

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**RECEIVED**

**TO:** Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors,  
Laguna County Sanitation Board of Directors

2021 AUG 28 P 12: 29

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
1000 ANTELOPE DRIVE  
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93101

**FROM:** Laguna County Sanitation District (LCSD)

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

**APN:** Multiple (within existing LCSD easement)

**Case No.:** NA

**Location:** Along the existing trunk sewer line located adjacent to the Solomon creek, generally south of Clark Avenue from Bradley Road to State Route 135, and north of Clark Avenue from State Route 135 to Blosser Road. Also located on the north trunk line alignment which is west of the Santa Maria Public Airport from Blosser Road west to the Laguna County Sanitation District wastewater reclamation plant.

**Project Title:** Solomon Creek Sewer Rehabilitation

**Project Description:** Pipe lining of approximately 542 linear feet of 15 inch diameter vitrified clay sewer pipe (VCP), 5,184 linear feet of 12 inch diameter VCP, 5,717 linear feet of 10" diameter VCP, and 2,531 linear feet of 8" diameter VCP with a trenchless, cured in place pipe (CIPP) rehabilitation, and coating approximately 61 manholes along the Solomon creek pipeline alignment and 38 additional manholes along the north trunk line alignment (Figures 1-4). Prior to pipe lining, the pipe will be removed from service by above ground bypass pumping from the upstream to downstream manhole. Secondary containment around bypass pumps and a complete backup pumping system will be provided. The VCP was installed in the 1960s and based on recent video surveys has been determined to be in deleterious condition, having exceeded its expected useful life of 50 years and is subject to possible failure and repetitive maintenance due to root intrusion through pipe joints. The sewer manholes were constructed using brick and mortar materials and have also exceeded their useful life and are to be rehabilitated by coating the interior walls in-situ. This project is planned to be completed in sections over the course of several years for budgetary reasons.

The proposed Solomon Creek Sewer Rehabilitation work is consistent with repair and maintenance activities identified in the Final Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Laguna County Sanitation District Facilities Construction, Operation, and Maintenance Western Santa Maria Valley, Santa Barbara County, California (Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, February 2017) and Incidental Take Permit (ITP) Number TE16913C-0. Applicable avoidance and minimization measures identified in HCP/ITP will be implemented during the repair work.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department, Laguna County Sanitation District

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Kevin Thompson, Interim District Manager

**Exempt Status:** (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section:** CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(b).

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(b) provides a categorical exemption for the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing publicly owned utilities used to provide sewerage involving negligible or no expansion of use. Consistent with this exemption, the proposed project involves the phased repair and maintenance of an existing trunk sewer pipeline and appurtenant sewer manholes which, based on video surveys and inspections, requires remedial lining to ensure its continued function and to prevent possible failure. The proposed repair and maintenance would not result in any expansion of use. Therefore, the Solomon Creek Sewer Rehabilitation project can be found to be categorically exempt.

There is no substantial evidence that there are unusual circumstances (including future activities) resulting in (or which might reasonably result in) significant impacts which threaten the environment. The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

- (a) **Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 is a Class 1 exemption; therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.**

The project involves the phased repair and maintenance an existing trunk pipeline to allowed continued operation and to prevent potential failure. A similar project, North Trunk Line Rehabilitation project was substantially completed in November 2022 and was also determined to be categorically exempt. Because this project is complete and there are no other identified projects which would contribute to cumulative impact, this exception does not apply.

- (c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.**

The project involves repairs to prevent potential failure of the pipeline that could result in environmental impacts. Measures will be implemented to safely reroute sewer service around the section of pipeline being maintained. The proposed project passes through potential habitat for the California Tiger Salamander, but is within the existing sewer easement and involves in-situ repairs to existing pipelines and manholes with no new ground disturbance with the exception of the temporary placement of aboveground bypass pipelines and pumps. The bypass facilities would include secondary containment to prevent impacts to California Tiger Salamander habitat during the repair work. In addition, the maintenance work is consistent with repair and maintenance activities identified in the Final Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Laguna County Sanitation District Facilities Construction, Operation, and Maintenance Western Santa Maria Valley, Santa Barbara County, California (Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, February 2017) and Incidental Take Permit (ITP) Number TE16913C-0. Applicable avoidance and minimization measures identified in HCP/ITP will be implemented during the repair work. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.**

The project does not involve a scenic highway or a project which may result in damage to a scenic resource, removal of trees, rock outcropping or similar resource. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.**

The proposed project is within existing LCSD easements and would involve lining an existing subsurface pipeline and temporarily bypassing sewage through an aboveground pipeline. The project would not involve ground disturbing activities that would impact hazardous waste sites. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

- (f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.**

The project involves the maintenance and repair of an existing sewer pipeline and appurtenant sewer manholes; no historical resources would be impacted. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Kevin Thompson, Interim District Manager  
Phone #: (805) 803-8755

**Department/Division Representative:** Joddi Leipner, Sr. Eng. Env. Planner  
Date: November 6, 2023

**Acceptance Date:** 7-27-24

**Date Filed by Clerk of the Board**

8/28/24

# Laguna County Sanitation District Sewer Pipe and Manhole Rehabilitation Vicinity Map

Date: 10/18/2023

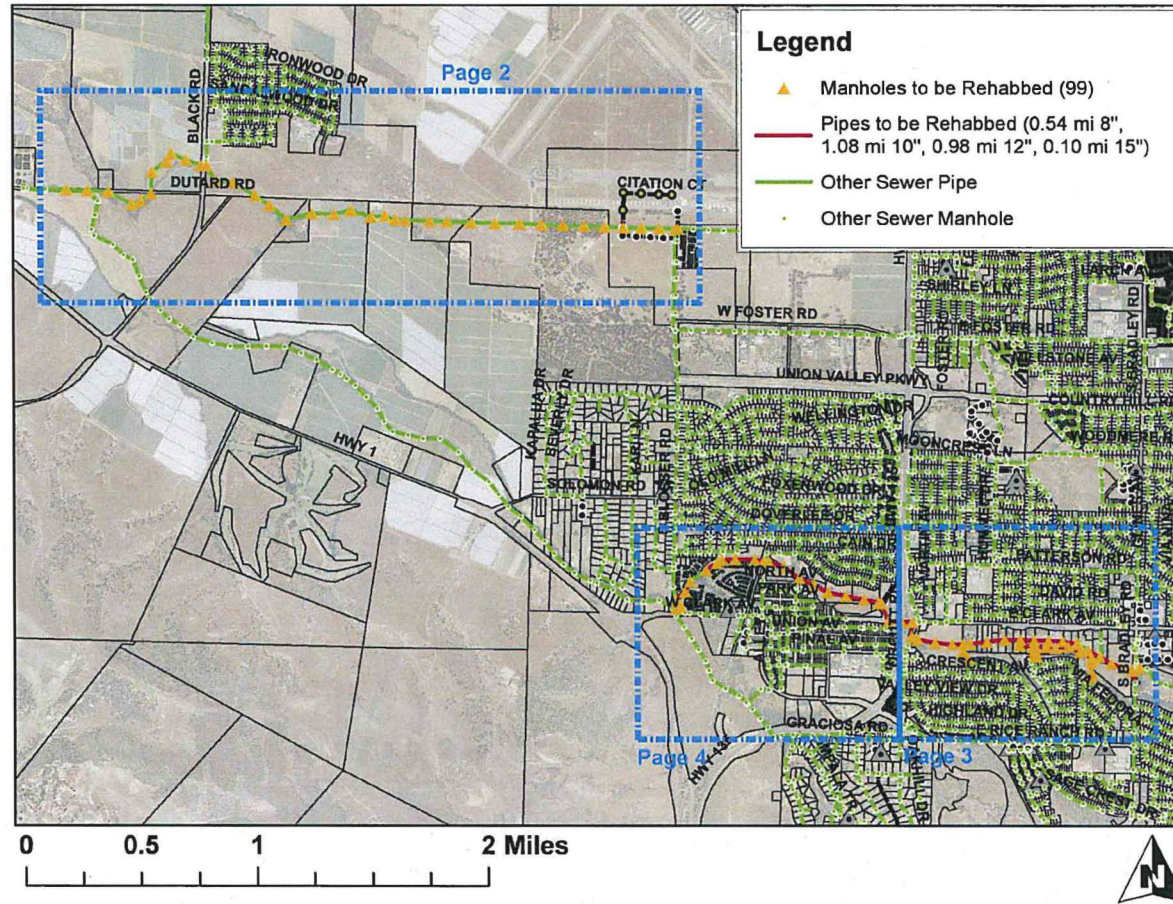
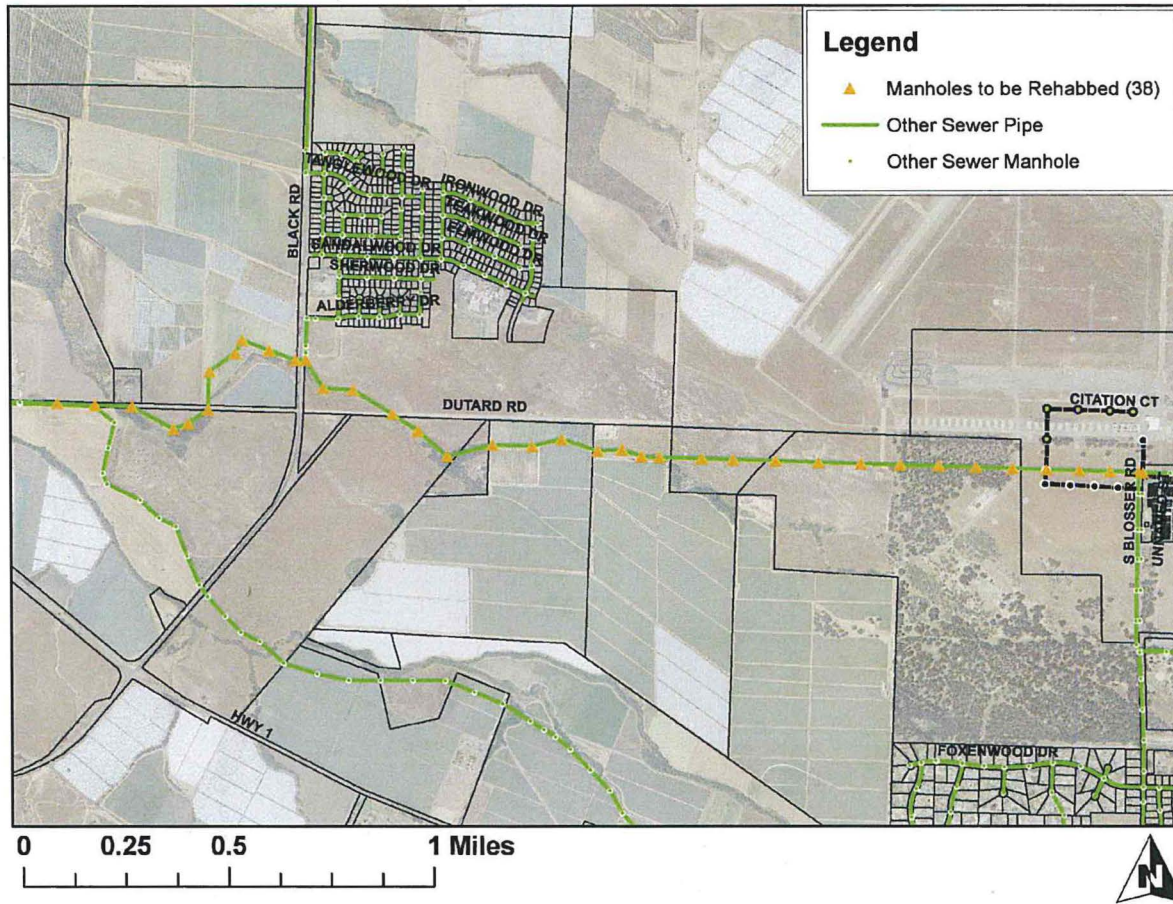


Figure 1

Laguna County Sanitation District  
Sewer Pipe and Manhole Rehabilitation  
Page 2 of 4

Date: 10/18/2023





Laguna County Sanitation District  
 Sewer Pipe and Manhole Rehabilitation  
 Page 4 of 4

Date: 10/18/2023

Figure 4

