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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
105 E. ANAPAMU STREET
SANTA BARBARA, C A 93101

FROM: CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PLANNING DIVISION
P.O. Box 1990
SANTA BARBARA, C A 93102-1990

Project Title: Geotechnical Boring Investigation for the Calle Real and Castillo Trnk Line Sewer Improvements Project

Project Applicant: City of Santa Barbara

MST Number: N/A

Assessor's Parcel Number: N/A

Land Use Zone: Residential Single Unit, Office Medical, Residential Multi Unit, Residential Multi Unit and Hotel, Commercial General

Projection Location (Specific): Various, Public Right-Of-Way

Project Location: City of Santa Barbara / County of Santa Barbara

Project Description:

A geotechnical investigation within the public right-of-way is required to evaluate the geology and provide a profile of soil types for the Project area. This exploratory investigation is for the purposes of informing the preliminary design to determine feasible construction methods for the Project. The geotechnical investigation will involve a subsurface investigation at 16 locations throughout the Project area, characterization of the soil profile for each location, and a geotechnical report. All boring holes will be backfilled immediately after the work, and the space will be returned to its original condition. The investigative borings will be conducted by a qualified and licensed contractor.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Santa Barbara

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

Lead Agency Contact: Beth Anna Cornett Telephone: (805) 564-5537

Exempt Status: Exempt under CEQA Section § 15301 and 15306

Notice of Exemption

Geotechnical Boring Investigation for the Calle Real and Castillo Trunk Line Sewer Improvements Project

Page 2 of 2

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Existing Facilities. This Project meets Section 15301 Existing Facilities Class 1 categorical exemption, because geotechnical investigation of an existing facility is necessary to prepare the geotechnical analysis and report to inform the future design of the proposed improvements for the Calle Real and Castillo Trunk Main Sewer Improvements Project.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15306 Information Collection. This Project meets Section 15306 Information Collection Class 6 categorical exemption, because the information collection and evaluation activities will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Archaeology. The Project sites are located in areas of potential archaeological sensitivity including the American Period, Early American Transition Period and the Prehistoric Watercourse areas. Per discussion with the City's Environmental Analyst, the exploratory geotechnical boring investigation work is considered exempt, and a Phase I Archaeology Report is not required in preparation of the technical study and report. The geotechnical boring investigation work is not anticipated to result in a major disturbance to archaeological resources, therefore the effect on archaeology is considered less than significant.

Biology. One boring location is within 100' of a biologically sensitive species Mesa Horkelia, and other boring locations are adjacent to special wildlife areas such as vegetation within creek habitats. The boring adjacent to the sensitive species is in the right of way and should not be impacted by the Project. Therefore, the effect on biological resources is considered less than significant.

Creeks. Some boring locations are proposed within 100' of Mission Creek, there will be no grade or fill materials, or any structure, conduit, pipe, impervious material, or lining which could obstruct or divert the flow of water. No work will occur in the creek, and all work will occur outside of top of bank, therefore, the effect on creeks is considered less than significant.

Floodway. Some boring locations are located within flood zones ranging between 0.2% annual chance flood hazard and 1% annual chance flood hazard. Given that all of the boring holes will be backfilled immediately after the work, and the space will be returned to its original condition, the effect on the floodway is considered less than significant.

Geology. The Project sites contain areas of moderate and high liquefaction potential, low landslide potential, expansive soils, and shallow groundwater. The boring samples will not impact geologic conditions, therefore, the effect on geologic resources is considered less than significant.

Noise. The Project site is located in an area with noise levels greater than 65 dBA. There will be subsurface excavation associated with the geotechnical soil boring investigation with the potential to create noise and vibration at levels less than 65 dBA. The short-term noise related impacts associated with the exploratory work will comply with the City's Noise Ordinance. No work will be allowed outside of the authorized working hours of 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. Therefore, the noise effects are considered less than significant.

In conclusion, the Project will perform a geotechnical investigation and analysis to inform the future design of the proposed improvements for the Calle Real and Castillo Trunk Main Sewer Improvements Project. The Project is not anticipated to result in any significant impacts towards the environmental resources, therefore, the Public Works Department recommends that the Case Planner consider this Project as exempt, as defined in the CEQA review process classified under the Class 1, 15301 and Class 6, 15306 categorical exemptions of the CEQA Guidelines.

Environmental Analyst Signature: _____



Date: 9/04/2025