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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
105 E. ANAPAMU STREET
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

FROM: CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PLANNING DIVISION
P.O. BOX 1990
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93102-1990

Project Title: Emergency Tunnel Reservoir Debris Removal and Slope Repair Project
Project Applicant: City of Santa Barbara
PLN Number: N/A
Assessor's Parcel Number: 153-270-009
Land Use Zone: Non-City parcel in the County of Santa Barbara
Projection Location (Specific): Project is located at the end of Tunnel Road on City-owned property outside of the City's jurisdictional area at 1501 Tunnel Road.

Project Location: County of Santa Barbara

Project Description:

The City's Tunnel Reservoir site required significant debris removal and slope repair emergency work to mitigate damage caused as a direct result of the January 9, 2023, storm event. The site contains a 1-million-gallon drinking water steel reservoir located above ground and surrounded by steep slopes on the north and west sides. The work was conducted from January 10-20 and March 7-8, 2023, by Lash Construction and Acacia Erosion Control. Initial work involved the removal of approximately 5 dump truck loads of debris from a debris fall on the north-western slope, as well as security fencing repair. The final work involved grading out gullies, hydroseeding, and installing wattles along approximately 2,700 sq. ft. of slope. The work involved restoring the site to its pre-storm condition and did not result in an expansion in capacity. Equipment used to complete the work included: backhoe, excavator, dump truck, mini-excavator, hydro-seeder, and a water buffalo.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Santa Barbara
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Santa Barbara
Lead Agency Contact: Kaitlin Mamulski Telephone: (805) 897-2685

Exempt Status: Exempt under CEQA Sections § 15269 (a)

Reason Why Project is Exempt:

CEQA Guidelines Section 15269 (a), Emergency Projects. This Project meets the Section 15269 Emergency Projects (a) statutory exemption, because the Project involved the removal of debris, repair of the damaged security fencing and restored slope stability and erosion mitigation of the hillside at Tunnel Reservoir damaged as a result of the January 9, 2023, storm, in which a state of emergency was proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code.

Mapping data is limited for the specific site, but records showing high erosion potential zones exist for areas approximately 200' away. The possibility of high erosion of soil on this site is supported by the fact that erosion did occur during the storm. The Project sought to address and decrease the future risk of erosion through the addition of wattles, grading, and other stormwater erosion control measures and will reduce the risk of erosion and damage to infrastructure during future storm events.

Mapped data is not available for this location, but given fire risk in comparable locations, it is likely that this area would be high fire risk. Construction activities did not increase fire risk.

Construction equipment generated some noise during construction, however, work was restricted to the hours of 7:30 AM to 4 PM pursuant to the Santa Barbara Noise Ordinance. Given the limited noise during construction, the Project will have a less than significant effect in terms of noise.

The site contains mature trees, but no tree removal or pruning occurred as part of this Project, therefore, the Project will have a less than significant effect on trees or landscaping.

The Project did involve work above ground, but work was focused on returning the site to a pre-storm condition and did not involve any significant alteration to the landscape other than the repair work necessary. Therefore, the effects to visual resources are considered to be less than significant.

In conclusion, the emergency Project repaired damages at Tunnel Reservoir as a direct result of the January 9, 2023, storm event. The Project is not anticipated to result in any significant impacts towards the environmental resources, therefore, the Public Works Department recommends that the Case Planner consider this Project as exempt, as defined in the CEQA review process classified under the Statutory Exemption Section 15269 (a) – Emergency Projects of the CEQA Guidelines.

Kaitlin Mamulski

Environmental Analyst Signature:

Date: 4/11/2023