

## CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** County Clerk  
County of Humboldt  
825 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Office of Planning Research  
State Clearinghouse

**FROM:** City of Eureka, Lead Agency  
Development Services - Planning  
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**PROJECT TITLE:** Samoa Bridge Murals- Caltrans Clean California Grants 2022

**PROJECT APPLICANT:** City of Eureka Public Works - Engineering

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Piers 2-5 of the Eureka Channel section of the Samoa Bridge

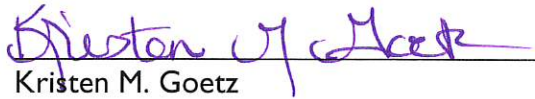
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The City of Eureka, in conjunction with Caltrans, is proposing to install murals on five land-based columns that support Eureka's Samoa Bridge, adjacent to Waterfront Drive. The project is intended to benefit historically excluded neighborhoods by adding value and beautifying the urban infrastructure. Art and mural installations aid in harnessing a sense of community among residents as well as discouraging unwanted use and graffiti of the improved areas. Eureka is known for its local artists and extensive art community who are passionate about creating and maintaining their work.

Elements that pertain to this project include: applying for a Caltrans encroachment permit, cleaning and preparing the intended mural column locations, planning and implementing ideas via design and scaling, and painting of the columns. The project will be incorporated and completed as a part of the Eureka Street Art Festival 2022. The Eureka Street Art Festival will begin August 1<sup>st</sup> and will focus on bringing public art to the Bridge District in Eureka.

Preparation and installation of these murals will require pickup trucks, power operated lifts, scaffolding, ladders, drop cloths, and necessary hand tools. An appropriate traffic control plan will be employed to provide access around the work area when necessary. Public service announcements will advise the public of the planned construction via Caltrans Public Information Officer; no long-duration road closures will occur. However, some in-lot parking spaces may be closed during active construction to allow for equipment parking and construction. Preparation of the piers for painting will include power washing of the areas to be painted. Best Management Practices (BMP's) will be employed during power washing activities. BMP's include, but are limited to, inlet protection, straw waddles, and proper disposal of any waste materials. BMPs will ensure runoff from power washing, and any paint, paint materials, or equipment do not discharge into or enter Humboldt Bay, either directly or indirectly.

**EXEMPTION FINDINGS:** The City of Eureka as Lead Agency has determined the above described activity is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Lead Agency has further determined that the project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to a Class I categorical exemption (Sections 15301), which exempts 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. The key consideration for this exemption is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. The project involves painting of murals on existing bridge support piers. No construction or ground disturbance activities are anticipated. The Lead Agency has further that the use of the categorical exemption is not barred by any one of the exceptions set forth in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines.

The material supporting the above finding is on file with the City of Eureka Public Works - Engineering. Copies of the documents related to the evaluation of this project are available for review upon request at the City of Eureka, 531 K Street, Eureka, CA 95501.

  
Kristen M. Goetz  
Principal Planner, City of Eureka

July 8, 2022  
Date