

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FROM: City of Fresno
Department of Public Works
2600 Fresno Street, 4th Floor
Fresno, California 93721-4016

TO: Fresno County Clerk
2220 Tulare Street
Fresno, California 93721

Office of Planning & Research SCH NO.: N/A
P.O. Box 3044, Room 212
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

Project Title: Downtown Fresno Neighborhood Beautification and Cleanup Project (PW01012)

Project Location: Belmont Avenue from Abby Street to Millbrook Avenue, SR-180 at Blackstone Avenue, Abby Street, Fresno Street, First Street and the Romain Community Center (First Street and E. Harvey Avenue), Webster Elementary School, Hidalgo Elementary School, Anthony (Susan B.) Elementary School

Project Location – City: City of Fresno **Project Location – County:** County of Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: The City of Fresno, Public Works Department, is proposing a project involving both infrastructure and non-infrastructure components.

The infrastructure component of the project will benefit the community by replacing aging infrastructure, introducing urban greening, improved walkability, enhanced amenities along the Belmont Avenue corridor and at five existing bus stops. The non-infrastructure elements will provide youth service opportunities and help build a sense of pride among residents.

The infrastructure component will reconstruct the existing median on Belmont Avenue from Abby Street to Millbrook Avenue to include the removal of median AC, saw cutting, adjustment of water valves and manhole lids to grade, and installation of curb, gutter, concrete, landscaping and irrigation in the reconstructed median. Sidewalk tree wells and irrigation will be installed along the proposed corridor. Pedestrian ramps, signage and striping will be upgraded to meet current ADA requirements.

Five existing FAX Bus stop locations within the project area, will be updated to include a new shelter, lighting, trash receptacles and seating.

The project includes the hiring of a vendor to provide weekly litter cleanup within a 0.75 square mile area until June 2024. The vendor contract will reduce litter within the project area and may provide employment opportunities for the community.

The non-infrastructure components include the commissioning of eight murals to be painted by eight local artists, at five locations along SR-180 at Blackstone Avenue, Abby Street, Fresno Street, First Street and at the Romain Community Center (First Street and E. Harvey Avenue).

The project will establish 'Beautify Fresno' Clubs at Webster and Hidalgo Elementary Schools. The Beautify Fresno Clubs will organize a cleanup or beautification event to be held each semester at each school, for a total of eight Beautify Fresno Club-organized cleanup events.

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The City of Fresno's 'Beautify Fresno' program will also organize four volunteer-based cleanup events to be held at Webster (two events), Hidalgo and Anthony Elementary Schools.

The City of Fresno's 'Beautify Fresno' program will also create and launch two, twelve-week long Anti-litter campaigns to include bus wraps, billboard ads and online social media outreach. One campaign will launch in 2023 and the second in 2024.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Fresno – Department of Public Works, Engineering Division

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Jason Miller
City of Fresno
Department of Public Works
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial: PRC § 21080(b)(1); CEQA Guidelines §15268
- Declared Emergency: PRC § 21080(b)(3); CEQA Guidelines §15269(a)
- Emergency Project: PRC § 21080(b)(4); CEQA Guidelines §15269(b) and (c)
- Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines §15301/Class 1 and §15302/Class 2
- Statutory Exemption: PRC § _____

Reasons why project is exempt: Section 15301/Class 1 of the CEQA Guidelines exempts from the provisions of CEQA, projects consisting 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 use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The types of "existing facilities" itemized below are not intended to be all-inclusive of the types of projects which might fall within Class 1. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. An example of this exemption includes existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety).

Section 15302/Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, including but not limited to: water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.

The proposed project is consistent with Class 1 and Class 2 exemptions because the project is proposing to make improvements to existing landscaping medians, sidewalk, reinstall signage and striping. The proposed improvements, including the non-infrastructure components of the project, are minor, do not constitute an expansion of use, and will improve the public right-of-way without increasing road capacity. The proposed project involves negligible expansion of the existing use and will have substantially the same purpose.

Based on staff analysis, it was determined that no adverse environmental impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project and none of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions set forth in the

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CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to this project. Therefore, a categorical exemption, as noted above, has been prepared for the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jason Miller **Telephone No.** (559) 621-8653

Signature: Jason Miller **Date:** 10/6/22

Printed Name and Title:

Jason Miller, PE, Supervising Professional Engineer
Department of Public Works, Engineering Division

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by applicant

Attachments: Categorical Exemption Determination

**CITY OF FRESNO
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. PW01012**

THE PROJECT DESCRIBED HEREIN IS DETERMINED TO BE CATEGORICALLY
EXEMPT FROM THE PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 19 OF THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES.

APPLICANT: Jason Miller, PE
Supervising Professional Engineer
City of Fresno Public Works Department
2600 Fresno Street, Room 4016
Fresno, CA 93721

PROJECT LOCATION: Belmont Avenue Sidewalk and Median Reconstruction from Abby Street to Millbrook Avenue and along SR-180 at Blackstone Avenue, Abby Street, Fresno Street, First Street and at the Romain Community Center.

(City of Fresno Council District 3, 7)
(County of Fresno Supervisorial District 3)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Fresno, Public Works Department, is proposing a project involving both infrastructure and non-infrastructure components.

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The City of Fresno's 'Beautify Fresno' program will also create and launch two, twelve-week long Anti-litter campaigns to include bus wraps, billboard ads and online social media outreach. One campaign will launch in 2023 and the second in 2024.

This project is exempt under Sections 15301/Class 1 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. None of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions set forth in the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 apply to this project.

EXPLANATION:

Section 15301/Class 1 of the CEQA Guidelines exempts from the provisions of CEQA, projects consisting 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 use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The types of "existing facilities" itemized below are not intended to be all-inclusive of the types of projects which might fall within Class 1. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. An example of this exemption includes existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety).

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The proposed project is consistent with Class 1 and Class 2 exemptions because the project is proposing to make improvements to existing landscaping medians, sidewalk, reinstall signage and striping. The proposed improvements, including the non-infrastructure components of the project, are minor, do not constitute an expansion of use, and will improve the public right-of-way without increasing road capacity. The proposed project involves negligible expansion of the existing use and will have substantially the same purpose.

Based on staff analysis, it was determined that no adverse environmental impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project and none of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions set forth in the CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to this project. Therefore, a categorical exemption, as noted above, has been prepared for the project.

Date: October 6, 2022

Prepared By: Jason Miller, PE
Supervising Professional Engineer

Submitted by: *Jason Miller*
Jason Miller, PE
Supervising Professional Engineer
City of Fresno
Public Works Department
(559) 621-8653