



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

GAIL FARBER, Director

January 31, 2012

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

21 January 31, 2012

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**FINDING OF CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION AND APPROVAL OF THE
VERMONT AVENUE MEDIAN LANDSCAPING PHASE 2 PROJECT IN THE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY
OF WEST CARSON
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 2)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Find the Vermont Avenue Median Landscaping Phase 2 project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and authorize the Director of Public Works or her designee to pursue the allocation of grant funds for the project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that this project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.
2. Approve the project and authorize the Department of Public Works to pursue the allocation of grant funds for the project.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the project is to improve the aesthetics of Vermont Avenue between Del Amo Boulevard and Lomita Boulevard. The proposed project consists of constructing landscape improvements, installing bike lanes, and constructing two monument signs.

In accordance with the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by

your Board on November 17, 1987, we request you find that the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA. This finding is necessary for the Department of Public Works (Public Works) to prepare and file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and to subsequently provide the NOE to California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as a prerequisite to receiving grant funds.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provision of Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3). This action will enrich the lives of the County of Los Angeles' (County) residents by installing bike lane striping and enhancing the aesthetics of street medians.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$1,476,000 which includes the costs of plans, specifications, consultant services, survey, materials testing, inspection, contract administration, change order contingency, and other County services.

A portion of the project cost (80 percent) will be financed with State Transportation Improvement Program - Transportation Enhancement (STIP-TE) grant funds received from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Authority under the 2007 Call for Projects. The remaining cost of the project will be financed with Road and Special Road District No. 2 Funds. This project will be included in the Second Supervisorial District's Road Construction Program in the Fiscal Year 2012-13 Road Fund and Special Road District No. 2 Fund Recommended Budgets.

The annual maintenance cost for median landscaping is estimated to be \$26,000. The annual maintenance cost for graffiti removal is estimated to be \$10,000. Commencing in Fiscal Year 2012-13, we will budget sufficient funds in the Second Supervisorial District's Road Construction Program to finance the ongoing maintenance costs and the necessary funds to finance future years will be requested through the annual budget process. When the need arises for services under this contract, financing for the required services will be made from the appropriate fund. Total annual expenditures for this service, however, will not exceed the contract amount approved by your Board.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The recommended action is in accordance with CEQA and is required prior to filing the Notice of Exemption with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. The NOE is required in order to allocate the STIP-TE grant funds from the California Transportation Commission (CTC). Upon the allocation of the grant funds by the CTC and authorization to use these funds from Caltrans, Public Works will return to your Board to adopt and advertise the project plans for construction.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

This project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the CEQA pursuant to Section 15301(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 1(x) 10, 13, 22, and 24 of the County Environmental Guidelines. These exemptions provide for median beautification, installation of sprinkler systems, maintenance of existing roadway facilities, and construction of bicycle paths.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

1/31/2012

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Upon approval of the exemption by your Board, a \$75 handling fee will be paid to the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk for filing the NOE in accordance with the requirements of Section 21152(a) of the California Public Resources Code.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The project will not have a significant impact on current services or projects currently planned.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Public Works, Programs Development Division.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Farber".

GAIL FARBER

Director

GF:JTW:yr

c: Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)
County Counsel
Executive Office