

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department of Public Works/Transportation Division
(Lead Department/Division)

2025 FEB 11 P 4:16

Based on a preliminary review of the project the following activity is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 (Pub. Res. Code Section 21000 et seq.), as defined in the State CEQA Guidelines and County Revised CEQA Guidelines.

APN(s) County-owned Right of Way **Project No. 862434**

LOCATION: Isla Vista, Second Supervisorial District

PROJECT TITLE: ATP Cycle 6: Isla Vista Bike and Pedestrian Improvements Project,
Project No. 862434

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Construct pedestrian and bike safety enhancements throughout the unincorporated community of Isla Vista. Pedestrian safety enhancements include curb extensions, high visibility crosswalks, utility relocation, and ADA-compliant curb ramps to increase pedestrian visibility, decrease crossing distances, and calm traffic speeds. Sidewalk infill will be constructed along sections of Camino Corto, Abrego Road, Picasso Road, Embarcadero del Norte and Madrid Road. Sidewalk reconstruction and widening is proposed along the south side of the 6500 and 6600 blocks of Del Playa Drive. Bike enhancements include new signage and markings and the addition of Class II, Class III, and Class IV bikeways on County-owned roadways throughout Isla Vista. Any tree removals associated with the construction of ADA-compliant curb ramps have been minimized to the maximum extent feasible.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Public Works Transportation Division

Exempt Status: (Check one)
 Ministerial
 Statutory Exemption
 X Categorical Exemption {15301(c)}
 Emergency Project
 Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15301(c) Existing Facilities – 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 an existing use. Examples include but are not limited to: (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 bicycles lanes, transit improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes.

Reasons to support exemption findings: Consistent with this exemption, the proposed project involves minor alterations to existing facilities to enhance safety for people who walk and bike in Isla Vista. Proposed groundwork includes curb extensions, new sidewalks, and medians and splitter islands. The project also includes pedestrian and bicycle signage, delineators, and crosswalk markings.

All proposed changes to existing traffic flow and parking designations were reviewed by the County Traffic Engineer and were designed based upon safety, sight distance restrictions, and community needs.

No expansion of existing use or increase in vehicular capacity is proposed with the project. There are no unusual circumstances which would create a possibility that there would be a significant effect. Therefore, the project can be found to be categorically exempt from CEQA, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c) Existing Facilities

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 minor alterations to existing facilities within public roadways, such as curb extensions, sidewalks, and new sign and striping. In addition, there are no

other identified projects which would contribute to cumulative impacts. Therefore, 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.

All construction activities are proposed within an urban area that has been previously disturbed to the same depth and area and there is no reasonable possibility that activities will have significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. 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 will occur within County right-of-way and is not located within a scenic highway. 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.

There are no hazardous wastes site locations on public roads. 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 roadways involved are not identified as a historical resource. In addition, the project does not involve any structural modifications to existing facilities of historical significance. Therefore, this exception does not apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Mark Friedlander, Mobility Manager

Transportation/Engineering Division, Phone: (805) 568-3576

Department/Division Representative: Morgan Jones, Environmental Manager

Acceptance Date: **February 11, 2025**

Distribution: Hearing Support Staff for posting



Morgan Jones

Department Representative

February 11, 2025

Date

NOTE: A copy of this document must be posted at least 6 days prior to consideration of the activity by the decision-makers to comply with County CEQA guidelines and a copy must be filed with the County Clerk of the Board after project approval to begin a 35-day statute of limitations on legal challenges.

Distribution: Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.