2022 Title: Senior Planner

- Signed by Lead Agency      Date received for filing: \_\_\_\_\_
- Signed by Applicant