

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: Monterey

P.O. Box 29, Salinas, CA 93902

From: (Public Agency): City of Monterey
580 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA 93940

(Address)

JUL 11 2025

XOCHITL MARINA CAMACHO
MONTEREY COUNTY CLERK
DEPUTY

Project Title: Bruce Ariss Way Light Fixtures

Project Applicant: City of Monterey

Project Location - Specific:

Path along Bruce Ariss Way between Wave Street and Recreational Trail

Project Location - City: Monterey Project Location - County: Monterey

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Two new LED luminaires designed to enhance pedestrian safety and visibility along the pedestrian corridor.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Monterey

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Public Works

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: Article 19, Section 15301, Class 1
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

See Attachment A.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Chris Schmidt Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 831-646-3910

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: Chris Schmidt Date: 7/9/2025 Title: Senior Associate Planner

▪ 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: _____

Exemption:

The City of Monterey Planning Office determined that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Article 19, Section 15301, Class 1 – Existing Facilities). The project consists of the installation of new pedestrian-scale lighting along an existing developed public street (Bruce Ariss Way), using existing public right-of-way and utility infrastructure. The improvements involve negligible expansion of use beyond that previously existing and are intended to enhance public safety and pedestrian visibility.

Furthermore, the project does not qualify for any of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions found at CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2:

Exception a – Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located. Class 1 exemptions are not subject to this location exception. Therefore, Exception a does not apply.

Exception 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 lighting improvements involve standard infrastructure enhancements within a developed area and will not result in a cumulative impact.

Exception 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. The project site is a developed urban street segment with no unusual circumstances. The project involves standard construction methods and materials, and no significant environmental effects are anticipated.

Exception d – Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. Bruce Ariss Way is not visible from a state-designated scenic highway. Therefore, the exception does not apply.

Exception 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 known hazardous waste site and does not appear on any such lists.

Exception 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. The lighting installation occurs within an existing public right-of-way and does not involve the alteration or demolition of any historic structure. The project site is located within an archaeological sensitivity area as identified in the General Plan EIR. An Extended Phase I archaeological assessment was prepared for the project, which included archival research, Native American consultation, surface survey, and subsurface testing. While the project area is adjacent to the mapped boundary of a known prehistoric archaeological site (CA-MNT-391), no intact cultural deposits were identified within the project area, and subsurface testing was negative to a depth of 80 cm. Nevertheless, due to the proximity to recorded resources and limitations in auger depth, archaeological monitoring during ground disturbance is recommended as a condition of approval. With implementation of this standard condition, the project would result in a less than significant impact to archaeological resources. No substantial adverse change to historical resources will occur.