



# CITY of CLOVIS

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

1033 FIFTH STREET • CLOVIS, CA 93612

FILED

NOV 22 2024

TIME 10:55am

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION Conditional Use Permit 2024-009

FRESNO COUNTY CLERK  
By *Cyan Edmiston* DEPUTY  
*Cyan Edmiston*

The City of Clovis has determined that the project described below will not have a significant effect on the environment and shall be exempt from the provisions of CEQA. The project listed is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301 (Class 1, Existing Facilities).

**Exemption Filed With:** Fresno County Clerk, 2221 Kern Street, Fresno, California.  
Office of Planning & Research, 1400 10<sup>th</sup> Street #100, Sacramento, CA

**Lead Agency:** City of Clovis, 1033 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Clovis, California.

**Project Title:** Conditional Use Permit 2024-009

**Project Location:** 750 W. Herndon Avenue, Clovis, CA 93612, Fresno County

**Project Description:** Adopting a Class 1 Categorical Exemption from further environmental review under CEQA and a request to approve a conditional use permit to allow development of a showroom expansion for the existing Honda North automotive sales facility located at 750 W. Herndon Avenue. Goree Whitfield, applicant; Palm and Herndon LLC, owner.


**Project Applicant:** Goree Whitfield

**Exempt Status:** Categorical Exemption, Class 1 (Section 15301), Existing Facilities

**Reasons Why Project Is Exempt:** The project listed is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301 (Class 1) because the project would expand an existing automotive sales facility by approximately 1,580 square feet and will operate in the same manner as previously approved. None of the exceptions identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to the project

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Liz Salazar, Assistant Planner

**Telephone Number:** (559) 324-2305

**Signature:**   
Liz Salazar  
Assistant Planner

**Date:** November 21, 2024

**CITY OF CLOVIS**  
**Categorical Exemption**  
**Conditional Use Permit 2024-009**

Pursuant to Article 19 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the City of Clovis has determined that the project described below will not have a significant effect on the environment and shall be categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

**Lead Agency:** City of Clovis  
Planning and Development Services

**Lead Agency Contact:** Liz Salazar, Assistant Planner  
(559) 324-2305  
[lizs@cityofclovis.com](mailto:lizs@cityofclovis.com)

**Applicant:** Goree Whitfield  
24691 Del Prado Suite 201  
Dana Point, CA 92629

**Project Location:** 750 W. Herndon Avenue, Clovis, CA 93612, Fresno County

**Exemption:** Section 15301 (Class 1, Existing Facilities)

**Project Description:**

Adopting a Class 1 Categorical Exemption from further environmental review under CEQA and a request to approve a conditional use permit to allow development of a showroom expansion for the existing Honda North automotive sales facility located at 750 W. Herndon Avenue. Goree Whitfield, applicant; Palm and Herndon LLC, owner.

**Determination:**

The City has determined that this Project is exempt from CEQA, pursuant to CEQA Guideline Section 15301 (Class 1 – Existing Facilities) and the Project would not trigger any of the exceptions identified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2.

The Class 1 categorical exemption exempts projects that 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. Here, the Project would expand an existing automotive sales facility by approximately 1,580 square feet and will operate in the same manner as previously approved; therefore, the Project has been determined to have negligible differences from the existing use and qualifies for the Class 1 Categorical Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., Tit. 14, § 15301, subd. (a).)

The exceptions identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 identify further review of a categorical exemption by the project's potential to result in a cumulative impact, significant effect, or proximity to a scenic highway, location on or within the vicinity of a hazardous waste site, and/or the potential to negatively impact a historical resource. Based on staff's review, these exceptions would not be triggered by the proposed Project.

**Exceptions:**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 set forth exceptions to categorical exemptions which must be assessed as part of the determination to use a Categorical Exception. If any of the exceptions apply, a Categorical Exemption cannot be used.

- (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.*

This exception does not apply to Class 1 exemptions. Therefore, this exception would not apply to the project.

- (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 proposed use is allowed in the land use designation and zone district with approval of the requested entitlement(s); therefore, the use and operation would be compatible with the area and would not result in cumulative impacts with the operation of the use. Thus, this exception would not apply to the Project.

- (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.*

There are no unusual circumstances of the proposed Project as an expansion of an existing automotive sales facility. The use is allowed under the Clovis Development Code, thus, the use is not unusual within the established C-2 Zone District. Therefore, this exception would not apply to the Project.

- (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 site is not located near a scenic highway as it is located within an urban area. Therefore, this exception would not apply to the Project.

- (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 Project site is not located on a site on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Therefore, this exception would not apply to the project.

- (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.*

There are no historical resources on the Project site or within its immediate vicinity. Therefore, this exception would not apply to the project.

