

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: Santa Clara

From: (Public Agency): City of Saratoga
13777 Fruitvale Avenue

Saratoga, CA 95070

Phone: (408) 868-1239

(Address)

Project Title: Saratoga Bridge Maintenance Repairs Projects

Project Applicant: City of Saratoga Public Works Department

Project Location - Specific:

Wardell Road, Padero Avenue, Pierce Road, Via Real Drive, Herriman Avenue, Saratoga

Project Location - City: Saratoga

Project Location - County: Santa Clara

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Projects are for the purpose of maintenance repairs, which are needed to prevent further degradation and threats to the structural integrity of the seven bridges, in order for the City to continue to provide safe and reliable transportation routes along existing City thoroughfares. Refer to Attachment A for description of the Project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Saratoga

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Saratoga Public Works Department

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Sec. 15301; Sec. 15302; Sec. 15304

☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Projects are exempt because they are all minor alterations and repairs of existing public structures that are deteriorated, in order to meet current standards of public health and safety. No expansions in existing bridge capacity or uses are proposed. The repaired structures will be located at the same sites as the existing structures. See Attachment A.

Lead Agency

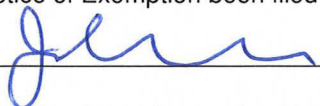
Contact Person: John Cherbone

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (408) 868-1241

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ■ Yes No

Signature:  Date: 8-22-23 Title: Public Works Director

■ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Attachment A

Notice of Exemption Memorandum

To: County of Santa Clara
County Clerk-Recorder
70 West Hedding Street, 1st Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

From: City of Saratoga
13777 Fruitvale Avenue
Saratoga, CA 95070

Subject: Notice of Exemption for Saratoga Bridge Maintenance Repairs Projects

Project Title: Saratoga Bridge Maintenance Repairs Projects

Project Location-Specific: City of Saratoga, Santa Clara County; Along Wardell Road near Carniel Avenue; Along Padero Avenue near Pierce Road; Along Pierce Road near Chalet Clotilde Drive; Along Via Real Drive near Via Madronas Drive; Along Herriman Avenue near Lannoy Court; Along Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road near Brookwood Lane; Along Springer Avenue near Big Basin Way (also referred to as State Highway 9). See **Figure 1** and **Figure 2**.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The City of Saratoga is proposing to conduct maintenance repairs to seven existing bridges, located within the City of Saratoga. The overall purpose of the Projects is to conduct maintenance repairs to existing City bridges as recommended by Caltrans inspection reports and City engineers, before emergency repairs become necessary, in order to prevent further structural degradation and continue to provide safe and reliable transportation routes along existing City of Saratoga thoroughfares. Maintenance repairs would be made in accordance with City standards and recommendations contained within 2020 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Bridge Inspection Reports, prepared in accordance with Title 23 of the Federal Highway Act and National Bridge Inspection Standards. Recommended maintenance repairs range from minor surface repairs of cracked concrete to repairs of eroded or undermined bridge elements; repairs would require some in-channel work, and in some cases would require temporary flow diversion. No expansions in existing bridge capacity or uses are proposed with the Projects' maintenance repairs. No utility line relocations are required to accomplish the repairs; only one of the seven bridges proposes a minor culvert extension; no other culvert modifications are proposed.

The in-channel maintenance repairs would be conducted by hand, with foot crews, and with mechanized equipment staged atop and operating from the existing bridges or stable unvegetated areas atop stream channel banks, to the maximum extent practicable. These repairs would all occur above/outside of jurisdictional waters and riparian/sensitive habitats, and no clearing or grubbing would be required. Only minimal vegetation trimming by hand may be necessary, if it prevents access to the bridges or otherwise obstructs maintenance crews. The City will revegetate areas of temporary disturbance from the Projects. No dewatering is proposed. Flow diversion may be utilized at three of the seven bridge locations, if water is present in the channels during the summer (dry) season when the work is initiated. Diversion would likely consist of the construction of a temporary sandbag berm or dam (approximately 18-24 inches high),

which would divert flows away from the work area and to the opposite side of the channel, while allowing continued flows through the work area and downstream. Equipment and materials would be staged atop the existing bridges or paved roadways to the extent practicable. In cases where this is not possible, staging would occur on developed, disturbed, or otherwise non-vegetated areas (such as compacted dirt road shoulders) adjacent to the channel but outside of the channel tops of banks. No temporary roadway closures or detours are expected to be required to complete the Projects; only localized traffic control via manned signage and direction is anticipated.

The Projects would include avoidance and minimization measures to reduce potential adverse effects to jurisdictional waters, water quality, riparian vegetation, and sensitive species and/or habitats. The Projects would also include standard best management practices (BMPs) to prevent erosion and protect water quality and sensitive species and habitats at the Project sites. To avoid, minimize, and compensate for potential adverse effects to the federally-listed California red-legged frog (CRLF), the Projects would include measures to be implemented when working in potentially-suitable CRLF habitat at the seven bridge locations, consistent with the Conservation Measures included in the 2014 USFWS Programmatic Biological Opinion (BO) for California Red-Legged Frog (entitled Programmatic Biological Opinion for Issuance of Permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, including Authorizations Under 22 Nationwide Permits, for Projects that May Affect the Threatened California Red-Legged Frog in Nine San Francisco Bay Area Counties). The Project would include a supplemental take permit, that would be appended to the 2014 USFWS Programmatic BO.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Saratoga

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Saratoga Public Works Department

Reason Why Project is Exempt:

The Projects qualify for an exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines sections 15301, 15302 and 15304. The Projects are exempt from CEQA because they are all minor alterations and repairs of existing public structures (seven bridges) that are deteriorated, in order to meet current standards of public health and safety. No expansions in existing bridge capacity or uses are proposed with the Projects' maintenance repairs. The repaired structures will be located at the same sites as the existing structures, and the repaired facilities will have the same purpose and capacity as the existing facilities. The Project would involve minor public alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation, but would not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. There are no similar current or proposed projects in the vicinity of the Project sites. The Project sites are not on a State Scenic Highway and do not contain scenic resources, and are not a designated hazardous waste site and will not affect historic or cultural resources.

Lead Agency Contact Person: John Cherbone, Public Works Director

Telephone: (408) 868-1241

Signature:  Date: 8-22-23





SOURCE: ESA 2022; ESRI 2022

City of Saratoga Bridge Maintenance Repairs Projects

Figure 2
Bridge Locations and Study Areas