



RETURN TO: **Doc No.49-02262026-051**

City of Petaluma  
Public Works Department  
1318 Redwood Way, Suite 120  
Petaluma, CA 94954



**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

TO: Sonoma County Clerk  
585 Fiscal Drive, Room 103  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**Project Title:** Pavement Restoration and Safety Improvements Rainier Ave (C16102434)

**Project Applicant:** Nate Luna, Project Manager, City of Petaluma Public Works Department, 1318 Redwood Way, Suite 120, Petaluma, CA 94954; [nluna@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:nluna@cityofpetaluma.org) (707) 778-4387

**Project Location:** Rainier Avenue from N McDowell Blvd to Sonoma Mountain Parkway, Petaluma, Sonoma County, CA

**Project Description:** The City of Petaluma is entering into a construction contract for pavement reconstruction and multimodal safety improvements along Rainier Avenue. The project consists of improvements to an approximately 0.68-mile segment of Rainier Avenue extending from North McDowell Boulevard to Sonoma Mountain Parkway. Project improvements include pavement reconstruction; striping modifications; construction and upgrade of curb ramps to improve ADA accessibility; installation and replacement of storm drain facilities; construction of a new roundabout at an existing intersection; crosswalk enhancements; and installation of protected bicycle lanes in both directions. The improvements are intended to rehabilitate aging infrastructure and enhance safety and accessibility for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

All work will occur within the existing public right-of-way. Construction activities will require temporary lane closures to accommodate the work; however, no roadway widening beyond the existing right-of-way is proposed.

Construction is anticipated to occur between March 2026 and July 2026, with an estimated duration of approximately 80 working days.

The project is described in detail in the City's 100% Plan Set titled "Pavement Restoration 24/25 – Rainier Avenue (C16102434)," dated November 2025, which is incorporated herein by reference and maintained in the project administrative record.

**EXEMPT STATUS:**

**Statutory Exemptions**

- {Article 18: Section 21080; 15260}**
- Ministerial {Sec.15268}
- Feasibility/Planning Study {Sec.15262}
- Emergency Project {Sec.15269}

**Categorical Exemptions**

- {Article 19: Section 21084; 15300}**
- Existing Facilities {Sec.15301}
- New Construction {Sec.15303}
- Minor Alteration to Land Sec.15304}

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The project consists of improvements within an approximately 0.68-mile segment of an existing transportation corridor located entirely within the City's public right-of-way. The project is designed to modernize aging infrastructure and enhance multimodal safety while maintaining the existing function of the roadway. Improvements include pavement rehabilitation; construction of a new roundabout at an existing intersection; installation of protected bicycle lanes and pedestrian enhancements; minor intersection reconfiguration; and installation or replacement of storm drain facilities, curb, gutter, and related drainage improvements.

Taken as a whole, the project represents a minor alteration and improvement of an existing public facility. The project does not expand the roadway beyond its current operational footprint in a manner that would increase vehicular capacity or induce traffic growth. No new travel lanes are added, and the project maintains the corridor's existing transportation function while improving safety and accessibility for all users.

The project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 (Existing Facilities), 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land). Any one of these exemptions, standing alone, provides a sufficient and complete legal basis for exempting the whole of the project from further environmental review:

- **Section 15301 (Class 1 – Existing Facilities)** applies because the project involves repair, maintenance, rehabilitation, and minor alteration of an existing public street and associated facilities, with negligible or no expansion of use. Pavement rehabilitation, intersection modifications, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and drainage upgrades within the existing right-of-way.
- **Section 15303 (Class 3 – Small Structures)** applies to the construction and installation of small accessory infrastructure improvements, including traffic control devices, drainage appurtenances, and related public utility features.
- **Section 15304 (Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land)** applies because the project includes minor trenching, grading, and drainage improvements within previously disturbed land in the public right-of-way. Any ground disturbance is limited in scope and occurs within developed roadway areas. The project does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, and no significant expansion of impervious surface is proposed beyond what is necessary to reconfigure existing paved areas within the corridor.

The project occurs entirely within an urbanized, previously disturbed public right-of-way. Improvements are limited to reconfiguration and rehabilitation of existing paved and landscaped areas. To the extent minor increases in impervious surface may occur (e.g., associated with the roundabout or drainage improvements), such changes are minimal, contained within the developed corridor, and supported by modern stormwater infrastructure designed to manage runoff in compliance with applicable regulations.

None of the exceptions identified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply. The project does not involve unusual circumstances that would result in a reasonable possibility of a significant environmental effect. The site is not located on a hazardous waste site as enumerated pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The project will not result in significant impacts to scenic highways, historical resources, or biological resources, and it will not contribute to cumulatively considerable impacts. Because the project represents minor alterations to an existing developed transportation facility with no expansion of use, it qualifies for the cited categorical exemptions.

The City Council determined the project to be categorically exempt pursuant to the above-referenced sections through Resolution No. 2026-018 N.C.S., adopted February 2, 2026.

**Lead Agency:** City of Petaluma Public Works, 1318 Redwood Way, Suite 120 Petaluma, CA 94954

**Department/Contact Person:** Nate Luna, Project Manager

**Phone** (707) 778-4387



02/26/2026

Project Manager

Date