NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Cody Graybehl, 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.: SP2026-0012

Location: State Route 135 (Broadway)

Project Title: Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program Santa Maria Rapid Transit - Bus Rapid Transit Signal Priority Equipment

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
__X__ 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.

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).

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: Cody Graybehl, Senior Planner

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Department/Division Signature: Cody Graybehl

Date: November 11, 2026

Acceptance Date: _____

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____