

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:

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

County Clerk
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 260
San Diego, CA 92101

From:

San Diego Association of Governments [Lead Agency]
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101

Project Applicant: San Diego Association of Governments
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101
619-699-7390

Project Title: Blue Line Signaling Improvements Project

Project Location: City of San Diego, San Diego County.

Description of Specific Location, Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Blue Line Signaling Improvements Project proposes to install advanced preemption timing at 72 seconds to provide safer pedestrian clearing time and to improve circulation. The work shall be performed along the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Blue Line Trolley at the 27th Street, Iris Street, Seaward Avenue, and Dairy Mart Road crossings.

The signal modifications include additional improvements at the intersections to introduce railroad advanced traffic signal preemption. The design of advanced preemption will accommodate all vehicle types. The nearside crossing system, which uses Train to Wayside communications (TWC) to inform the signaling system of routing information of the train, will be part of the Dairy Mart Road at-grade crossing. The nearside crossing feature will function similarly to the other Blue Line Trolley crossing locations. It will hold off the advanced traffic signal preemption and crossing activation to compensate for the delayed time to the eastbound in-service San Diego Trolley while at the Iris Avenue Station. Currently, the Dairy Mart Road at-grade crossing does not have the nearside crossing holdoff feature, therefore, additional flashing beacon indicators (FIBs) will be installed at the crossing. The length of existing approach circuits and TWC system will be modified to provide advanced notification of the approaching trolley.

The upgrades to the signal modifications will be achieved by trenching in PVC conduit at a maximum depth of five feet below final grade, backfilling trenched in conduit, demolishing and replacing sidewalk panels, installing track circuit and TWC cabling, installing TWC loops, terminating cables, and modifying railway signal house circuits.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: San Diego Association of Governments

Name of Public Agency Carrying out Project: San Diego Association of Governments

Exempt Status:

Categorical Exemption. State code number: Section 15301(c), 15302(c), and 15304(f)

CEQA does not apply to the Project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 (Class 1 – Existing Facilities), 15302 (Class 2 – Replacement or Reconstruction), and/or 15304 (Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land)

Reasons Why Exempt from CEQA


The table below explains the reasons why the proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, 15302, and/or 15304.

CEQA Exemption	Reasons Why Proposed Project Qualifies for Exemption
<i>Categorical Exemption, Section 15301(c)</i>	
<p><i>Class 1 consists 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 existing or former use. 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 use. Examples include but are not limited to:</i></p> <p><i>(c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety), and other alterations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes);</i></p>	<p>The proposed project qualifies for a categorical exemption from CEQA. The proposed project involves safety improvements that would involve no expansion of current use.</p>
<i>Categorical Exemption, Section 15302(c)</i>	
<p><i>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:</i></p> <p><i>(c) Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity</i></p>	<p>The proposed project qualifies for a categorical exemption from CEQA. The proposed project involves utility and facility improvements located on essentially the same site as the existing utilities and facilities. The proposed project would enhance existing utilities and facilities which would have substantially the same purpose following completion of the proposed project.</p>
<i>Categorical Exemption, Section 15304(f)</i>	
<p><i>Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Examples include, but are not limited to:</i></p> <p><i>(f) Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored</i></p>	<p>The proposed project qualifies for a categorical exemption from CEQA. The proposed project involves minor trenching for utility and facility upgrades.</p>

CEQA Exemption	Reasons Why Proposed Project Qualifies for Exemption

Responsible Agency Contact Person: Keith Greer

Area Code/Telephone: 619-699-7390

Signature: 

Date: 12/22/23

Title: CEO

Signed by Lead Agency