

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of ~~the~~ Board of Supervisors

FROM: Frank Albro, Community Development Department

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

Project No.: SP2025-0008

Location: The sites include: 1401 West Fairway Drive (APN:111-760-028) City of Santa Maria Transit Center at 400 East Boone Street (APN: 125-150-005) and City of Santa Maria Transit Yard at 1301 Fairway Drive (APN: 111-580-013). Potential acquisition sites include the NE Corner of E Boone St and Miller St (APNs: 125-112-010 through 125-112-012 and 125-112-014).

Project Title: Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program- Santa Maria Rapid Transit

Project Applicant: City of Santa Maria Transit Division

Project Description: Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) is a statewide program that provides funding to transit agencies for capital improvements that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, expand and improve transit services and integrate the County-wide rail and transit networks.

In July 2023 the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), partnered with City of Santa Barbara, City of Lompoc Transit, Clean Air Express, Santa Barbara MTD, and Santa Maria Regional Transit, to submit a Transit and Intercity Rail Program (TIRCP) application to the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) for the Santa Barbara County **Charging Forward Project**.

The California State Transportation Agency awarded SBCAG \$51,130,000. The Santa Maria City Council adopted Resolution 2025-57 on May 6, 2025, accepting \$17,544,169 TIRCP funds for use toward Santa Maria Rapid Transit improvements as described in the SBCAG Charging Forward Project application.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Santa Maria

Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project: Gamaliel Anguiano

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Statutory Exemption
- ☒ Categorical Exemption
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☐ Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA or CEQA Guidelines Section: The Project qualifies for an Exemption pursuant to the following Sections:

- Section 15301 - Class 1: Existing facilities (operation, repair, maintenance, leasing, etc.). Covers a wide variety of activities. The key is that the project involves negligible or no expansion of existing use.
- Section 15302 - Class 2: Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities. Structure must be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.
- Section 15303 - Class 3: New construction or conversion of small structures. Applies to new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. See section for examples.

Reasons to support exemption findings:

As noted in the SBCAG Charging Forward Project application, the Transit Transformation component includes a Bus Rapid Transit system, which will be implemented by Santa Maria Rapid Transit along the highly congested State Route 135/Broadway corridor in Santa Maria, featuring dedicated bus lanes, level boarding stations, signal priority, and other infrastructure to ensure faster, more reliable transit. This component is exempt under Class 1 (Existing Facilities) and Class 2 (Replacement or Reconstruction).

The Santa Maria Regional Transit Opportunity Charging project involves the purchase, construct, equip, or enhance a SMRT Transit Administration building(s) with electric bus opportunity charging infrastructure. The City of Santa Maria Transit Center at 400 East Boone Street (APN: 125-150-005) is a 3.82 acre developed site, where the project may add additional administrative space and up to eighteen transit chargers. The facility(s) at 1401 West Fairway Drive (APN:111-760-028) may serve as a SMRT Transit Administration building to allow for rapid charging of electric buses during layovers. This site is an existing, fully developed 3.36-acre site with an existing over 50,000 square foot building. The existing developed SMRT Operations and Maintenance Yard location will support an additional seventeen dual port chargers with the ability to charge up to 32 vehicles. These locations and project components are exempt under Class 1 (Existing Facilities) and under Class 3 (Small Structures).

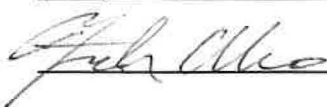
A potential acquisition site which could also accommodate a SMRT Transit Administration building(s) with electric bus opportunity charging infrastructure and a function as a multi-service provider hub for cross and intercounty-wide transit connectivity, is located at the NE Corner of E Boone St and Miller St (APNs: 125-112-010 through 125-112-012 and 125-112-014). This is a vacant 1.3-acre site within the Downtown Specific Plan. The development of properties within the Downtown Specific Plan, including for public uses and facilities, was analyzed in the adopted Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Santa Maria Downtown Specific Plan (State Clearinghouse No. 2007041105) pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) State Guidelines

Section 15162. The development of the site will be subject to land use provisions of the Specific Plan and the mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR. A SMRT Transit Administration building(s) with electric bus charging infrastructure are uses and operating characteristics consistent with the analysis performed for the Downtown Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report, does not represent a substantial change to the type and scale of development contemplated by the Specific Plan, will not require major revisions to Specific Plan, nor would such facility result in any new significant environmental effects not already analyzed and mitigated in the adopted Downtown Specific Plan EIR. Therefore, project fits within the parameters included in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 and the activity does not require additional CEQA analysis.

None of the exceptions to the exemption identified in CEQA Section 15300.2 apply and no further environmental review is required.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Frank Albro, Principal Planner

Phone #: (805) 925-0951 x 2552

Department/Division Signature: 

Date: November 11, 2025

Acceptance Date: _____

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____