

# Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): City of San Gabriel, Public Works  
425 South Mission Drive  
San Gabriel, CA 91776

County Clerk

County of: Los Angeles

12400 Imperial Highway

Norwalk, CA 90650

(Address)

Project Title: Valley Boulevard and New Avenue Intersection Improvements

Project Applicant: City of San Gabriel

Project Location - Specific:

**Valley Boulevard at New Avenue**

Project Location - City: San Gabriel Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The City of San Gabriel proposes improvements to the intersection of Valley Boulevard and New Avenue to address several identified operational deficiencies along Valley Boulevard and improve traffic flow and operations, alleviate congestion, and enhance pedestrian safety. Proposed improvements would include lane and bus stop reconfiguration along Valley Boulevard, widening of a curb return, and replacement of existing traffic signal poles and cabinets.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of San Gabriel

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Angela Cheng, Principal Civil Engineer

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: Title 14 CCR § 15301. Existing Facilities (c)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed intersection project consists of the operation, repair and minor alteration of existing public facilities, mechanical equipment, and topographical features including existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters and similar facilities that would not result in a significant effect on the environment. The proposed project is considered to be exempt from CEQA, per title 14, Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Angela Cheng Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 626-308-2825

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: Angela Cheng Date: 8/17/12 Title: Principal Civil Engineer

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: \_\_\_\_\_

## **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

The City of San Gabriel is proposing improvements to the intersection of Valley Boulevard and New Avenue. These improvements are part of the State Route 710 (SR-710) North Mobility Improvement Projects (MIP). In 2008, Measure R was passed for transportation improvements in Los Angeles County. In 2017, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board approved the reallocation of approximately \$730 million remaining Measure R Funds for the State Route 710 (SR-710) North Gap Closure Project to new MIPs to relieve congestion on local streets in the San Gabriel Valley subregion. The City of San Gabriel, in cooperation with the City of Alhambra for New Avenue, is using this funding source to complete the engineering and environmental phases of the project, with Metro as the acting administrative agency.

## **PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS**

Proposed intersection improvements would include lane and bus stop reconfiguration along Valley Boulevard and widening of a curb return. A temporary construction easement and partial right of way acquisition is anticipated to accommodate for the proposed improvements. The new lane configuration would accommodate the addition of an auxiliary lane on Valley Boulevard in both directions. The curb return on the southwest corner of the intersection would be widened, and existing traffic signal poles and cabinets would be replaced. The Project would lengthen dedicated left and right-turn lanes along Valley Boulevard and New Avenue. To improve traffic flow and enhance pedestrian safety, the Project would add a Metro bus stop at the northeast corner of New Avenue and Valley Boulevard to service Route 487. The Project would relocate the westbound Valley Boulevard bus stop, which currently services Routes 76 and 487, from the near side to the far side of the intersection to service Route 76. This is also the preferred orientation for Metro bus operations. In addition, the intersection improvements would include various areas of pavement rehabilitation and within the limits of the pavement striping. Vegetation removal is anticipated at the existing median west of New Avenue and along the northwest side and corner of Valley Boulevard and at the southwest corner of the intersection to accommodate for the proposed improvements. Approximately eight trees and five on-street parking spaces are anticipated to be removed to accommodate the proposed improvements. Continental crosswalks composed of thick vertical striping are proposed to increase visibility for pedestrians. The Project would synchronize traffic signals along the Valley Boulevard arterial.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The City of San Gabriel is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). GPA Consulting (GPA), on behalf of the City of San Gabriel, conducted a review of environmental resource databases and background documents to characterize the project area, identify potential environmental resources, and determine the level of environmental review required under CEQA. Based on the review, the City of San Gabriel determined that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment. The CEQA Guidelines lists classes of projects determined by the State of California to be exempt from the requirements of CEQA because they have no significant effect on the environment. A project is categorically exempt from CEQA if it fits into one or more of these exemption classes and no unusual circumstances exist that would cause the project to have a significant effect on the environment. Based on analysis of the Project, the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Categorical Exemptions, Section 15301, Existing Facilities (Class 1), as summarized in *Valley Boulevard and New Avenue Intersection Improvements Categorical Exemption Memorandum* dated August 16, 2022.