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September 26, 2023

Boards of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: **Declare Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act Six Public Works Agency, Roads and Transportation Projects in Unincorporated Ventura County: Pavement Resurfacing – Lesser Drive, Jenny Drive, and Ruth Drive; Saticoy Pedestrian Crossing Improvements; Drainage Improvements – Capello Way and Shell Avenue; and Three Traffic-Safety-Related Improvement Projects throughout the Unincorporated Area of the County; All Supervisory Districts.**

Recommendations:

Declare categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) these six projects of Public Works Agency, Roads and Transportation (PWA-RT), listed on the Project Listing and Descriptions as Exhibit 1: Pavement Resurfacing – Lesser, Jenny, and Ruth Drive in the vicinity of Newbury Park; Saticoy Pedestrian Crossing Improvements; Drainage Improvements – Capello Way and Shell Ave in the vicinity of Mira Monte; and three Traffic Safety-Related Improvement Projects. These projects are located throughout the unincorporated area of the County as shown on Exhibits 2 through 7, Vicinity and Location Maps.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

There are no additional costs associated with this Board action.

Discussion:

In the next two years, PWA-RT plans to design and construct five capital projects and one pavement resurfacing project throughout the County which consist of minor improvements and repairs to the existing roadway systems. None of these projects will have a significant effect on the environment and are exempt from the provisions of CEQA because they qualify for categorical exemptions under the CEQA Guidelines, as



described further below. All six projects will involve negligible or no expansion of existing uses and will improve public safety for cyclists, pedestrians and/or the motoring public.

The types of projects and the basis for their respective CEQA exemptions are listed below:

Pavement Resurfacing – Lesser, Jenny and Ruth Drive: This project consists of resurfacing approximately 1.32 miles of deteriorated roadway by placing 1 ½ inch of an asphalt pavement overlay. This project is exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines, section 15301(c), because it consists of minor alteration to “[e]xisting highways and streets” and will not have a significant effect on the environment either individually or cumulatively.

Saticoy Pedestrian Improvements Project: This project involves the construction of sidewalks in the Saticoy area. Work will also include new curbs and gutters, ADA ramps, crosswalks, drainage improvements, and driveway approach reconstruction. This project is exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines, section 15301(c), as a minor alteration to “[e]xisting highways and streets” and will not have a significant effect on the environment either individually or cumulatively. Creation of new sidewalks will result in no or negligible expansion of existing use.

Drainage Improvements – Capello Way and Shell Ave: This project consists of replacing an 18” culvert with a new 18’ RCP culvert and replacing existing inlets. This project is exempt from CEQA under CEQA guidelines, section 15302(c), because it consists of “[r]eplacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.” The project will not have a significant effect on the environment either individually or cumulatively.

Three Traffic Safety-Related Improvement Projects: 1) *Pedestrian Crossing Enhancements*, 2) *Guardrail Upgrades*, and 3) *Rumble Strip and Curve Warning Signs*. The first of these projects involves the installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) in various locations throughout unincorporated Ventura County. The second project consists of the upgrade of the existing guardrail systems to the Midwest Guardrail System which includes guardrail, terminals, transition railings, and installation of Butterfly Guardrail Reflectors. The third project consists of the installation of edgeline and/or centerline rumble strips and/or curve warning signs. All three of these projects are exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines section 15301(c) and (f), because they consist of minor alterations to “[e]xisting highways and streets” and “[a]ddition of safety or health protection devices for use in conjunction with existing structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment, or topographical features including navigational devices.” None of these projects will have a significant effect on the environment either individually or cumulatively.



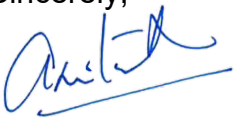
As in previous years, we request that your Board find these projects to be categorically exempt now – before the award of each contract for construction. This will allow PWA-R&T Roads to purchase right-of-way (temporary or permanent easements) as required for these projects during the design process and avoid delaying construction.

Upon your Board's action, a Notice of Exemption will be prepared and filed for each of these six proposed projects.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel.

If you have any questions concerning this item, please contact the undersigned at (805) 654-2077.

Sincerely,



ANITHA BALAN, PE
Director
Roads & Transportation

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – Project Listing and Descriptions
- Exhibit 2 – Vicinity and Project Location Map
Pavement Resurfacing – Lesser Drive, Jenny Drive, and Ruth Drive
- Exhibit 3 – Vicinity and Project Location Map - Saticoy Pedestrian Improvements
- Exhibit 4 – Vicinity and Project Location Map – Drainage Improvements - Capello Way and Shell Avenue
- Exhibit 5 – Vicinity and Project Location Map – 10 Roads - Pedestrian Crossing
- Exhibit 6 – Guardrail Upgrades
- Exhibit 7 – Vicinity and Project Location Map - Rumble Strip and Curve Warning Sign Project

