

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Greg Vine, 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.: SP2026-0007

Location: Railroad Avenue & Depot Street

Project Title: ATP Cycle 7 – Railroad/Depot Class IV Bike Lanes

Project Applicant: City of Santa Maria Public Works Department

Project Description: The project consists of improving existing Bicycle Lanes to Class IV Bicycle Lanes, minor modifications to existing sidewalks, curb and gutters, and installation of new pedestrian refuge islands. No other surface improvements will be constructed, and no grade changes are anticipated. All work is within the City's right-of-way.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Santa Maria

Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project: Mark Mueller

Exempt Status:

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

Cite specific CEQA or CEQA Guidelines Section: This is a Class 1 (c) (Existing Facilities) categorical exemption based on Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines

Reasons to support exemption findings: The project would be located in an existing City street with existing bike lanes. The project will be replacing/upgrading existing bike lanes, pedestrian crossing, and will not create additional automobile lanes. The proposed project does not involve unusual circumstances, including future activities, resulting in or which might reasonably result in significant impacts which threaten the environment. No further environmental review is required.

The exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines are:

- (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.**

The project is utilizing a Class 1 exemption. This exception does not apply.

- (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.**

No cumulative impacts would be generated as this is an existing project site being modified.

- (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.**

No unusual circumstances are present.

- (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.**

No scenic highways would be impacted by 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.**


No hazardous waste sites are located at the project site.

- (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.**

No historical resources are located at the project site.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Greg Vine, Associate Planner

Phone #: (805) 925-0951 x 2415

Department/Division Signature:  _____

Date: January 8, 2026

Acceptance Date: _____

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____