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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:** Santa Barbara Airport Firestone Ditch Vegetation Maintenance

**Project Applicant:** Bradley Klinzing

**MST Number:** PLN2025-00060

**Assessor's Parcel Number:** 073-450-003

**Land Use Zone:** SP6-AIA/A-F/C-Z

**Projection Location (Specific):** Between Hollister Avenue and Firestone Road

**Project Location:** City of Santa Barbara

### Project Description:

Firestone Ditch is a man-made earthen channel located between Hollister Avenue and Firestone Road that was constructed as part of the original Airport in 1940 (Latitude 34.431609°, Longitude - 119.845773°). The channel extends approximately 2,750 linear feet (0.52- mile) along the 6400 Block of Hollister Avenue from Hartley Place to the west where it converges with Carneros Creek, which discharges to the Goleta Slough on the south side of the Airport. Five (5) concrete box/pipe culverts convey stormwater runoff under Hollister Avenue to Firestone Ditch from the industrial properties to the north.

The project includes vegetation maintenance along Firestone Ditch to maintain hydraulic function of the channel and clear overgrown vegetation from the roadsides along Hollister Avenue and Firestone Road to allow for safe passage by pedestrians and bicyclists. Maintenance would include trimming of approximately 1,500 linear feet of riparian/wetland vegetation at the west end of the channel and 1,250 linear feet of mowing and trimming of ornamental vegetation (e.g., oleander, olives) on the east end of the channel (Figure 1 –Vegetation Maintenance Area). The project falls partially on APN 073-450-003 and in the Hollister Avenue Right-of-Way.

The trimming of vegetation along road edges will take place prior to the beginning of the nesting bird season (i.e., February 1 through August 31). Maintenance will involve trimming back willow and oak

Notice of Exemption

(Address)

Page 2 of 2

branches out of the road shoulders and traffic lanes on both sides of the drainage and cutting dead and dying oleander, olives, and a Mexican fan palm on the east end of the channel to ground level. All of the ornamental vegetation that will be cut to ground level is along the northern top-of-bank of the channel and the root systems will be left in place to avoid de-stabilizing the bank. Coast live oak trees will be avoided and protected in place.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** City of Santa Barbara, Airport

**Lead Agency Contact:** Jessica Metzger Telephone: (805) 692-6032

**Exempt Status:** Exempt under CEQA Section § 15304, Minor Alterations to Land and Section §15301(d) Existing Facilities

**Reason Why Project is Exempt:**

Project includes minor alterations to land that do not involve permanent changes and the Project involves the restoration of impaired facilities to meet standards of public safety for pedestrians and cyclists using the roads as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process for the Project.

Resource(s) of Concern

Creeks – the Project on either side of Firestone Ditch and within a 100 feet of Carneros Creek, yet no trimming will occur in the ditch or creek and the projects will not affect the creek. Therefore, the effect on creeks is considered less than significant.

Coastal Zone – the Project is within the appealable jurisdiction of the Coastal Zone and will require a Coastal Exemption. Therefore, the effect on coastal zone resources is considered less than significant.

Floodway – the Project is in the floodway but the trimming will not impact the floodway.

Trees – The site does contain mature trees over 4-inches in diameter at a height of 4-and-one-half-feet above grade. Maintenance will involve trimming back willow and oak branches out of the road shoulders and traffic lanes. Timming will be done by trained personnel and monitored by onsite biologists.

In conclusion, the Project to perform vegetation maintenance along Firestone Ditch to maintain hydraulic function of the channel and clear overgrown vegetation from the roadsides along Hollister Avenue and Firestone Road to allow for safe passage by pedestrians and bicyclists is not anticipated to result in any significant impacts towards the environmental resources, therefore, the Airport Department recommends that the Case Planner consider this Project as exempt, as defined in the CEQA review process classified under Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land and Section 15301(d) Existing Facilities of the CEQA Guidelines. This Project is located in the Coastal Zone and will require a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) Exemption from Community Development.

Environmental Analyst Signature: *Tess Musgrave*

Date: 02/19/2025