

CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: County Clerk
County of Humboldt
825 5th 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: Buhne Street Pedestrian Improvements Project 2024

PROJECT APPLICANT: City of Eureka Public Works - Engineering

PROJECT LOCATION: Buhne Street between Fairfield Street and Dean Street; specifically, Buhne Street at: Spring Street, near Albee Street, Union Street, California Street, C Street, William Street, E Street, F Street, G Street, M Street, near N Street, O Street, Dean Street, and near S Street.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Eureka is proposing a safety improvement project to improve safety for all modes of travel (bicyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles) on Buhne Street between Fairfield and Dean Streets. Improvements vary throughout the corridor, but include: constructing concrete bulb-outs, removing and replacing sidewalk and curb, installing rectangular rapid flashing beacons, radar speed feedback signs, pedestrian crossing signs and poles, thermoplastic edge line striping and markings, truncated domes, and upsizing existing stop signs. At all of the locations where bulb-outs will be constructed, crosswalk markings will be added or replaced and truncated domes will be installed.

Excavation for new curb and sidewalk will be sixteen inches deep or less in previously disturbed areas and will utilize a compressor with jackhammer and backhoe. Installation of new poles for rapid flashing beacons, radar feedback speed limit signs and pedestrian crossing signs will require excavations approximately 4" in diameter by 30" deep utilizing a core drill. New bulb-outs, sidewalk, and curb requires use of a concrete truck and miscellaneous hand tools. Installation of thermoplastic edge line striping and markings requires manual, push cart, or truck-mounted thermoplastic and painting equipment. Other equipment to be utilized includes: pickup trucks for

hauling tools, concrete saws for cutting concrete, and dump trucks for hauling waste material off-site where all project spoils will be transported to an approved permitted location, to be identified by the contractor and approved by the City, prior to use.

Construction is anticipated to last approximately three months. Traffic control will be employed to provide access through and/or around the construction area when necessary depending on traffic conditions and the type of work to be performed. A minimum of one traffic lane will be provided at all times during work activities, and temporary lane shifts or short-term detours will be used as needed to facilitate continued traffic flow. Also, on-street parking zones will be closed as needed, and affected residents and businesses will be notified of upcoming closures at least 48 hours in advance. Construction activities will occur during daytime hours, Monday through Friday, and public service announcements will be provided to advise the public of the planned construction activities and possible traffic delays, and advanced notification via the U.S. mail service will be sent to households fronting the construction zones.

EXEMPTION FINDINGS: The City of Eureka, as Lead Agency, has determined the proposed project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 15301, Existing Facilities, Class I, of the CEQA Guidelines. Class I 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 beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.

The key consideration for this exemption is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. The project involves upgrades to existing pedestrian crossings and new signage to improve existing vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian safety and travel paths. All work is proposed within the existing roadway prism. Additionally, the Lead Agency will implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and conditions to minimize any potential negative impacts to the environment during construction activities. As a result, the Lead Agency has determined 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.



Caitlin Castellano
Senior Planner, City of Eureka

May 17, 2023

Date